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The Autumn Throne: A Novel Of Eleanor Of Aquitaine



Synopsis

The Son She Loved. The Betrayal She Faced. The Legend She Became. The stunning conclusion to the Eleanor of Aquitaine trilogy. Imprisoned by her husband. Separated from her children. If King Henry II thought these things would push his queen into submission, he was wrong. Eleanor of Aquitaine refused to give into his tyranny. Freed by his death, she became dowager Queen of England. But the competition for land and power that Henry bred among his sons had grown into a dangerous rivalry that Eleanor must skillfully control. Eleanor would need every ounce of courage and fortitude as she crossed the Alps in winter to bring her son Richard his bride, ransom him from imprisonment and deal with his brother John's treachery. Her indomitable spirit would be tested to its limits as she attempted to keep the peace between her warring sons, to fend off enemies, and to negotiate a magnificent future for a chosen granddaughter.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed Elizabeth Chadwick's series on Eleanor of Aquitaine. I love historical fiction and the way authors interpret events, the words they put into their mouths, as well as those documented by

preserved letters and other documents. Most books I've read, fiction and nonfiction, have one of her sons dying in a jousting tournament and her presentation and interpretation of this event is a first, and interesting consideration. I would recommend the series

I think this book was the best of the series. It portrays Alienor more from the point of view of mother rather than ambitious queen although she clearly was that. I was only left wondering what became of her daughters by King Louis. The only mention of them was indirectly, when Joanna died she thinks how after birthing ten children she had outlived all but two. Presumably she had little or no contact with them after the annulment but it would have been interesting to have woven their fate into the story somehow and gotten Aleinor's emotions and thoughts about the daughters she gave up to win her freedom.

I purchased the trilogy (Summer Queen, Winter Crown, and Autumn Throne) regarding Eleanor (Alienor) of Aquitaine because I recently discovered she is my ancestor. I was excited to find a novel trilogy about her life and even more thrilled to read these three amazing books. After reading Summer Queen and Winter Throne I thought truly this novel would slow the steady pace, but as usual it did not and I feel so full. Yes, the Queen is older and in her autumn of life, but my goodness life is still requiring her participation and she is up to the task! You cannot read the first two and not the last. No wonder the author, Elizabeth Chadwick, is a best seller in more than her own country! You become so attached to the Queen and what she goes through do not be surprised when you are just as shocked as her, hurt and offended, and cry at her life's mountains and valleys. Very well done.

Since I am a student of history and Eleanor of Aquitaine in particular I knew I would love this book. Elizabeth Chadwick and Sharon Kay Penman are my two all time favorite authors of historical novels. This book brings Eleanor to life in a totally different way than Sharon did and she did it effortlessly. However when dealing with history and historical figures, unfortunately the reader pretty much knows the fate of the characters. It then depends on the author to make so interesting that you just have to keep reading. Elizabeth Chadwick does this very well. To anyone who loves history or wants to know more about Eleanor and Henry II and their children...I would highly recommend this books. The novel flows along like a summer stream in which you just want to stay immersed in on a hot summer day. This was truly an enjoyable book, very well written and will definitely hold the reader's attention.

Delightfully written and imaginatively developed within a respectful attention to known historical resources, this last of the trilogy was up to expectations. I especially enjoyed how it tied into the other books Ms. Chadwick has written on characters who interacted with Aelinor of Aquitaine.

Elizabeth Chadwick does a very good amount of research, which would be nearly impossible when there is only one artifact left from her lifetime. Eleanore was a brave woman in spite of all the constraints put upon her; a woman ahead of her time in many ways.

Thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was well researched and a fitting end to the Eleanor of Aquitaine series. Although there were some inaccuracies in the book (especially about her daughter Joanna, her situation in Sicily and the circumstances of her death in France), I'm sure those variations from known written records were to enhance the novel for the reader.

Chadwick always makes you feel that you are there, living the life of Aelinor. You can feel what she feels, taste what she tastes, see what she sees. I have read many historical novels on medieval life, but none brings the same realistic feel that Elizabeth Chadwick gifts her readers. This final novel of Eleanor of Aquitaine was as immersive as the first two. It's easy to feel that you are experiencing Aelinor's life exactly as she lived it. I cannot recommend it enough to all lovers of historical fiction.

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