

# Catherine De Medici Renaissance Queen Of France

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**Catherine de' Medici** R J Knecht 2014-07-16 Catherine de' Medici (1519-89) was the wife of one king of France and the mother of three more - the last, sorry representatives of the Valois, who had ruled France since 1328. She herself is of preeminent importance to French history, and one of the most controversial of all historical figures. Despised until she was powerful enough to be hated, she was, in her own lifetime and since, the subject of a "Black Legend" that has made her a favourite subject of historical novelists (most notably Alexandre Dumas, whose Reine Margot has recently had new currency on film). Yet there is no recent biography of her in English. This new study, by a leading scholar of Renaissance France, is a major event. Catherine, a neglected and insignificant member of the Florentine Medici, entered French history in 1533 when she married the son of Francis I for short-lived political reasons: her uncle was pope Clement VII, who died the following year. Now of no diplomatic value, Catherine was treated with contempt at the French court even after her husband's accession as Henry II in 1547. Even so, she gave him ten children before he was killed in a tournament in 1559. She was left with three young boys, who succeeded to the throne as Francis II (1559-60), Charles IX (1560-74) and Henry III (1574-89). As regent and queen-mother, a woman and with no natural power-base of her own, she faced impossible odds. France was accelerating into chaos, with political faction at court and religious conflict throughout the land. As the country disintegrated, Catherine's overriding concern was for the interests of her children. She was tireless in her efforts to protect her sons' inheritance, and to settle her daughters in advantageous marriages. But France needed more. Catherine herself was both peace-loving and, in an age of frenzied religious hatred, unbigoted. She tried to use the Huguenots to counterbalance the growing power of the ultra-Catholic Guises but extremism on all sides frustrated her. She was drawn into the violence. Her name is ineradicably associated with its culmination, the Massacre of St Bartholomew (24 August 1572), when thousands of Huguenots were slaughtered in Paris and elsewhere. To this day no-one knows for certain whether Catherine instigated the massacre or not, but here Robert Knecht explores the probabilities in a notably level-headed fashion. His book is a gripping narrative in its own right. It offers both a lucid exposition of immensely complex events (with their profound impact on the future of France), and also a convincing portrait of its enigmatic central character. In going behind the familiar Black Legend, Professor Knecht does not make the mistake of whitewashing Catherine; but he shows how intractable was her world, and how shifty or intransigent the people with whom she had to deal. For all her flaws, she emerges as a more

sympathetic - and, in her pragmatism, more modern - figure than most of her leading contemporaries.

*Médicis Daughter* Sophie Perinot 2015-12-01 It's the winter of 1564 and the beautiful young Princess Margot is summoned to her mother's household, where her true education begins in earnest. Known across Europe as Madame la Serpente, Queen Catherine is an intimidating and unmoving presence in France, even as her country recovers from the first of many devastating religious wars. Among the crafty nobility of Queen Catherine's royal court, Margot learns the intriguing and unspoken rules she must live by to please her manipulative family. Eager to be an obedient daughter, Margot embraces her role as a pawn to be married off to the most convenient bidder. Despite her loyalty, Margot finds herself charmed by the powerful and charismatic Duc de Guise and falls for him even as she is promised to another. Finally setting aside her happiness for duty, Margot leaves the man she loves for Henri of Navarre, a Huguenot leader and a notorious heretic. Yet Queen Catherine's schemes are endless, and Margot's brother plots vengeance in the streets of Paris. Forced to choose between her family and what's right, Margot at last finds the strength within herself to forge her own destiny. *Médicis Daughter* is historical fiction at its finest, weaving a unique coming-of-age story and a forbidden love with one of the most dramatic and violent events in French history.

