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The Winter Crown: A Novel Of Eleanor Of Aquitaine



Synopsis

As Queen of England, Eleanor has a new cast of enemiesâ€”including the king. Eleanor has more than fulfilled her duty as Queen of England—she has given her husband, Henry II, heirs to the throne and has proven herself as a mother and ruler. But Eleanor needs more than to be a bearer of children and a deputy; she needs command of the throne. As her children grow older, and her relationship with Henry suffers from scandal and infidelity, Eleanor realizes the power she seeks won't be given willingly. She must take it for herself. But even a queen must face the consequences of treason...In this long-anticipated second novel in the Eleanor of Aquitaine trilogy, bestselling author Elizabeth Chadwick evokes a royal marriage where love and hatred are intertwined, and the battle over power is fought not with swords, but deception.

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Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Chadwick continues her take on Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Winter Crown*. This is a strong contender as being able to be read as a stand alone. I don't recommend it. First because I have a weird reading dysfunction which makes reading books out of order (order written by the author), even books not in a series, simply a crime against nature. It gives me the willies. A sort of reading compulsion I guess. Second, because there is so much wonderful writing in both the first

book and here, it would be a bit of a cheat to yourself. Now I do have the ittiest bittiest issue. And it is all mine. As a little kid I found my mother's Jean Plaidy books and they helped shaped not just my general love of historical fiction, but also perhaps the tone. I grew into reading Mary Renault and later even Dorothy Dunnett, Sharon Kay Penman and Colleen McCullough. It is hard for me to see past my addiction to Sharon Kay Penman and her style of writing. Is that fair to Ms. Chadwick. No it is not. But there you are. If you discovered the glory that is pizza in thin New York Style, no matter how delicious you find your first Chicago Deep Dish, it still remains outside of your immediate definition in some ways. And of course vice versa for any Deep Dish fanatics. Same thing with the early Plantagenets. Kay has a particular voice and style that is her own. And to be fair, so does Chadwick. But Chadwick is a bit, just an itty bitty bit, detail oriented in terms of historical detail. Not that Penman is weak in this regard. But with Chadwick sometimes the details are a bit distracting. It shows incredible research. And in Chadwick's favor, it also lets her show not just her research abilities, but also her understanding of what she finds.

In an exciting new trilogy, Author Elizabeth Chadwick brings to life Eleanor of Aquitaine. The first book, *The Summer Queen*, covers her life through the 2nd crusade to the annulment of her marriage to Louis VII, king of France. *The Winter Crown* is the second in this tremendously vivid and engaging trilogy. Being a woman in the 12th century was fraught with turbulence. Arranged marriages for political reasons, the duty of bearing sons, ever constant warfare, intrigues of courtly life, and dangers of childbirth. These were the everyday fears women faced, especially Eleanor of Aquitaine. One of the most powerful women of her time, she was the daughter of the Duke of Aquitaine and Count of Poitou. Not only was she a woman of great beauty, but she inherited immense wealth, making her one of the most sought-after women of her time. When she was fifteen, she married Louis VII of France, a young prince of her own age. When his father died, they were crowned King and Queen. They reined for fifteen years with Eleanor being the smarter one with a stronger, more vocal personality. During that time, Eleanor proved semi-fruitful. She provided her husband with two daughters, but no sons. Eleanor was not afraid of war. In fact, she convinced her husband to initiate a crusade into the Holy Land and rode proudly at the front of their army. Her failure to provide her husband was one reason their marriage failed. It was annulled and Eleanor's vast dowry lands in Aquitaine and Poitiers were lawfully returned to her. She was thirty years old, still beautiful, still wealthy, and highly desirable. She soon came to the attention of Henry Plantaganet, the grandson of England's King Henry I. He was twelve years younger than Eleanor when they married.

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