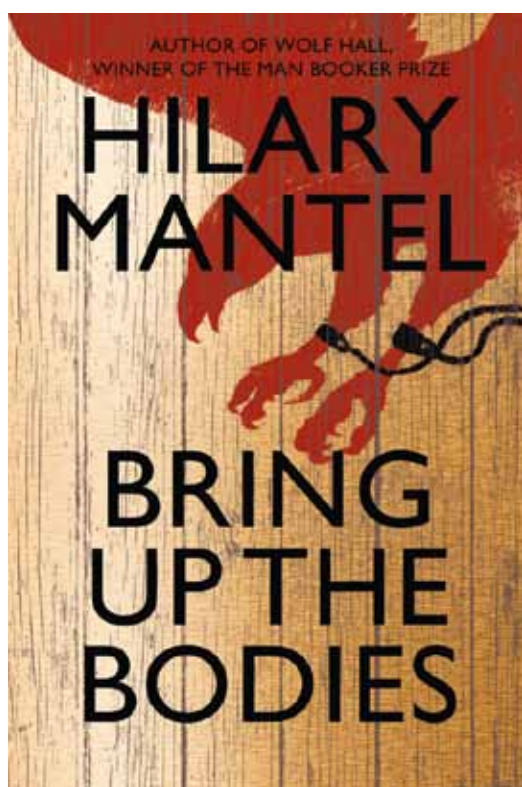




Reader's Guide



Other novels by Hilary Mantel

- Wolf Hall* (2009)
- Beyond Black* (2005)
- The Giant, O'Brien* (1998)
- An Experiment in Love* (1995)
- A Change of Climate* (1994)
- A Place of Greater Safety* (1992)
- Fludd* (1989)
- Eight Months on Ghazzah Street* (1988)
- Vacant Possession* (1986)
- Every Day is Mother's Day* (1985)

Bring up the Bodies

Hilary Mantel

Fourth Estate
Hardback £20.00
Ebook £19.10
Paperback published February 2013

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Innovating to perform



About the author

Hilary Mantel was born in the north of England in 1952. Educated at a convent school, she studied law, was briefly a social worker and later a teacher. After nine years abroad, she returned to Britain in the mid-eighties and became a critic and novelist, producing both contemporary and historical fiction. She lives with her husband in Devon.

Her books include: *Eight Months on Ghazzah Street* (1988); *Fludd* (1989), winner of the Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize, the Cheltenham Prize and the Southern Arts Literature Prize; *A Place of Greater Safety* (1992), winner of the Sunday Express Book of the Year award; *A Change of Climate* (1994); *An Experiment in Love* (1995), winner of the 1996 Hawthornden Prize; *Beyond Black* (2005), shortlisted for a 2006 Commonwealth Writers Prize and for the 2006 Orange Prize for Fiction and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and *Wolf Hall* (2009), winner of the Man Booker Prize.

In 2006 she was also awarded a CBE.

Bring up the Bodies

The year is 1535 and Thomas Cromwell, chief Minister to Henry VIII, must work both to please the king and keep the nation safe. Anne Boleyn, for whose sake Henry has broken with Rome and created his own church, has failed to do what she promised: bear a son to secure the Tudor line. As Henry develops a dangerous attraction to Wolf Hall's Jane Seymour, Thomas must negotiate a 'truth' that will satisfy Henry and secure his own career. But neither minister nor king will emerge undamaged from the bloody theatre of Anne's final days.

Discussion points

The action of *Bring Up The Bodies* is seen mostly through the eyes of Thomas Cromwell. Does this change how you see history? Does Cromwell himself change in the course of the book?

The list of characters has a section called 'The Dead.' How do the dead make themselves heard and felt in this novel? How does the past infiltrate the present?

Henry claims his actions are driven by his conscience. Can you feel any sympathy for him, or is he selfish and self-deluding?

How much do you think Anne Boleyn contributes to her own destruction?

Themed reading

Eric Ives *The Life and Death of Anne Boleyn*

David Loades *The Boleyns*

John Schofield *Thomas Cromwell*

Suzannah Lipscomb *1536: the Year That Changed Henry VIII*

Useful links

[The Guardian Margaret Atwood review](#)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/may/04/bring-up-the-bodies-hilary-mantel-review>

[Publisher's website](#)

<http://www.harpercollins.co.uk/Authors/3691/hilary-mantel>

[The British Council](#) (bibliography and critical perspective)

<http://literature.britishcouncil.org/hilary-mantel>