*Dairy Queens* Meredith Martin 2011-02-15 Though Meredith Martin is primarily an art historian, this book goes way beyond art history. It examines "pleasure dairies," built by the French aristocracy to be sites of leisure, healing, and simple luxury, from the vantage point of cultural studies as well as social and political history. The traditional historical narrative, still deeply resonant, is that these dairies were little more than frivolous excess or attempts to imagine "common life" by people so wealthy they could not even imagine poverty. But Martin complicates this picture. She examines the social, cultural, and political uses of these dairies, showing that they were in fact instrumental as sites that both reinforced and challenged definitions of femininity. The dairies provided strategic venues for noble women to assert their status and identity while at the same time appearing to retreat from power. They served the functions of a spa, where fresh milk and beautiful scenery helped women recover their health. They also are tangible evidence of the new valorization of country living, which was expressed also in political debates about improving the countryside and reforming the aristocracy, especially elite women.

**The Confessions of Catherine de Medici** C. W. Gortner 2010-05-25 "The Confessions of Catherine de Medici is a dramatic, epic novel of an all-too-human woman whose strength and passion propelled her into the center of grand events. Meticulously-researched, this engrossing novel offers a fresh portrait of a queen who has too often been portrayed as a villain. Bravo Mr. Gortner!"—Sandra Gulland, author of *The Josephine B Trilogy* and *Mistress of the Sun* The truth is, not one of us is innocent. We all have sins to confess. So reveals Catherine de Medici, the last legitimate descendant of her family's illustrious line. Expelled from her native Florence, Catherine is betrothed to Henri, son of François I of France. In an unfamiliar realm, Catherine strives to create a role for herself through her patronage of the famous clairvoyant Nostradamus and her own innate gift as a seer. But in her fortieth year, Catherine is widowed, left alone with six young children in a kingdom torn apart by the ambitions of a treacherous nobility. Relying on her tenacity, wit, and uncanny gift for compromise, Catherine seizes power, intent on securing the throne for her sons, unaware that if she is to save

France, she may have to sacrifice her ideals, her reputation, and the secret of her embattled heart. **BONUS:** This edition contains a *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici* discussion guide and an excerpt from C.W. Gortner's *The Queen's Vow*. Praise for *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici* "Alison Weir and Philippa Gregory fans will devour this."—Booklist "Highly recommended . . . a compelling and fascinating view of Catherine's life and world."—Historical Novels Review "Remarkably thoughtful in its insight into an unapologetically ruthless queen."—Publishers Weekly "A fresh, well-researched and powerful portrait."—RT Book Reviews

**The Complete Prophecies of Nostradamus** Nostradamus 2009 Provides the complete prophecies of Nostradamus, accompanied by new interpretations of the seer's predictions with analysis that includes the dates on which the predictions would occur.

**Catherine De' Medici and the French Reformation** Edith Helen Sichel 1905

**Catherine de Medici** Leonie Frieda 2022-01-11 The inspiration for the STARZ original series, *The Serpent Queen*, premiering September 11. "A beautifully written portrait of a ruthless, subtle and fearless woman fighting for survival and power in a world of gangsterish brutality, routine assassination and religious mania. . . . Frieda has brought a largely forgotten heroine-villainess and a whole sumptuously vicious era back to life. . . . This is *The Godfather meets Elizabeth*." —Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar* Poisoner, besotted mother, despot, necromancer, engineer of a massacre: the dark legend of Catherine de Medici is centuries old. In this critically hailed biography, Leonie Frieda reclaims the story of this unjustly maligned queen of France to reveal a skilled ruler battling extraordinary political and personal odds. Based on comprehensive research including thousands of Catherine's own letters, Frieda unfurls Catherine's story from her troubled childhood in Florence to her tumultuous marriage to Henry II of France; her transformation of French culture to her reign as a queen who would use brutality to ensure her children's royal birthright. Brilliantly executed, this enthralling biography goes beyond myth to paint a very human portrait of this remarkable figure.

**The Identities of Catherine de' Medici** Susan Broomhall 2021-07-05 An innovative analysis of the representational strategies that constructed Catherine de' Medici and sought to explain her behaviour and motivations.

