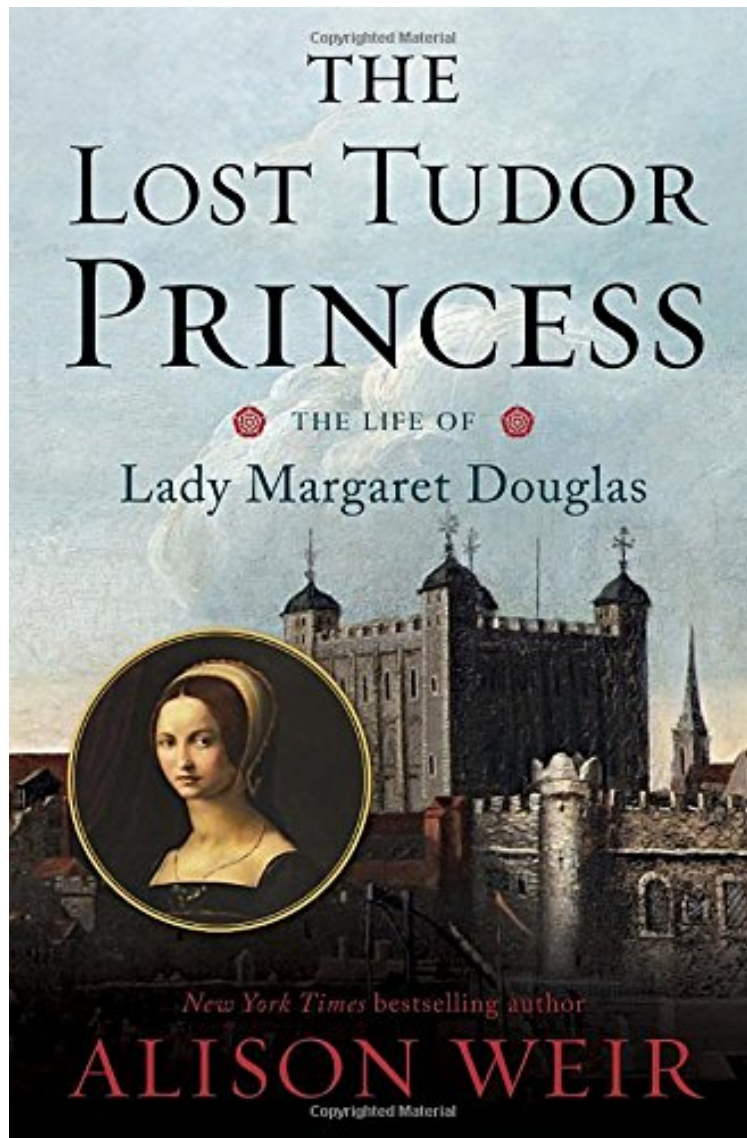


(Free read ebook) The Lost Tudor Princess: The Life of Lady Margaret Douglas

## The Lost Tudor Princess: The Life of Lady Margaret Douglas

*Alison Weir*

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#99347 in Books Alison Weir 2016-01-12 2016-01-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.60 x 1.60 x 6.501, 1.25 #File Name: 0345521390576 pages The Lost Tudor Princess The Life of Lady Margaret Douglas | File size: 79.Mb

**Alison Weir : The Lost Tudor Princess: The Life of Lady Margaret Douglas** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Tudor Princess: The Life of Lady Margaret Douglas:

88 of 90 people found the following review helpful. Best Alison Weir Book So Far ....By BusyMomI have always said there is one author who got me interested in English history, and namely, the Tudor history and that is Alison Weir. I

have read her books for the last 15 years or so. She has always written a tome of historical facts that shows her investigative skills. I blame her for her preciseness whenever I read historical fiction and I find myself saying, "No, this didn't happen THIS way. ..." I love her books. I love her writing style. This book focuses on Margaret Douglas, niece to King Henry the Eighth and a woman who has managed to survive the tumultuous Tudor reigns of Henry, Mary, Elizabeth One and Mary, Queen of Scots. There is so much information in this book that I have had to refer to the index of who is who in the beginning of the book. I thought I was familiar with events that occurred in King Henry's court as well as Elizabeth's, but it turns out, there is a lot more that I didn't know about, and Margaret was in the midst of it all. Born to King Henry's oldest sister, and her second husband, Margaret is not really a Scottish princess, but is treated like one. She was then sent to live with her uncle when she was 13 and became a lady-in-waiting to several of Henry's wives, starting with Queen Katherine. In Margaret's life, she played on the national court as well as any of the Tudors did. She may not be as famous as the Tudors were, but she played an important part in history. This is a meaty book full of information, but it's so good to read. Once you pick it up, it is hard to put it down. I am intrigued by all the drama and events that went on. Weir has a talent for making historical people seem more human, more life-like than just names on a piece of paper stuck in a museum. She is the reason why I am in love with English history. She has brought so many characters to life for me as well as making history of people who have lived hundreds of years ago seem real. That is talent. 106 of 111 people found the following review helpful. and was one of the authors of an anthology of love poetry called the Devonshire Manuscript. By A. J. Terry. As the niece of Henry VIII and grandmother of James I of England, Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, is not exactly lost. However, she's less well known to the non-historian than Henry VIII's wives or Mary Queen of Scots. Alison Weir's biography is full of the names of Margaret's illustrious connections. She was the goddaughter of Cardinal Wolsey, the cousin and close friend of Queen Mary I, a lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn and Catherine Parr, the mother of Lord Darnley, and the mother-in-law of Mary Queen of Scots. Her turbulent life included angering Henry VIII by her courtships with Thomas Howard and his nephew Charles Howard (relatives of the disgraced Anne Boleyn) and angering Elizabeth I by marrying her son Charles to the stepdaughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury. She was imprisoned in the Tower on several occasions, and was one of the authors of an anthology of love poetry called the Devonshire Manuscript. Alison Weir's entertaining prose, combined with thorough research, makes this an excellent biography. Five stars. 59 of 62 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating. By J. Lee. This is an outstanding biography of Margaret Douglas. It is probably Alison Weir's best nonfiction book (and, by extension, at least for me, her best book, as I prefer her nonfiction over her fiction). So many so-called biographies of medieval or Renaissance women are more about the people around them rather than the woman herself as we so seldom have their opinions, hopes and dreams expressed in their own words. Not so with Margaret Douglas. We have numerous letters written by and to her, as well as a series of heartbreaking love poetry from a doomed romance. And she certainly was a romantic figure (spoiler alert: a non-doomed romance). People adored the young Margaret when she came to the English court. She was a favorite of her uncle, Henry VIII (although he went ahead and threw her in the tower anyways) and his daughter (Margaret's cousin), the future Queen Mary. Henry VIII's other daughter, Elizabeth I well, their relationship was very up and down (and yes, she also threw Margaret in prison). Margaret Douglas was very much a contender for the throne, and Elizabeth was not very tolerant of