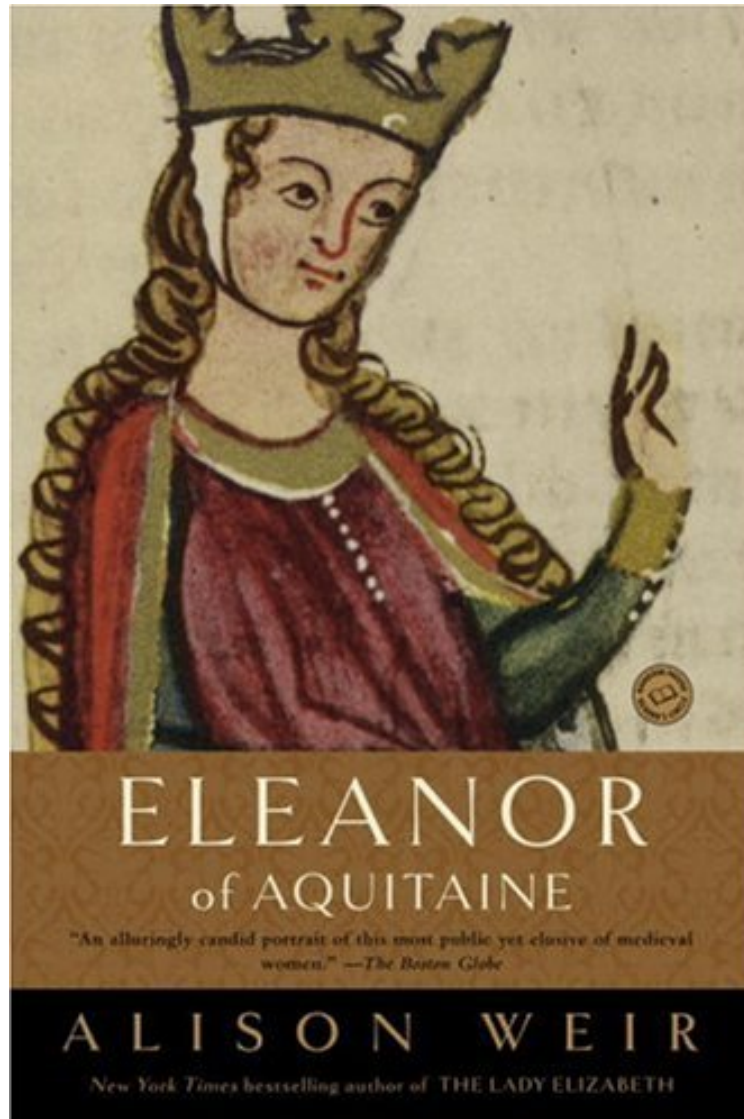


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## Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life (Ballantine Reader's Circle)

*Alison Weir*

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#174985 in Books Weir, Alison 2001-04-03 2001-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.40l, .88 #File Name: 0345434870441 pagesAlison WeirFranceRoyalty | File size: 28.Mb

**Alison Weir : Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life (Ballantine Reader's Circle)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life (Ballantine Reader's Circle):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for the serious historianBy KVA, Lady GunfighterIn an age of fluff and "magical" thinking, it is refreshing to find an author who searches out contemporary sources to the subject. An author who does a balanced and thoughtful treatment of Eleanor. She wasn't all good, she wasn't all bad but she was an amazing woman of her age. There is an amazing amount of history in this book that I found added

tremendously to why Eleanor did what she did.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great womanBy Kilian85710Historian Alison Weir does her usual thorough and readable job telling the story of one of history's most intriguing women. From her birth in Aquitaine to her death at Fontrevault Abbey, Eleanor was never out of the public eye. She attracted both negative and positive regard, sometimes from the same person, but she always lived her life as she saw fit. In a time when women of rank were expected to be docile and pregnant, she went her own way. Truly an amazing woman.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected or wantedBy hbThis book seems to be mostly about Eleanor's husbands. That's not what I bought the book for. The author starts out stating that there is very little historical information about Eleanor's life. I have to wonder, why title the book as though it's about Eleanor if it's not?

Renowned in her time for being the most beautiful woman in Europe, the wife of two kings and mother of three, Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the great heroines of the Middle Ages. At a time when women were regarded as little more than chattel, Eleanor managed to defy convention as she exercised power in the political sphere and crucial influence over her husbands and sons. In this beautifully written biography, Alison Weir paints a vibrant portrait of this truly exceptional woman, and provides new insights into her intimate world. Eleanor of Aquitaine lived a long life of many contrasts, of splendor and desolation, power and peril, and in this stunning narrative, Weir captures the woman and the queen in all her glory. With astonishing historic detail, mesmerizing pageantry, and irresistible accounts of royal scandal and intrigue, she recreates not only a remarkable personality but a magnificent past era.

.com Combining the pace and descriptive quality of a novel with the authority of a textbook, Alison Weir's study of the revered and reviled Eleanor of Aquitaine should be valuable to anyone with an interest in medieval European history. Wife of Louis VII of France and subsequently of Henry II of England, and mother of Richard "the Lion-Hearted," Eleanor played a prominent part in the politics of the 12th century. The author of a number of other books on the medieval period (Life of Elizabeth I, The Children of Henry VIII), Weir brings all the color and ever-present dangers of Eleanor's world to life, filling the text with absorbing background detail and revelatory contemporary anecdotes. She is concerned throughout to make critical analysis of the primary sources, the later myths about Eleanor, and other modern biographies. This results in a fresh and thoughtful perspective on the energetic life of a determined and ambitious woman living with the sexism, excesses, and violence of a society in which the word of a single man could condemn thousands to death. Eleanor of Aquitaine is a vivacious but scholarly book with extensive notes and references, giving an objective and rich account of the staunch Eleanor, her feuding family and her complex and unstable world. --Karen Tiley, .co.ukFrom Publishers WeeklyAs delicately textured as a 12th-century tapestry, royal biographer Weir's (The Life of Elizabeth I, etc.) newest book is exhilarating in its color, ambition and human warmth. The author exhibits a breathtaking grasp of the physical and cultural context of Queen Eleanor's life, presenting a fuller, more holistic appreciation of a dazzling world whose charms can easily be anesthetized by dull narrative. And from the start, her auburn-haired subject, a live wire in a restrictive society, muse of poets and crusaders, seduces the reader. Weir conveys a deep empathy for the relaxed south of France where Eleanor was raised, a natural home for the gospel of courtly love. She paints a Brueghelesque picture of England, where wolves roamed the forests and people made skates in winter out of animal bones. In approaching as complex a subject as feudalism, Weir wears her learning lightly and has a pleasant habit of anticipating all the questions of a curious reader. Her account parades a sequence of extraordinary characters: the saintly abbot Bernard of Clairvaux, who as an adolescent leapt into a freezing pond until his erection subsided; Eleanor's first husband, Louis VII of France, haunted by the screams of burning victims after his assault on a village in Champagne; her lover, Raymond of Poitiers, who could bend an iron bar with his bare hands; and her second husband, Henry II of England, her princely mirror in energy, intelligence and sexuality. Above all, there is the heroine, viewed clear-sightedly in all her intoxicating and imperious irresistibility. Illus. not seen by PW. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThe noted British biographer has done Elizabeth I, so why not Eleanor, that tough-talking dame who dumped the king of France for England's Henry II? Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.