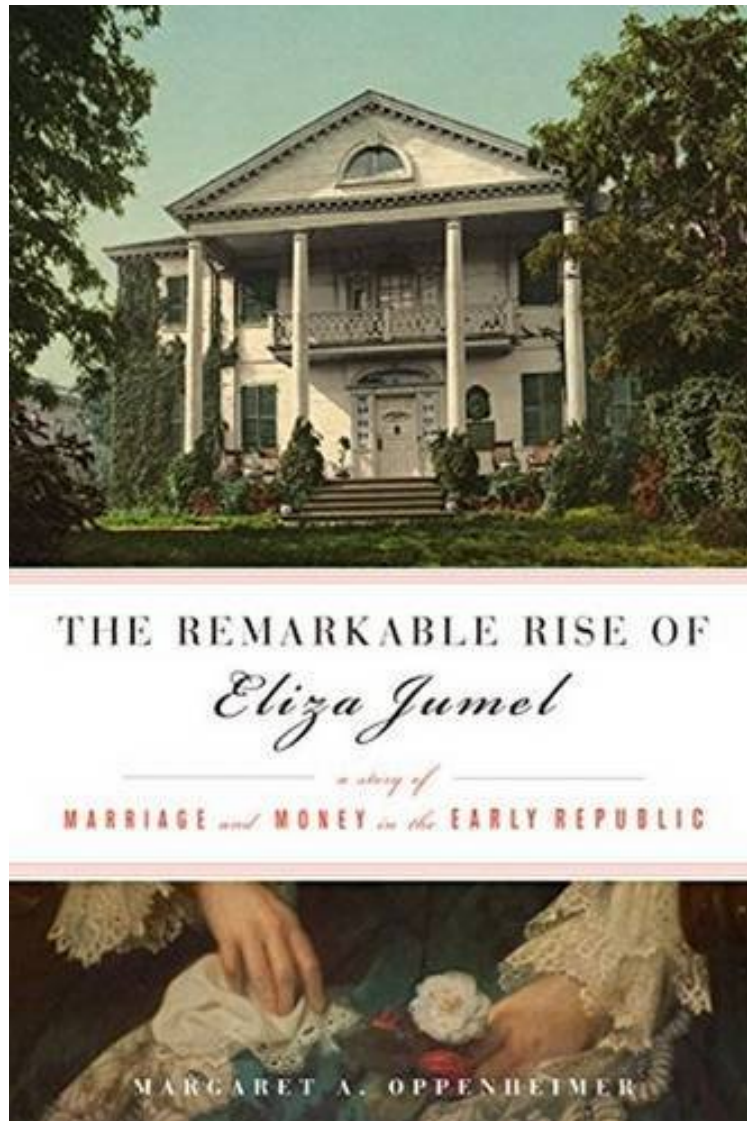


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## The Remarkable Rise of Eliza Jumel: A Story of Marriage and Money in the Early Republic

Margaret A. Oppenheimer

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**Margaret A. Oppenheimer : The Remarkable Rise of Eliza Jumel: A Story of Marriage and Money in the Early Republic** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Remarkable Rise of Eliza Jumel: A Story of Marriage and Money in the Early Republic:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read about a truly self-made womanBy

StillworkingOppenheimer's biography of Eliza Jumel is well-researched and well written. Jumel, nee Betsy Bowen, was a fascinating woman whose life is surrounded in half-truths and outright lies. Oppenheimer presents the facts about Eliza's life, what she was like as a person, and the lies that others told in an effort to defame Eliza or attempt to take parts of her fortune. If you are at all curious about how a woman in the 18th century could rise from extreme poverty, with a family background that should guarantee a lack of acceptance into any polite circles, and become the wealthy wife of Aaron Burr (briefly), then read this. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A story of a self-made woman By I PI love "from rags to riches" stories but this was better than any fiction! Eliza Jumel came from nothing and was able to achieve great wealth and made a name for herself. highly recommend this biography to anyone who loves to read about successful women in history. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By adrienne Thought it was going to be dry, however it brings Eliza and Stephen to life. Adrienne G

Born Betsy Bowen into grinding poverty, the woman who reinvented herself as Eliza Jumel was raised in a brothel, indentured as a servant, and confined to a workhouse when her mother was in jail. Seizing opportunities and readjusting facts to achieve the security and status she so desperately craved, she obtained a fortune from her first husband, a French merchant, and nearly lost it to her second, the notorious vice president Aaron Burr. Divorcing Burr promptly amid lurid charges of adultery, she lived on triumphantly to the age of ninety, astutely managing her property and public persona. By the end of her life, Madame Jumel was one of New York's richest women, with servants of her own, an art collection, an elegant mansion, a summer home in Saratoga Springs, and several hundred acres of land. After her death, a titanic battle over her estate went all the way to the United States Supreme Court . . . twice. As the feud over her fortune riveted the nation, family members told of a woman who earned the gratitude of Napoleon I and shone at the courts of Louis XVIII and Charles X. Their opponents painted a different picture, of a prostitute who bore George Washington's illegitimate son, a wife who defrauded her husband and perhaps even plotted his death. Now Eliza Jumel's real story so unique that it surpasses any invention has finally been told.

Before Horatio Alger, there was Eliza Jumel. Her story has long been mired in mystery, scandal, innuendo, and outright fabrication. No more. Margaret Oppenheimer's deeply researched, trans-Atlantic biography moves Eliza Jumel from the shadowy margins to the central events of turn-of-the-nineteenth-century France and the United States. *The Remarkable Rise of Eliza Jumel* is just that a remarkable work of history. Timothy J. Gilfoyle, professor of history, Loyola University Chicago, associate editor, *Journal of Urban History*