anyone who stood too close to her throne. She and her husband were claimants to the thrones of not one country but two, England and Scotland. Margaret plotted tirelessly to advance herself and her family, and later to marry her son, Lord Darnley, to Mary, Queen of Scots. And yes, Elizabeth was not happy. So, if you are not familiar with Margaret Douglas, let me tell you a very little about her background. Her mother (also named Margaret) was the daughter of Henry VII, and so a sister to Henry VIII, and she was married to the king of Scotland. After that king died, she married a Scottish lord, and their daughter was Margaret Douglas, the subject of this book. Let's just say the relationship between her parents was not all hugs and kisses. Various people turn sides again and again, no one can trust anyone, everyone is spying on everyone, and it goes on and on. Margaret Douglas is an active, not a passive, person in this very dangerous high-stakes game. Alison Weir is to be congratulated for rescuing Margaret from obscurity. The book is intense, not a quick read, but clear and concise and utterly fascinating. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in women's history in general and the Tudors and Renaissance England in particular.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE INDEPENDENT** From bestselling author and acclaimed historian Alison Weir comes the first biography of Margaret Douglas, the beautiful, cunning niece of Henry VIII of England who used her sharp intelligence and covert power to influence the succession after the death of Elizabeth I. Royal Tudor blood ran in her veins. Her mother was a queen, her father an earl, and she herself was the granddaughter, niece, cousin, and grandmother of monarchs. Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, was an important figure in Tudor England, yet today, while her contemporaries Anne Boleyn, Mary, Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I have achieved celebrity status, she is largely forgotten. Margaret's life was steeped in intrigue, drama, and tragedy from her auspicious birth in 1530 to her parents' bitter divorce, from her ill-fated love affairs to her appointment as lady-in-waiting for four of Henry's six wives. In an age when women were expected to stay out of the political arena, alluring and tempestuous Margaret helped orchestrate one of the most notorious

marriages of the sixteenth century: that of her son Lord Darnley to Mary, Queen of Scots. Margaret defiantly warred with two queens, Mary, and Elizabeth of England and was instrumental in securing the Stuart ascension to the throne of England for her grandson, James VI. The life of Margaret Douglas spans five reigns and provides many missing links between the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. Drawing on decades of research and myriad original sources including many of Margarets surviving letters Alison Weir brings this captivating character out of the shadows and presents a strong, capable woman who operated effectively and fearlessly at the very highest levels of power. Praise for *The Lost Tudor Princess* This is a substantial, detailed biography of a fascinating woman who lived her extraordinary life to the full, taking desperate chances for love and for ambition. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in the powerful women of the Tudor period. Philippa Gregory, *The Washington Post* Tackling the family from an unexpected angle, Weir offers a blow-by-blow account of six decades of palace intrigue. . . . Weir balances historical data with emotional speculation to illuminate the ferocious dynastic ambitions and will to power that earned her subject a place in the spotlight. *The New York Times Book Review*

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Weir balances historical data with emotional speculation to illuminate the ferocious dynastic ambitions and will to power that earned her subject a place in the spotlight. *The New York Times Book Review* About the Author Alison Weir is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several historical biographies, including *Elizabeth of York*, *Mary Boleyn*, *The Lady in the Tower*, *Mistress of the Monarchy*, *Henry VIII*, *Eleanor of Aquitaine*, *The Life of Elizabeth I*, and *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, and the novels *The Marriage Game*, *A Dangerous Inheritance*, *Captive Queen*, *The Lady Elizabeth*, and *Innocent Traitor*. She lives in Surrey, England, with her husband. