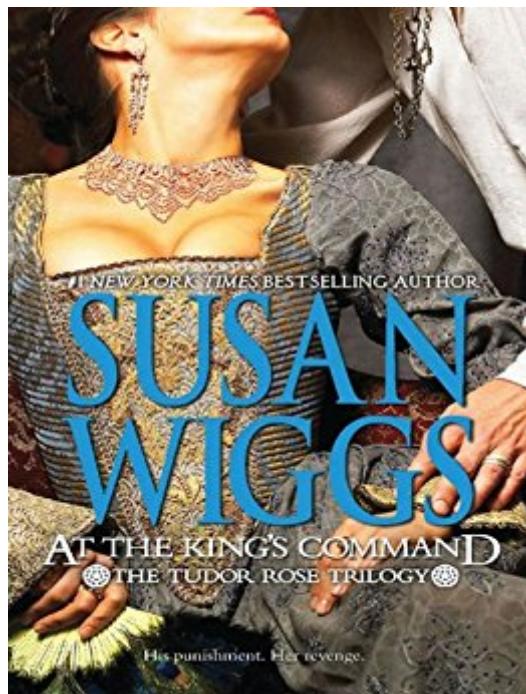


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# At The King's Command (The Tudor Rose Trilogy Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

Frustrated by his own failures at matrimony, King Henry VIII punishes an insolent nobleman by commanding him to marry the vagabond woman caught stealing his horse. Stephen de Lacey is a cold and bitter widower, long accustomed to the sovereign's capricious and malicious whims. He regards his new bride as utterly inconvenient&#133;though undeniably fetching. But Juliana Romanov is no ordinary thief&#151;she is a Russian princess forced into hiding by the traitorous cabal who slaughtered her family. One day she hopes to return to Muscovy to seek vengeance. What begins as a mockery of a marriage ultimately blossoms into deepest love.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

At the King's Command is a new edition of an older novel originally titled Circle in the Water. The heroine, Juliana Romanov, is a Russian princess who flees to England with a gypsy friend after the murder of her family. The hero, Stephen de Lacy, is ordered by Henry VIII to marry Juliana after she is caught trying to steal a horse. The marriage is only in name to appease the whim of the King. Both expect that they can get an annulment once the King grows bored with his prank. This wasn't the strongest love story. In fact it was very hard, at times, to understand what Juliana saw in

Stephen. But the story moved at a good (if somewhat predictable) pace, and managed to hold my attention for an afternoon. I was hesitant to read a novel about a princess - as I usually hate that device, but she was not in line to take the throne. It was also a treat to read an historical from Wiggs, who now devotes herself to contemporary romances.

The idea that first drew me to this book was the idea of a Russian lady in the Tudor court. They're two worlds that I've never seen done together in any book before, romance or otherwise, so I was curious to explore that. And while I think I might have enjoyed a bit more of a look at the Russian world during this time period, I enjoyed the touches with Juliana's dog, the Gypsies, and Juliana's memories of her family and old world. And boy did I love Juliana! She was soft and feminine where she needed to be. And yet, she's a woman who's not afraid to do what needs doing, without male approval or thought to herself. She took action where she saw a need and even when those actions probably weren't the wisest, she didn't sit and wait for the men in her life to decide what she should do. My kind of woman in any book, but especially in a romance. I enjoyed the romance in the book. It was sweet, passionate, and complex. It wasn't a straightforward romance plot that we usually see where the girl is kidnapped by her future beloved or he's rescuing her from some tragic circumstances. Our two lovers are thrown together by unusual happenings that eventually blossoms into a wonderful love story over time and with understandable obstacles overcome. It's a love story that develops realistically and isn't just wham bam yeah we're in love!. While there were some serious issues with trust between our people that I felt was almost too drawn out for dramatic effect, the overall story made me sigh in romantic happiness. And at the end of the day, that's the best indicator of a well written romance.

Not to totally disagree with Shanfried but this was my first book that I ever read by Susan Wiggs and it was this book that really touched me deeply and made me start buying all of her books left and right. You already know the story line because everyone's done a good job of describing it in detail. Some people marry for other things rather than love and later fall in love, but yes you can't tell what Juliana's feelings for Stephen are because she doesn't know it yet herself so how could she even let her feelings be known? I thought that this book was fantastic because you can see that Stephen and Juliana's love is growing through out the entire book and I think these kind of marriages are always the ones that have something much deeper than love. So give this book a shot, you might just find that there's more to this book than meets the eye.

I think the problem is me. I can't imagine Wiggs writing anything that I didn't like, but for some reason I just couldn't get into this book. I will give it another try before I completely give up. Darlene

I love the fact that each installment is its own separate love story. What can I say? I love it. I love the time period, I love the strong, strapping men of the time, I love the dresses (and how hastily they get out of them). Love.

Good storylines, really good people shown in the book. Interesting, complex main characters and also political intrigue. Stephen de Lacey, has so often suffered at the whims of his King, Henry V111. This book had some interesting groups of people that made up the story, including the Gypsy tribe that had "adopted" Juliana. Lazlo, was a major person in her life, who became like a second father to her. This story is not without a few twists and turns, that when they are revealed, it made me go, "yes, of course." As time went on, the story dragged a bit for me. It came with the times when Stephen seemed to grow cold towards Juliana. Usually just after he allowed a fraction of his attraction to her to be seen. His coldness seemed to be for no reason, at least to her. But as a reader, we got some insight as to what was driving him. I loved the spunk that Juliana showed at those times as well as other times. I give the author good marks for the good Epilogue, I enjoyed that part too.

I love this entire trilogy...I have all three of the original books, with their original titles. I don't know why they were reintroduced with new titles. They were much better in their original form. I'm not sure if they were ever rewritten, because I have never read them in anything but in their first writing. I don't know why authors ever feel the need to rename some of their earlier works. Vows made in Wine was the first book I ever read by Susan Wiggs, and from that moment on, I was hooked. When I read that book I did not realize at the time that it was second in a series. After sometime I came across the other two books. After reading the first novel I became enthralled with the story of this family, and the three heroines. I love the De Lacey men as well. If anyone is new to the writings of Susan Wiggs, I highly recommend reading this series first. It gives you a rare opening to a young author. You can see how her genius unfolds. Unfortunately, I don't think you will be able to find these books under their original titles anymore. I have read this series over, and over several times, and never get bored with it. It is a must read for Susan Wiggs fans. Especially Oliver's story. It will make you cry. He is a man worth knowing, and definitely one worth loving...

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