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Secret Son of York

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The life of Elizabeth of York has been well documented, for she is the only woman in history to have been a daughter, sister, wife and mother of a King of England. There have been many novels written about her life by well known writers both in fiction and in factual histories. The story that has not been explored is the relationship between Elizabeth and her uncle, Richard the Third. I have based my alternative controversial novel on the words of Sir George Buck. Buck writing in 1619, put forward in his, 'History of King Richard the Third,' that he claims to have seen a letter written in the princess's hand in which she declared her love for Richard and cannot wait for his Queen to die so that they can be together... 'Richard was her only joy maker in this world and that he was always in her thoughts and heart.' He also claims that The Duke of Norfolk was a go between and that there were many letters sent between the two. In support of Buck is the chronicler to the Burgundian court, Jean Molinet, writing from 1474-1504, he is no doubt that Elizabeth and Richard were indeed lovers and that Richard made the Princess pregnant and she had a child by him. The Croyland Chronicle written at the time, also in support, reported...'that it was said by many that the King was bent on contracting a marriage with Elizabeth whatever the cost.' The Croyland Chronicle also made reference to... 'other matters' which were 'too shameful to speak of' remarks that have been interpreted as Richard and Elizabeth were already engaged in a sexual relationship together. Legend has it that a child was born and because of the political climate of the time, following the Battle of Bosworth Field, lived a secret life right up until his death. The legend also says that somehow, this Richard Plantagenet ended up at Eastwell Manor in the county of Kent, working for Sir Thomas Moyles, the lord of the manor. The story is set during the Wars of the Roses; although fictions most of the people, places and events are based on fact. It is told by two people, Elizabeth and her secret son, a son she had with Richard. It begins in 1545, when Sir Thomas Moyles is renovating his recently acquired manor house in Eastwell. Sir Thomas notices a well educated man among his workforce and invites the elderly bricklayer to a private talk. Bit by bit the old man, who is called Dick by his work mates, tells Sir Thomas an incredible story. He claims that Elizabeth of York was his mother and that his father was King Richard the Third. Throughout the narrative Dick relives the past. His reminisces cover the major historical events of his time. There is a secret, passionate, but tragic love story which is told by Elizabeth. (Italic chapters). I have put Elizabeth's birth as 1465 although some believe it to be a year later. The narrative also puts forward what could have happened to Elizabeth's two brothers, 'The princes in the Tower?' Sir Thomas Moyles obviously believes Dick's amazing tale as he gives the old man a cottage on his estate for the remainder of his life. When Dick died he was buried in the grounds of St Mary's Church Eastwell. The tomb still exists to this day and is said, by some, to be that of this lost Plantagenet Prince. With this knowledge in mind and with extensive research I have endeavored to tell this extraordinary secret and tragic episode of Elizabeth's life.

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