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. CHAPTER 1A Fair Young Lady Margaret Tudor was the eldest daughter of Henry VII, the first Tudor King of England, and his Queen, Elizabeth, heiress of the royal House of York. She had been born in November 1489 and was just thirteen when, in 1503, in the interest of forging good relations with Scotland, Englands traditional enemy, she had been married to James IV, King of Scots, who was sixteen years her senior and renowned for his lechery. Four of their six children died in infancy, but in 1512 Margaret Tudor bore a son, also called James, who thrived. However, the following year James IV invaded England, seeking to take advantage of Henry VIIIs absence on a campaign in France. The English were not unprepared, however, and a large force under the command of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, marched north to confront James. The two armies met on September 9, 1513 at Flodden in Northumberland, and by the end of the day King James and the flower of the Scottish nobility lay slaughtered in the field. It was one of the most cataclysmic events in Scottish history, immortalized in ballads such as *The Flowers of the Forest*, in which it is claimed that twelve thousand were slain. Nearly every notable family lost at least one of its sons, and the impact of this disastrous defeat would be felt for generations. Scotland was now under the nominal rule of an infant, James V, and subject to yet another long minority; such had been its fate for more than a century, as king after king had succeeded in childhood. It was a kingdom dominated by huge interrelated families, notably the Stewarts, the Douglasses and the Hamiltons, and this age-old clannish system of kinship groupings had nurtured a fierce sense of family. Allowed virtual autonomy during a succession of regencies, the factious Scottish nobility had come to enjoy great power and pursue deadly rivalries. Alliances and loyalties constantly shifted, and blood feuds could persist for centuries. The great lords were all hungry for power, and it was rare for a widowed queen to be granted custody of her children; nevertheless Queen Margaret was named regent of Scotland during the minority of her son and given the guardianship of the young King and his infant brother. She had been newly pregnant when her husband was killed, and in April 1514, at Stirling Castle, she had borne another son, Alexander, Duke of Ross. On August 6, 1514, less than a year after her husbands death, Margaret Tudor secretly married again without consulting the Scottish lords or her brother, Henry VIII. Her bridegroom was Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, as he styled himself a member of her Council and the head of the faction that supported her rule. Handsome, charming, courteous and accomplished in chivalric exploits, he was the son of George Douglas, Master of Angus, and a widower, having lost his first wife, Margaret Hepburn, the year before. Angus, who at twenty-six was the same age as his bride, was very lusty in the Queens sight.<sup>2</sup> He was a man of mild temper, dry humor and undoubted courage, and although his enemies saw him as treacherous, he was good at building and maintaining friendships. He was ambitious, wholly committed to the aggrandizement of his family, and hungry for power. Although this was a love match on Margaret Tudors part, it was probably prompted more by self-interest on Anguss. The Douglas family was an ancient one and could trace its origins back to the Dark Ages. A William Douglas had fought for the Emperor Charlemagne, and Sir James Douglas had carried King Robert the Bruces heart to the Holy Land; since then the arms of his descendants have borne a crowned heart. Their crest, which Margaret Douglas would also use, was the salamander. They were an ambitious tribe, into which Margarets strong character fitted well, and family envies were strong,<sup>3</sup> leading in 1380 to the clan splitting into two feuding branches, the senior being the Black Douglasses and the junior the Red Douglasses, to which line the Earls

of Angus belonged. The 5th Earl, Archibald Bell-the-Cat Douglas, the most powerful noble in the kingdom, had played traitor against King James IV in 1482, allying himself with Henry VII of England, but he was back in favor a decade later, having established the Douglasses as the foremost family in Scotland. He had won his nickname bell the cat means performing a challenging task by getting rid of a royal favorite. But his son, George Douglas, Master of Angus, Margaret Douglass grandfather, had perished at Flodden. The history of the Douglas clan was a violent one; few of its prominent members had died in their beds, and it looked very much as if Angus, who succeeded Bell-the-Cat as earl in 1514, might be of their number, for it soon became apparent that he was determined to rule Scotland. His marriage to the Queen, and her subsequent advancement of the Douglasses to high offices, excited the jealousy of the Scottish nobility and provoked the pro-French party at court, which was headed by James Hamilton, Earl of Arran, a man renowned for his heroic triumphs in the tournament field; it reignited a centuries-old feud between the Douglasses and the Hamiltons, and gave rise to a civil war in Scotland. Scotland had long been allied to France, and both countries had a long history of enmity with England; but Margaret Tudor was determined to continue as regent with the pro-English Angus at her side. Her opponents asserted that, under Scottish law, by remarrying she had forfeited the office of guardian (tutrix) to her underage children. The Arran-led Council resolved to replace her with John Stewart, Duke of Albany, a grandson of James