**The Tudors** G. J. Meyer 2010 Meyer's fresh storytelling ability breathes new life into the history of the Tudor family and Tudor England's precarious place in world politics, the critical role religion played in government, and the blossoming of English theater and literature.

**Catherine de Medici** Leonie Frieda 2011-12-08 The bestselling revisionist biography of one of the great women of the 16th century Orphaned in infancy, Catherine de Medici was the sole legitimate heiress to the Medici family fortune. Married at fourteen to the future Henri II of France, she was constantly humiliated by his influential mistress Diane de Poitiers. When her husband died as a result of a duelling accident in Paris,

Catherine was made queen regent during the short reign of her eldest son (married to Mary Queen of Scots and like many of her children he died young). When her second son became king she was the power behind the throne. She nursed dynastic ambitions, but was continually drawn into political and religious intrigues between Catholics and Protestants that plagued France for much of the later part of her life. It had always been said that she was implicated in the notorious Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre, together with the king and her third son who succeeded to the throne in 1574, but was murdered. Her political influence waned, but she survived long enough to ensure the succession of her son-in-law who had married her daughter Margaret.

*The Life and Times of Catherine De' Medici* Francis Watson 1935

Renaissance Splendor Elizabeth A. H. Cleland 2018 Featuring detailed scenes of court pageantry and life-size portraits of members of the French Valois dynasty woven in wool, silk, and precious metal-wrapped threads, the Valois Tapestries are one of the most extravagant sets of hangings produced in the 16th century. The precise circumstances surrounding the tapestries' commission and their arrival at the Medici court in Florence, as well as the significance of the specific scenes depicted, however, have eluded scholars for years. Presenting new research into the political maneuvering of the Valois and Medici courts and providing extensive physical analysis gathered during a recent cleaning of the tapestries, this volume offers brand new insight into why these magnificent works were made and what they represent.00Exhibition: Cleveland Museum of Art, USA (11.11.2018-27.01.2019).

**Isabella de' Medici** Caroline P. Murphy 2011-02-03 Isabella de' Medici was the hostess of a glittering circle in Renaissance Florence. Beautiful and liberated, she not only matched the intellectual accomplishments of her male contemporaries, but sought sexual parity also, engaging in an adulterous affair with her husband's cousin. It was this affair - and her very success as First Lady of Florence - that led to her death at the hands of her husband at the age of just thirty-four. She left behind a remarkable story, and as her legacy a son who became the best of the Orsini Dukes, immortalised by Shakespeare as Duke Orsino in Twelfth Night. Caroline P. Murphy illuminates this often misunderstood figure, and in the process brings to life the home of creativity, the city of Florence itself.

Catherine De' Medici and the Protestant Reformation Nancy Whitelaw 2004-09 Presents the life of the Renaissance-era queen of France, focusing on her skills as a ruler, the power politics that marked her rule, and her controversial role in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

**Memoirs of Marguerite de Valois, Queen of Navarre** Marguerite de Valois 1899

*Catherine de Medici*

Into Print Leah L. Chang 2009 Printers were powerful figures in the creation of early modern books: they determined the physical appearance of books, changed content, and even altered or eliminated the name of the author to suit their own commercial and cultural interests. These interventions encouraged the birth of

modern notions of authorship, for they compelled writers, editors, and printers to confront questions of textual ownership and authority. In the publication of female authors, however, book producers had to grapple with new concerns about authority and value since female authors were few and far between and their appeal was far from guaranteed. Certainly, the novelty of female authors could represent both an economic and cultural niche for the enterprising printer, but that same novelty in a culture unaccustomed to women's literary production was also a risky investment.

Anti-Italianism in Sixteenth-century France Henry Heller 2003-01-01 He also discusses the important role of anti-Italian xenophobia in the events surrounding the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre, the Estates-General of Blois in 1576-7, the Catholic League revolt, and the triumph of Henri IV."

