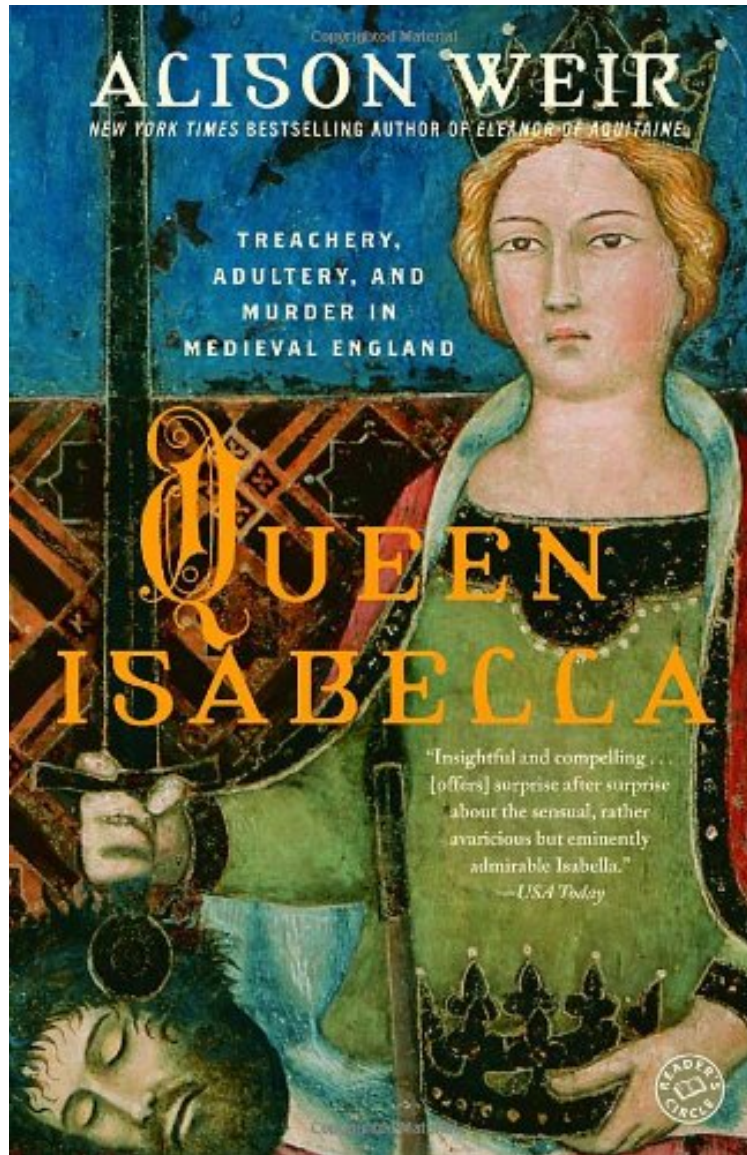


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Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery, and Murder in Medieval England

Alison Weir

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#175607 in Books Alison Weir 2006-12-26 2006-12-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.23 x 1.07 x 5.46l, .92 #File Name: 0345453204528 pages Queen Isabella Treachery Adultery and Murder in Medieval England | File size: 39.Mb