II and the next royal heir after her sons. Albany was an honorable man and a capable administrator, but he regarded himself primarily as a Frenchman he had been brought up in France, where he owned vast estates and was reluctant to take up office in Scotland. At once the Queen withdrew with her children to the safety of her mighty dower fortress of Stirling, set high on its volcanic crag at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands, against the spectacular backdrop of the Trossachs and the Ochil Hills; whereupon the Scottish lords rose in arms against her. Angus was ousted from power, and Albany, who was still in France, was offered the regency. Queen Margaret appealed repeatedly to her brother, Henry VIII, for aid, impressing on him that all the welfare of me and my children lies in your hands.<sup>4</sup> Henry threatened Scotland with war, while privately urging his sister to escape with her children to England, but she dared not attempt it because her enemies were keeping her under constant watch. Margaret Tudor was six months pregnant with her first child by her new husband when, on July 12, 1515, the anti-English Albany was formally installed as regent. He treated her with courtesy at first, but when he learned that Angus, fearing for the safety of the young King and his brother, was plotting to send them to England, he laid siege to Stirling, seized the little boys from the Queen, and made himself their custodian. Margaret Tudor had no choice but to consent; her supporters had either fled or been taken, and she herself was now a captive. In grief at losing her sons, she drew up a long remembrance of her complaints, which she sent to Thomas Magnus, the English ambassador to Scotland, who was then staying in Northumberland.<sup>5</sup> Thereafter relations between Queen Margaret and Albany grew ever more tense. He made her write to her brother that she was content, and other letters contrary to her own mind, and he kept her strict prisoner and under surveillance in Edinburgh, so that she was unable to see her sons, whom Albany had in ward.<sup>6</sup> He had also deprived her of her revenues, leaving her in extreme poverty.<sup>7</sup> She entreated Henry VIII to send someone to mediate between her and the Regent; she was in much woe and pain, and besought remedy for Gods sake.<sup>8</sup> But Albany was hostile to England, and for years would make every effort to raise an army and attack it. Effectively forcing Margaret Tudor into a position where she felt the need to flee from Scotland was an insult to Henry VIII, who naturally took her part and responded by offering her refuge.<sup>9</sup> It was to the Queens advantage that the birth of her child was approaching, for she was planning to flee to England before it was born. No one would suspect a woman going into seclusion of plotting an escape, for once she had taken to her chamber, she would remain there until she was fit enough for her churching, the ceremony of thanksgiving and purification that marked the end of a womans confinement and her return to normal life. On August 1 Margaret Tudor wrote from Edinburgh to Henry VIII: Brother, I purpose, by the grace of God, to take my chamber and lie in my palace of Linlithgow within this twelve days, for I have not past eight weeks to my time, at the which I pray Jesu to send me good speed and happy deliverance.<sup>10</sup> Knowing that she could count on the aid of her brother, she sent her trusty servant, Robert Carr, to Thomas Magnus and Lord Dacre to ask them to inform the King of her secret plans, and ask for his assistance, which he had already commanded Dacre to extend to her.<sup>11</sup> Lord Dacre was then forty-eight, fierce, indefatigable and politically astute.<sup>12</sup> In 1485 he had fought for the last Plantagenet King, Richard III, against the future Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth, but had quickly made his peace with the Tudor victor, who had made him a Knight of the Bath. Dacre had been serving on the Scottish Marches since 1485, and had been made Warden General in 1509 by Henry VIII. He had fought against the Scots at Flodden, but he had been willing to help Margaret Tudor smuggle her sons into England earlier in 1515. At that time she had expressed fears that Scotland was so infested by robbers as to render traveling dangerous, but that seemed the lesser evil now. Dacre and Magnus assured their master that, notwithstanding her Grace is within six weeks of her lying down, yet she hath ascertained us she hath good health, and is strong enough to take upon her this journey.<sup>13</sup> On September 1, 1515 Lord Dacre wrote to Queen Margaret, urging her to make haste to steal away to Blackadder Tower. Its owner, Andrew Blackadder, had fought and fallen under the Douglas standard at Flodden, and his widow and daughters were loyal. Dacre assured Margaret Tudor that, considering she was near her time, this was the best course of action. She would want for neither household goods nor money, and if all went to plan, her children would be safely restored to her and she herself would be restored as regent.