Queens and Mistresses of Renaissance France Kathleen Wellman 2013-05-21 Tells the history of the French Renaissance through the lives of its most prominent queens and mistresses.

The Deadly Sisterhood Leonie Frieda 2014-04-08 In this epic drama of love, death, and betrayal, Leonie Frieda charts the rise and fall of the Italian Renaissance through the lives of the princesses who helped shape it.

*Black Tudors* Miranda Kaufmann 2017-10-05 Shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2018 A Book of the Year for the Evening Standard and the Observer A black porter publicly whips a white Englishman in the hall of a Gloucestershire manor house. A Moroccan woman is baptised in a London church. Henry VIII dispatches a Mauritanian diver to salvage lost treasures from the Mary Rose. From long-forgotten records emerge the remarkable stories of Africans who lived free in Tudor England... They were present at some of the defining moments of the age. They were christened, married and buried by the Church. They were paid wages like any other Tudors. The untold stories of the Black Tudors, dazzlingly brought to life by Kaufmann, will transform how we see this most intriguing period of history.

**The Serpent and the Moon** Princess Michael of Kent 2005-09-13 An intriguing study of a royal love triangle captures the complex relationships that existed between King Henri II of France, his wife Catherine de Medici, and his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, examining the impact of the love story on the history of Renaissance France. Reprint. 60,000 first printing.

The Rival Queens Nancy Goldstone 2015-06-23 The riveting true story of mother-and-daughter queens Catherine de' Medici and Marguerite de Valois, whose wildly divergent personalities and turbulent relationship changed the shape of their tempestuous and dangerous century. Set in magnificent Renaissance France, this is the story of two remarkable women, a mother and daughter driven into opposition by a terrible betrayal that threatened to destroy the realm. Catherine de' Medici was a ruthless pragmatist and powerbroker who dominated the throne for thirty years. Her youngest daughter Marguerite, the glamorous "Queen Margot," was a passionate free spirit, the only adversary whom her mother could neither intimidate nor control. When Catherine forces the Catholic Marguerite to marry her Protestant cousin Henry of Navarre against her will, and then uses her opulent Parisian wedding as a means of luring his followers to their deaths,

she creates not only savage conflict within France but also a potent rival within her own family. Rich in detail and vivid prose, Goldstone's narrative unfolds as a thrilling historical epic. Treacherous court politics, poisonings, inter-national espionage, and adultery form the background to a story that includes such celebrated figures as Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Nostradamus. *The Rival Queens* is a dangerous tale of love, betrayal, ambition, and the true nature of courage, the echoes of which still resonate.

**Game of Queens** Sarah Gristwood 2016-11-29 "Sarah Gristwood has written a masterpiece that effortlessly and enthrallingly interweaves the amazing stories of women who ruled in Europe during the Renaissance period."--Alison Weir Sixteenth-century Europe saw an explosion of female rule. From Isabella of Castile, and her granddaughter Mary Tudor, to Catherine de Medici, Anne Boleyn, and Elizabeth Tudor, these women wielded enormous power over their territories, shaping the course of European history for over a century. Across boundaries and generations, these royal women were mothers and daughters, mentors and protégées, allies and enemies. For the first time, Europe saw a sisterhood of queens who would not be equaled until modern times. A fascinating group biography and a thrilling political epic, *Game of Queens* explores the lives of some of the most beloved (and reviled) queens in history.

**Catherine de Medici** Leonie Frieda 2006-03-14 Poisoner, despot, necromancer -- the dark legend of Catherine de Medici is centuries old. In this critically hailed biography, Leonie Frieda reclaims the story of this unjustly maligned queen to reveal a skilled ruler battling extraordinary political and personal odds -- from a troubled childhood in Florence to her marriage to Henry, son of King Francis I of France; from her transformation of French culture to her fight to protect her throne and her sons' birthright. Based on thousands of private letters, it is a remarkable account of one of the most influential women ever to wear a crown.