Alison Weir : Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery, and Murder in Medieval England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery, and Murder in Medieval England:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Is Isabella a she-wolf?By sddunnIsabella of France who married Edward 2 of England was brought up by a father who was king and acted as such. Married off to the king of England at a young age, she gradually realized what an utter failure she had married. Isabella used her influence to help depose the worthless king and put their son on the throne. She did what she had to do in her time but did it as a woman acting far ahead of her time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A more factual approach for the woman that Queen Isabella became.By BDAIson Weir provides a fresh and factual perspective on Queen Isabella, wife of King Edward II of England. If you are into English history, I would highly recommend this book. The reading is not fast paced but full of actual events and occurrences that made this time in history so important. Married around age 12, Isabella moves into adulthood as a woman who well understands politics of the time, the worth of a crown, and the power and wealth it brings. She effectively disposes of her husband, an English King, who has lead a life of immorality turning all English nobility against him. This intelligent woman finds a way over throw her husband replacing her son Edward III on the throne. I find myself going back and starting the book all over again. I can count on Alison Weir, in all of her historical biographies, to provide the reader with insightful and intriguing worlds bringing historical characters to life.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Well written biography of Queen IsabellaBy Steven PetersonRemember the movie "Braveheart" and its rendering of the relationships among William Wallace, Edward I, his son (later to become Edward II), and Isabella? Forget about it! This and other works make rubbish of some of the themes raised in that very entertaining and rousing movie.This is the story of the daughter of Philip IV of France, betrothed to Edward, son of Edward I of England (to later become Edward II), to cement peace between the two countries. Wed young, their marriage was probably not consummated for some time. Perhaps a part of that was the relationship of Edward to a young companion--Piers Gaveston. This was the first in what apparently were two intimate relationships with a male--Hugh Despenser being the other. Both led to hardships to Isabelle, as she was displaced in Edward's affections by his male partners, and as she was marginalized in terms of her role as queen.When Edward ascended to the throne, he was woefully inept. He allowed others (Piers and Hugh) to influence his decisions, creating hatred among other nobles. Isabelle found ways during some of this time to create a role for herself, but she was often pushed to the side by the two comrades--at different times--of Edward II. She bore Edward children, including the son who would become Edward III. At one point, she felt so compromised that, once she went to France on a diplomatic mission to her French royal family, she did not return and began a scandalous relationship with Roger Mortimer, who also had fled England in fear of losing his life.Then, the compelling story of Isabella and Mortimer gathering a force and invading England, driving Edward II from the throne, Mortimer's and her misrule under the facade of Edward III's reign (featuring acquisitiveness of property, cruelty by Mortimer, a very unpopular settlement of affairs with Scotland and France, the apparent death/murder of Edward II) led to Edward III asserting himself and assuming command. Mortimer's fate was hideous; Isabelle was allowed to lead a life appropriate to the Queen Mother and reached a ripe old age.There are mysteries addressed--not wholly convincingly--in this work, such as the contention that Edward II may well have escaped his fate and lived out a longer life in exile. I was not over convinced, but others have raised the same suggestion.This is a well written work, with much historical detail, on the life of Queen Isabelle and the context in which she lived. Details are richly provided, giving a sense of the reality of the era. A worthwhile historical piece. . . .

In this vibrant biography, acclaimed author Alison Weir reexamines the life of Isabella of England, one of history's most notorious and charismatic queens. Isabella arrived in London in 1308, the spirited twelve-year-old daughter of King Philip IV of France. Her marriage to the heir to England's throne was designed to heal old political wounds between the two countries, and in the years that followed she became an important figure, a determined and clever woman whose influence would come to last centuries. Many myths and legends have been woven around Isabella's story, but in this first full biography in more than 150 years, Alison Weir gives a groundbreaking new perspective.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Isabella of France (1295?1358) married the bisexual Edward II of England as a 12-year-old, lived with him for 17 years, bore him four children, fled to France in fear of his powerful favorite, returned with her lover, Roger Mortimer, to lead a rebellion and place her son on the throne and eventually saw Mortimer executed as her son asserted his power. Veteran biographer Weir (Eleanor of Aquitaine, etc.) battles Isabella's near-contemporaries and later storytellers and historians for control of the narrative, successfully rescuing the queen from writers all too willing to imagine the worst of a medieval woman who dared pursue power. Weir makes great use of inventories to recreate Isabella's activities and surroundings and, strikingly, to establish the timing of the queen's turn against her husband and her probable ignorance of the plot to kill him. Weir convincingly argues that the infamous story of Edward II being murdered with a red-hot iron emerged from propaganda against Isabella and Mortimer. (Her unlikely assertion that Edward escaped and lived out his life as a hermit is less believable.) Weir presents a fascinating rewriting of a controversial life that should supersede all previous accounts. Isabella is so intertwined with the greatest figures of her century and the next that any reader of English history will want this book. Maps not seen by PW. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistBest-selling

British novelist Weir puts her exemplary writing skills, as well as her talent for alternative and provocative insight into documents and historiography, to good use in a riveting biography of the wife of England's unfortunate Edward II (who reigned 1307-27). That the king was ineffectual is commonly accepted (he was deposed and later died; according to tradition, he was murdered in a most horrendous fashion), and Queen Isabella, born a princess of France, has borne all these many centuries the label "she-wolf." Weir, in this book all British-history fans will devour, chooses, after much research and deliberation, to see her subject in more rounded terms than as "one of the most notorious femme fatales in history." The author, in fact, takes giant steps to prove that Isabella, as instigator of her own husband's removal from the throne, contributed greatly to the decline in England of the power of the monarch and thus the rise of democracy. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Gripping . . . a highly readable tour de force that brings Queen Isabella vividly to life. The Washington Post Book World Insightful and compelling . . . [offers] surprise after surprise about the sensual, rather avaricious but eminently admirable Isabella. USA Today [Isabella's] story has a distinctly modern appeal. . . . Full of violent men with short tempers, conniving politicians and wildly domineering parents, it's a period-piece melodrama that doubles as a timeless morality play. The New York Times Book Fascinating . . . a work of extraordinary historical reporting that is rich, alive, and truly exciting. Tucson Citizen