Dacre himself would rendezvous with the Queen and escort her through the marsh where Blackadder Tower stood, so that you can resort [there] without any danger.<sup>14</sup> But on September 3, Margaret Tudor informed Dacre that she had a strategy of her own.<sup>15</sup> Feigning sickness, she obtained Albany's permission to remove with her husband to Linlithgow Palace for the birth of their child.<sup>16</sup> She and Angus traveled there on September 11, closely followed by a letter from Lord Dacre informing the Queen that Henry VIII had been advised of her plight, and had confirmed his offer of asylum in England. Everything was now in place for her escape. After the birth of her daughter Margaret Tudor fell into such extreme sickness that her life was despaired of by all.<sup>17</sup> Given the drama of her flight and the stress she had suffered, that was hardly surprising. Dacre evidently thought the birth of a daughter of little importance, and it was not until October 18 that he informed Henry VIII that on the eighth day after that the Queen of Scots, your sister, came and entered into this your realm, her Grace was delivered and brought in bed of a fair young lady. He added that the sudden time, by God's provision so chanced, took them all unawares. His excuse for not writing sooner was that he had been too busy, and he had not thought it worth sending a letter for the sole purpose of informing the King that he had a new niece.<sup>18</sup> The Queen's child was christened the day after her birth,<sup>19</sup> on October 8, the ceremony probably being held in the castle chapel; at the font she was given the name Margaret, after her mother.<sup>20</sup> Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the minister who was all-powerful at the English court, had been chosen by Queen Margaret as a godparent, in absentia.<sup>21</sup> Dacre was to explain to the King that the baptism had taken place with such convenient provisions as could or might be had in this barren and wild country, although everything had been done accordingly as appertained to the honour of the same, considering the suddenness of the birth.<sup>22</sup> Because she was born in Northumberland, the fair young lady started life as an English subject. Her uncle, Henry VIII, had as yet no surviving child to succeed him; his nearest heirs were his sister, Margaret Tudor, and her children, James V and now Margaret Douglas. Although Henry VII, in his will, had not excluded Margaret Tudor's issue from the succession, James V was not an Englishman; since the fourteenth century there had been a common-law rule against alien inheritance,<sup>23</sup> and a majority opinion in England held that that applied to the royal succession. Hence Margaret Douglas was second in line to the English throne after her mother until such time as Henry's Queen, Katherine of Aragon, bore a living child and Dacre was wrong to regard her as a person of little political importance. On October 10, three days after the birth, Queen Margaret was sufficiently recovered to write reprovingly to Albany: Cousin, I heartily commend me unto you, and where I have been enforced for fear and danger of my life to depart forth of the realm of Scotland, so it is that, by the grace of Almighty God, I am now delivered and have a Christian soul, being a young lady. She demanded to be reinstated in the regency, desiring him in God's name, as tutrix of the young King and Prince, my tender childer, to have the whole rule and governance of them and of Scotland.<sup>24</sup> Albany refused, informing her that the governance of the realm expired with the death of her husband, and devolved to the estates and that she had forfeited the tutelage of her children by her second marriage; if she would not listen to reason, he would be compelled to resort to sterner measures to prevent the disunion between the two kingdoms.<sup>25</sup> Angus, meanwhile, had entered into a solemn covenant with several powerful, sympathetic nobles to liberate James V and his brother and unite in opposition to Albany. That was sufficiently alarming for Albany to offer the Queen apologies, terms and the return of her jewelry; he said he would even take Angus into favor if she would return to Scotland; but she refused.<sup>26</sup> When, on October 18, Dacre informed Henry VIII of Margaret's birth, he asked what was to be done with his royal guest. Her lying-in was proving uneaseful and costly because all necessities had to be carried some distance to Harbottle, so he was minded to move her Grace to remove to Morpeth as soon as she had been churched. Dacre evidently feared that Margaret Tudor would make difficulties about the move, as he suggested to the King that it may like your Highness to signify your mind and pleasure unto her, that we may move her accordingly. As soon as he had been informed of his sister's imminent arrival in England, Henry VIII had sent one of his gentlemen ushers, Sir Christopher Garnish, north with suitably royal clothing, plate and other necessities for her and her child. Garnish deposited these at Morpeth, then traveled to Harbottle with a letter from Henry that was greatly to the Queen's comfort. Because she was still lying in, and was expected to keep to her chamber for at least three weeks, Dacre advised Garnish to return to Morpeth and remain until she was fit to travel there and receive her brother's gifts.