**Madame Catherine** Irene Mahoney 1976

*Francis I* Leonie Frieda 2018-04-10 The bestselling author of *Catherine de Medici* returns to sixteenth-century Europe in this evocative and entertaining biography that recreates a remarkable era of French history and brings to life a great monarch—Francis I—who turned France into a great nation. Catherine de Medici's father-in-law, King Francis of France, was the perfect Renaissance knight, the movement's exemplar and its Gallic interpreter. An aesthete, diplomat par excellence, and contemporary of Machiavelli, Francis was the founder of modern France, whose sheer force of will and personality molded his kingdom into the first European superpower. Arguably the man who introduced the Renaissance to France, Francis was also the prototype Frenchman—a national identity was modeled on his character. So great was his stamp, that few countries even now are quite so robustly patriotic as is France. Yet as Leonie Frieda reveals, Francis did not always live up to his ideal; a man of grand passions and vision, he was also a flawed husband, father, lover, and king. With access to private archives that have never been used in a study of Francis I, Frieda explores the life of a man who was the most human of the monarchs of the period—and yet, remains the most elusive.

**Italian Sketches** Deirdre Pirro 2009

*The Dark Queen* Susan Carroll 2005 Ariane, the Lady of Faire Isle, a young woman renowned for her mystical skills, is forced into an uneasy alliance with the mysterious Comte de Renardas they struggle to defy the sinister ambitions and intrigues of the ruthless Queen Catherine de Medici and prevent the fulfillment of a terrifying prophecy, in the first volume in a new trilogy. Original. 45,000 first printing.

*The Foreign Correspondent* Alan Furst 2006-05-30 From Alan Furst, whom The New York Times calls “America’s preeminent spy novelist,” comes an epic story of romantic love, love of country, and love of freedom—the story of a secret war fought in elegant hotel bars and first-class railway cars, in the mountains of Spain and the backstreets of Berlin. It is an inspiring, thrilling saga of everyday people forced by their hearts’ passion to fight in the war against tyranny. By 1938, hundreds of Italian intellectuals, lawyers and journalists, university professors and scientists had escaped Mussolini’s fascist government and taken refuge in Paris. There, amid the struggles of émigré life, they founded an Italian resistance, with an underground press that smuggled news and encouragement back to Italy. Fighting fascism with typewriters, they produced 512 clandestine newspapers. *The Foreign Correspondent* is their story. Paris, a winter night in 1938: a murder/suicide at a discreet lovers’ hotel. But this is no romantic traged—it is the work of the OVRA, Mussolini’s fascist secret police, and is meant to eliminate the editor of *Liberazione*, a clandestine émigré newspaper. Carlo Weisz, who has fled from Trieste and secured a job as a foreign correspondent with the Reuters bureau, becomes the new editor. Weisz is, at that moment, in Spain, reporting on the last campaign of the Spanish civil war. But as soon as he returns to Paris, he is pursued by the French Sûreté, by agents of the OVRA, and by officers of the British Secret Intelligence Service. In the desperate politics of Europe on the edge of war, a foreign correspondent is a pawn, worth surveillance, or blackmail, or murder. *The Foreign Correspondent* is the story of Carlo Weisz and a handful of antifascists: the army officer known as “Colonel Ferrara,” who fights for a lost cause in Spain; Arturo Salamone, the shrewd leader of a resistance group in Paris; and Christa von Schirren, the woman who becomes the love of Weisz’s life, herself involved in a doomed resistance underground in Berlin. *The Foreign Correspondent* is Alan Furst at his absolute best—taut and powerful, enigmatic and romantic, with sharp, seductive writing that takes the reader through darkness and intrigue to a spectacular denouement.

*Dynasties* Karen Hearn 1996 More than 150 works of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs and their courtiers.

