**A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Indie Book of 2020**

**The Secret Diaries of Juan Luis Vives**

Tim Darcy Ellis

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Historical Fiction

**Summary**

In THE SECRET DIARIES OF JUAN LUIS VIVES, author Tim Darcy Ellis takes readers on a beautifully detailed historical journey that brings back to life Juan Luis Vives, a Spanish Jew and leading Renaissance Humanist.

It is 1522. Vives flees Spain for the Netherlands to avoid the fires of the Inquisition: yet even there he is not safe. When England’s Thomas More offers him the role of tutor to Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII, he eagerly accepts. While publicly navigating life as a ‘New Christian,’ Vives is quickly drawn into the secretive world of London’s Jewish community.

With a foot in each world, he is torn between the love of two women. Inside the Tudor court, the king and queen separately seek Vives’s assistance to support their opposed demands. He must betray one to help the other, knowing his decision could cost him his life. Not only his survival but that of his family and his entire people hang in the balance.

**About the Author**

Tim Darcy Ellis (BA BSc, MHSc) is a writer, business owner and former professional archaeologist. Ellis has worked as an archaeologist for the Museum of London and on various rescue digs ahead of major gas pipelining in eastern England, as well as a tour guide for the British Museum. A qualified physiotherapist, he is currently Managing Director and Principal Physiotherapist of Excel Physiotherapy and Wellness, writing and teaching extensively on health and wellness. He lives in Sydney, Australia. <https://timdarcyellisauthor.com/>

**Awards and Reviews**

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\*“Ellis writes all of this with marvelous gusto that’s more reminiscent of Hilary Mantel’s *Wolf Hall* (2009) than of a more traditional Tudor novel. Vives not only addresses his diary as though it were a person; it also sometimes seems to address him right back…. Ellis effectively allows readers to root for a person that many may only know as a footnote to the story of More. A fast-paced and richly engaging story about an intriguing historical figure.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“Juan Luis Vives was a Jewish Spaniard and a renowned scholar in the 16th century, who fled Spain to avoid the Inquisition. Lord High Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas More, offered him the job to tutor Princess Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII, which he accepted to become a well-known member of the Tudor court. But he is ‘missing from English history books,’ according to Tim Darcy Ellis, who has written a fascinating novel on Mr. Vives based on historical accounts.”—*Daily Express* (UK)

“In its clear portrayal of inner conflict, the novel humanizes Vives and concludes with a satisfying, circular return to Belgium. THE SECRET DIARIES OF JUAN LUIS VIVES is a provocative, multicolored historical novel that examines hidden faith.”—*ForeWord Reviews*

“Ellis writes Vives’s diary with all the raw emotion you’d expect from a man who has spent his life running from powerful forces that would see him dead but is wise enough to know that even if “it’s a cruel world, the only way to change it is to stay in it.” Ellis’s translation of Vives onto the page captures the fear, conflict, determination and joy of his story, leaving the reader eager to turn the page and wondering *Why didn’t I know the name Juan Luis Vives before now?”—BookTrib*

**More about Juan Luis Vives**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdhLqWgPxW0>

**Author interviews and guest posts**

<https://timdarcyellisauthor.com/2020/09/09/was-henry-viii-a-jewish-sympathizer/>

<https://tonyriches.blogspot.com/2020/11/special-guest-post-by-tim-darcy-ellis.html>

<https://play.acast.com/s/therenaissanceenglishhistorypodcast/episode153-timdarcyellisonjuanluisvives>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mesy76U9Frg> BBC Radio (17 minutes)