<sup>27</sup> After Queen Margaret's churching in late October, Henry VIII wanted her to journey south and join the lavish Christmas festivities at his court, but she was too ill to travel, or even to be moved.<sup>28</sup> For weeks she lay bedridden at Harbottle with a great and intolerable ache that is in her right leg, nigh to her body, which may have been due to sciatica, a trapped nerve, or a fracture. It was not until November 26 that she was well enough to travel. Dacre settled her and her infant in a litter and set off for Morpeth Castle, nearly thirty miles southeast of Harbottle, but her Grace was so feeble that all of this way she could not suffer no horses to go in the litter, so it had to be borne by honest personages of the country.<sup>29</sup> On the way they had to rest for four days at fourteenth-century Cartington Castle, a strong fortress of stone. Their next stop, on Sunday, December 2, was five miles away at Brinkburn Priory, and the following morning they came to Morpeth, where Dacre had summoned local dignitaries to greet the Queen. The castle at Morpeth had been built in the thirteenth century on a steep bank south of Ha Hill, replacing an earlier eleventh-century structure. Its keep, the Great Tower, stood within a bailey surrounded by a curtain wall.<sup>30</sup> Dacre had spared no expense to welcome the sister of his sovereign. John Younge, Somerset Herald, wrote: Never saw I a barons house better trimmed in all my life: the hall and chambers with the newest device of

tapestry, his cupboard all of gilt plate with a great cup of fine gold, the boards end served all with silver vessels, lacking no manner of victual and wildfowl to be put on them.<sup>31</sup> When Henry VIII learned that Queen Margaret had borne her child, he commanded all the important gentlemen of Northumberland to do them pleasure.<sup>32</sup> He lifted the ban on any Scot attending upon her, which meant that Angus was now free to join her at Morpeth and meet his new daughter. Lord Home was of his party. When Garnish visited Queen Margaret in December,<sup>33</sup> bringing a letter from the King assuring the Queen and Angus a warm welcome at the English court, she received him lying in bed, and was much cheered by her brothers kindness. In fact Henry was loudly proclaiming to all how badly his sister had been mistreated by Albany, and accusing the Regent of tearing her from her children, insulting and abusing her, stealing her jewels, forging her handwriting, and forcing her, in late pregnancy, to flee for her life. It was reported in France that if the Duke of Albany did not abstain from and make reparation for his injuries to Margaret and her children, Henry would make him do so, and was already planning to invade Scotland.<sup>34</sup> Albany tried to defend himself, protesting that he had had no idea that the Queen had intended to escape, and went on begging her to return to Scotland. The French ambassador added fuel to the flames by claiming that she had been in no danger and had run off in a temper, but no one wanted to listen. Queen Margaret was still weak on December 8, when she was carried out of her bedchamber in a chair to inspect the rich gifts the King had sent her. Among them were twenty-two gowns of gold and cloth of tissue, silk and velvet, trimmed with fur.<sup>35</sup> Garnish informed Henry VIII that she was one of the lowest-brought ladies, with her great pain of sickness, that I have seen and [es]cape[d death], and was suffering such agony in her leg that, when she had to be moved or turned in bed, it would pity any mans heart to hear the shrieks and cries that her Grace giveth; and yet, for all that, her Grace hath a marvelous mind upon her apparel for her body.<sup>36</sup> She seems to have been more preoccupied with her new wardrobe than with her baby. Showing off the gowns to Lord Home, she cried, Here ye may see that the King my brother hath not forgotten me, and that he would not that I should die for lack of clothes!<sup>37</sup> On December 17 Sebastian Giustinian, the Venetian envoy in London, reported that when Queen Margaret was better, she would by his Majestys orders come to the court in London.<sup>38</sup> But at Christmas, although great house was kept at Morpeth,<sup>39</sup> the intolerable pain in the Queens leg worsened. The local physician and surgeon having failed to cure her, Dacre wrote to Henry VIII asking that a royal doctor be sent north.<sup>40</sup> Apparently possibly for want of any word on her progress it was assumed at the English court that the infant Margaret Douglas had died, for on January 2 Cardinal Wolsey informed Giustinian that Queen Margaret is yet most grievously ill, having been prematurely delivered of a daughter, who had subsequently died.