**The Black Prince of Florence** Catherine Fletcher 2016-08-01 Ruler of Florence for seven bloody years, 1531 to 1537, Alessandro de' Medici was arguably the first person of color to serve as a head of state in the Western world. Born out of wedlock to a dark-skinned maid and Lorenzo de' Medici, he was the last legitimate heir to the line of Lorenzo the Magnificent. When Alessandro's noble father died of syphilis, the family looked to him. Groomed for power, he carved a path through the backstabbing world of Italian politics in a time when cardinals, popes, and princes vied for wealth and advantage. By the age of nineteen, he was prince of Florence, inheritor of the legacy of the grandest dynasty of the Italian Renaissance. Alessandro faced down family rivalry and enormous resistance from Florence's oligarchs, who called him a womanizer—which he undoubtedly was—and a tyrant. Yet this real-life counterpart to Machiavelli's Prince kept his grip on power until he was assassinated at the age of 26 during a late-night tryst arranged by his scheming cousins. After his

death, his brief but colorful reign was criticized by those who had murdered him in a failed attempt to restore the Florentine republic. For the first time, the true story is told in *The Black Prince of Florence*. Catherine Fletcher tells the riveting tale of Alessandro's unexpected rise and spectacular fall, unraveling centuries-old mysteries, exposing forgeries, and bringing to life the epic personalities of the Medicis, Borgias, and others as they waged sordid campaigns to rise to the top. Drawing on new research and first-hand sources, this biography of a most intriguing Renaissance figure combines archival scholarship with discussions of race and class that are still relevant today.

**Eleanor of Aquitaine, Caterina Sforza, Lucrezia Borgia, Catherine De' Medici, Ma** Michael Hone 2018-01-24

The world has always known women of exceptional intelligence and courage, from Greek Sappho to the women who harnessed themselves to the wagons they pulled across the Great Plains to the home of my birth, the Great Salt Lake. For me the most intrepid was Eleanor of Aquitaine, the only woman to be Queen of France and Queen of England, married to perhaps the greatest of all English kings, Henry II, and mother of the warrior Richard Coeur de Lion. Caterina Sforza defended Rome from the walls of Castel Sant'Angelo, abandoned by her husband whom the pope had placed at the head of his troops. Deflowered at age 10 by a sociopath that her adored father had given her for husband, defeated and abused by Cesare Borgia, she gave birth to the very last of the condottiere, Giovanni della Bande Nere. Cesare Borgia strangled his sister Lucrezia Borgia's beloved husband Alphonso, and she was present when he caught up with her lover Petro Calderon who had run into the apartments of Pope Alexander VI, taking shelter in his robes, the pope shielding the boy's head while Cesare knifed him through the holy vestments, his blood splattering the pope's face. Catherina de' Medici spent her life trying to bring peace between French Catholics and Protestants, but was finally forced to trigger the greatest massacre in French history until the Revolution. She governed France as regent under three kings, all of whom were her sons. Lastly, Mary Queen of Scots, a woman who used life and allowed life to use her, the very reason for our existence, who studded her nights with lovers, as did Lucrezia Borgia, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Caterina Sforza, and was finally defeated by a fellow woman who had Mary's decapitated head held high by the roots of her gray hair, the reason there will be no chapter on the self-proclaimed Virgin Queen. This book is dedicated to such women, all of whom took their destinies in hand, ancient marvels, proof that women need beg men for nothing; proof of their ability to rule and thrive and cause us all to wonder.

**A Companion to Cosimo I De' Medici** Alessio Assonitis 2021 "Mining the rich documentary sources housed in Tuscan archives and taking advantage of the breadth and depth of scholarship produced in recent years, the seventeen essays in this Companion to Cosimo I de' Medici provide a fresh and systematic overview of the life and career of the first Grand Duke of Tuscany, with special emphasis on Cosimo I's education and intellectual interests, cultural policies, political vision, institutional reforms, diplomatic relations, religious beliefs, military entrepreneurship, and dynastic concerns. Contributors: Maurizio Arfaioli, Alessio Assonitis, Nicholas Scott Baker, Sheila Barker, Stefano Calonaci, Brendan Dooley, Daniele Edigati, Sheila ffollott, Catherine Fletcher, Andrea Gáldy, Fernando Loffredo, Piergabriele Mancuso, Jessica Maratsos, Carmen Menchini, Oscar Schiavone, Marcello Simonetta, and Henk Th. van Veen"--

*Medici ~ Legacy* Matteo Strukul 2021-08-05 The third instalment in a series charting the rise of the House of Medici as they become Masters of Florence and progenitors of the Renaissance.

*The Devil's Queen* Jeanne Kalogridis 2009-07-21 From Jeanne Kalogridis, the bestselling author of *I, Mona Lisa* and *The Borgia Bride*, comes a new novel that tells the passionate story of a queen who loved not wisely . . . but all too well. Confidante of Nostradamus, scheming mother-in-law to Mary, Queen of Scots, and architect of the bloody St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, Catherine de Medici is one of the most maligned monarchs in history. In her latest historical fiction, Jeanne Kalogridis tells Catherine's story—that of a tender young girl, destined to be a pawn in Machiavellian games. Born into one of Florence's most powerful families, Catherine was soon left a fabulously rich heiress by the early deaths of her parents. Violent conflict rent the city state and she found herself imprisoned and threatened by her family's enemies before finally being released and married off to the handsome Prince Henry of France. Overshadowed by her husband's mistress, the gorgeous, conniving Diane de Poitiers, and unable to bear children, Catherine resorted to the dark arts of sorcery to win Henry's love and enhance her fertility—for which she would pay a price. Against the lavish and decadent backdrop of the French court, and Catherine's blood-soaked visions of the future, Kalogridis reveals the great love and desire Catherine bore for her husband, Henry, and her stark determination to keep her sons on the throne.

***Elizabeth I of England through Valois Eyes*** Estelle Paranque 2018-10-27 This book examines the first thirty years of Elizabeth I's reign from the perspective of the Valois kings, Charles IX and Henri III of France. Estelle Paranque sifts through hundreds of French letters and ambassadorial reports to construct a fuller picture of early modern Anglo-French relations, highlighting key events such as the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, the imprisonment and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, and the victory of England over the Spanish Armada in 1588. By drawing on a wealth of French sources, she illuminates the French royal family's shifting perceptions of Elizabeth I and suggests new conclusions about her reign.

***The Lady Queen*** Nancy Goldstone 2018-09-01 The riveting history of a beautiful queen, a shocking murder, a papal trial -- and a reign as triumphant as any in the Middle Ages. On March 15, 1348, twenty-two-year-old Joanna I, Queen of Naples, stood trial for the murder of her husband before the Pope and his court in Avignon. Determined to defend herself, Joanna won her acquittal against overwhelming odds. Victorious, she returned to Naples and ruled over one of Europe's most prestigious courts for the next three decades -- until she herself was killed. Courageous and determined, Joanna was the only female monarch in her time to rule in her own name. She was widely admired: dedicated to the welfare of her subjects, she reduced crime, built hospitals and churches, and encouraged the licensing of female physicians. A procession of the most important artists and writers of the time frequented her glittering court. But she never quite escaped the stain of her husband's death, and the turmoil of the times surrounded her -- war, plague, and treachery would ultimately be her undoing. With skill, passion, and impeccable research and detail, Nancy Goldstone brings to life one of history's most remarkable women. *The Lady Queen* is a captivating portrait of medieval royalty in all its incandescent complexity.

*Madame Serpent* Jean Plaidy 2012-07-03 A fictional account of Catherine de' Medici, the fourteen-year-old reluctant Italian bride to the second son of the King of France, Henry, during the sixteenth-century.

**Catherine de Medici** Leonie Frieda 2003 A portrait of the Renaissance-era queen of France which seeks to reveal her skills as a ruler in spite of her violent reputation, describing the power politics that marked her rule, and her talents as a strategist and conspirator.