<sup>41</sup> In fact the baby was thriving. It was not until the end of January 1516 that Queen Margaret began to recover. On March 15 Dacre reported to Henry VIII: She amendeth continually and is greatly desirous to be coming towards your Highness. But, fearing for her health, Dacre was keeping back some tragic news. On December 28 a Scottish delegation had brought word from Stirling Castle that the Queens favorite son, twenty-month-old Alexander, had died. The cause is not recorded, but in an age long before antibiotics, many children died in infancy, as had four of Alexanders older siblings. Garnish observed, If it comes to her knowledge, it will be fatal to her,<sup>42</sup> and when, in March, Dacre felt that she was sufficiently strong to bear the news, she collapsed in grief. Dacre did not suspect any danger or peril of life, but he again asked the King to send a physician from London all the same. Encouraged by an indignant Henry VIII, Margaret Tudor blamed Albany for Alexanders death, and in her formal complaint against him would state that it is much to be suspected he will destroy the young King, now that her son, the young Duke, is dead, most probably through his means.<sup>43</sup> Two weeks later she suffered another blow when Angus told her that he would not be accompanying her to the English court. More simple than malicious (as the French ambassador to Scotland described him at this time),<sup>44</sup> he wanted to make peace with Albany and secure the restoration of lands confiscated by the Regent. Without even taking leave of his wife, he left her and their daughter and returned to Scotland with Lord Home.<sup>45</sup> Dacre, who saw this as no less than abandonment, chased the escaping lords as far as Coldstream, but none of his reproaches or pleas could persuade them to return. True to Anguss expectations, Albany pardoned him, received him and Home into favor, and promised to return his lands, and thereafter Angus remained a close associate of the Regent. Anguss sudden departure made [the Queen] much to muse.<sup>46</sup> She took it right heavily, making great moan and lamentation, and looked to her brother for succor, crying that without it, the King her son and she are likely to be destroyed.<sup>47</sup> This is the first evidence of a rift between the Queen and Angus, the first sign of the marital strife and power struggles that were heavily to overshadow Margaret Douglass childhood. Meanwhile a temporary peace between England and Scotland had been agreed, and Scottish envoys were on their way to London to discuss terms for Queen Margarets return to Scotland. The Queen was to follow in their wake. She was sufficiently recovered to leave Morpeth on 7 April 7, 1516, but the litter and horses sent by Henry VIII did not arrive until four oclock, so she and Margaret, now six months old, set off the next day. They were escorted by Lord Dacre and others as far as Newcastle.<sup>48</sup> Here they were greeted by the city dignitaries and Sir Thomas Parr (father of the future Queen Katherine), before proceeding south the next day to Durham, where there was another civic welcome. From here Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, accompanied the Queens party to York, where Angus, sent by Albany, unexpectedly caught up with them and asked the Queen if he might join a Scottish embassy that was preparing to enter England. Still disgruntled with him, she refused, whereupon he returned to Scotland. On April 27 Queen Margaret was at Stony Stratford in Northamptonshire, and on May 3 she reached Enfield, Middlesex, where she

stayed at Elsyng Palace,<sup>49</sup> the home of Sir Thomas Lovell, treasurer of Henry VIII's household. The next day she rode on to the village of Tottenham, north of London, and it was here, in Bruce Castle, the newly built manor house of a favored courtier, Sir William Compton,<sup>50</sup> that Henry VIII was waiting to greet her and his infant niece. Brother and sister had not seen each other for thirteen years. When Margaret Tudor had gone to Scotland, Henry, two years her junior, had been a boy of twelve. Now he was a handsome, athletic, talented and egotistical man of twenty-five, and had been ruling England for seven years. Queen Margaret saw before her a tall, broad-shouldered Adonis with flame-red hair and a beardless chin; Henry would not metamorphose into the bearded, overweight colossus of later years for another two decades. After a short conversation, the King escorted his sister, his niece and their retinue the rest of the way to the City of London, and at six o'clock that evening Queen Margaret, royally attired and riding a white palfrey, passed in procession along Cheapside, preceded by Sir Thomas Parr and followed by many lords and ladies. Thus she came to Baynards Castle by the River Thames, a royal residence that she would have remembered well from her childhood. Here lodgings had been made ready for her and her daughter.<sup>51</sup> After resting there until May 7, mother and child joined the court at Greenwich Palace. Henry VIII and his Queen, Katherine of Aragon, received her there joyfully, and with them was the youngest Tudor sibling, Mary, the widow of Louis XII of France. A year before, Mary, the beauty of the family, had caused a scandal by secretly making a second marriage, for love, with Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. Henry had been furious, and had imposed a crippling fine on the couple before receiving them back into favor. Now there were feasts, revels, jousts and a banquet in the Queen's chamber. In February 1516 Katherine whose first four children had died in infancy had at last presented the King with a healthy daughter, Mary, who now took precedence over Margaret Tudor and Margaret Douglas in the English succession. The two cousins were much of an age, but of course they were far too young at this time to form any friendship. It is likely that Margaret only stayed in the royal nursery at Greenwich while her mother was there, and that after their visit she went to stay with her at Scotland, where Queen Margaret was allocated lodgings during her sojourn in England. Scotland was a palatial complex that lay south of Charing Cross. It had acquired its name from being used as a residence for visiting Scottish monarchs, and was convenient for Westminster and Parliament, which they attended in their capacity as English barons. First built by the Saxon King Edgar in a.d. 959 so that Kenneth III of Scots would have suitable accommodation when he came annually to London to pay homage, the buildings in the complex were called Little Scotland Yard, Middle Scotland Yard, and Great Scotland Yard. They were built around a courtyard, enclosed with a brick wall, and had large pleasure-grounds extending to the river. According to the Elizabethan historian John Stow, the palace was a very great building, but little else is known about it, and no clear image of it survives. Here Queen Margaret lived quietly, with little or no semblance of state.<sup>52</sup> In November 1519 an annuity of 10 was granted to Queen Margaret's former nurse, Alice Davy, who had cared for her in her infancy from 1489 to 1491.<sup>53</sup> This was for services to the Queen Consort and Margaret, Queen of Scotland.<sup>54</sup> It was not unusual for royal servants to be rewarded after a lapse of years, but the annuities that Henry VIII had granted to those who had served his mother, Elizabeth of York, who died in 1503, had been assigned by 1515. The fact that Mrs. Davy had rendered services to Katherine of Aragon and Margaret Tudor suggests that she had been employed more recently in their nurseries, and that Queen Margaret had called upon her old nurse to look after her baby. Margaret and her mother remained in England for a year. Angus, despite having been given leave by Albany, had refused to join them. He had also appropriated his wife's rents, so the Queen had little money of her own, and although Henry VIII made occasional payments to her, at Christmas 1516 she was forced to beg Cardinal Wolsey for financial help.<sup>55</sup> In the summer of 1517 Albany returned to France to tend to his sick wife, leaving James Hamilton, Earl of Arran, as president of the Scottish Council, with Angus and other lords serving alongside him. It was to be a volatile partnership, as Angus was unable to work amicably with Arran, but was bent on pursuing his bloody feud with the Hamiltons. In the wake of the truce between Scotland and England, Queen Margaret's hopes of regaining the regency flourished anew. On May 18 1517, furnished with a safe-conduct from the young King James and assurances of the restoration of her revenues,<sup>56</sup> she departed from London, taking the eighteen-month-old Margaret with her. Escorted by George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, they set out on the long ride north, the King having summoned various lords and gentlemen to receive them with due ceremony along the route.<sup>57</sup> The Queen fell ill at Doncaster, but pressed on to York, where the Earl of Northumberland waited upon her, and thence to Durham, and Berwick, where she hesitated, reluctant to return to the kingdom where she had suffered so many troubles. Her Grace, Thomas Magnus reported, considereth now the honor of England, and the poverty and wretchedness of Scotland, which she did not afore, but in her opinion esteemed Scotland equal to England. But she had to go back, and on June 15 young Margaret crossed the border into Scotland for the first time.<sup>58</sup> At Lamberton Kirk, three miles from Berwick, Angus, accompanied by his kinsman, James Douglas, Earl of Morton, and other lords, was waiting to greet his wife and child. He had not come voluntarily but had been sent by the Scottish Council. According to Margaret, he behaved right courteously to her,<sup>59</sup> and a reconciliation of sorts took place. Attended by an escort of three thousand men-at-arms, they rode together toward Edinburgh, where, on the evening of June 17, the Queen was received with some state and lodged in Holyrood Palace, recently vacated by Albany. But she was still to be denied a share in the government and access to her son, James V. During the succeeding years she made abortive attempts to regain power, but there was no hope of that after Henry VIII made a

new truce with the Scots without insisting on redress for the wrongs she had suffered, and she was in financial straits because of difficulties in obtaining payment of her dower revenues. This was the backdrop to Margarets childhood.