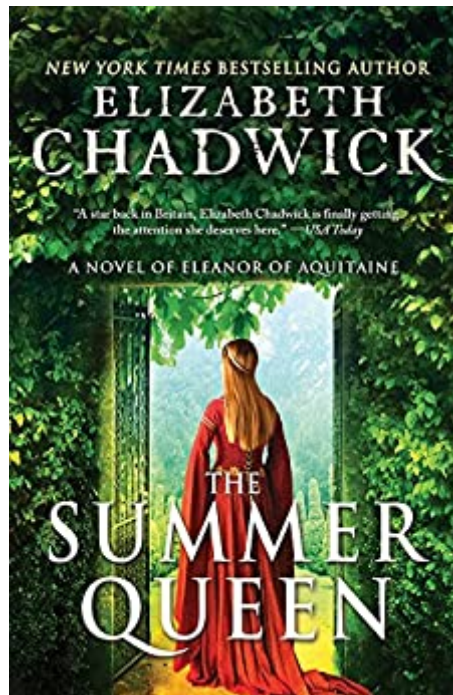




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# **The Summer Queen: A Novel Of Eleanor Of Aquitaine**



## Synopsis

"A magnificent woman's story told by a brilliant historical novelist; realistic, emotional, vibrant, exciting and unputdownable." — RT Book Reviews, July Top Pick  
Scandal, politics, sex, triumphs, and tragedies abound in *The Summer Queen*, the first novel in a stunning new trilogy, perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory and Sharon Kay Penman  
At the age of thirteen, Eleanor of Aquitaine is forced to leave everything behind, marry a man she doesn't love, and take the throne to reign as Queen of France. Eleanor's new life is full of risk and unlimited opportunity. Barely out of childhood and faced with great scandals, fraught relationships, and forbidden love at every turn, Eleanor must use all her cunning to secure her future as one of the most powerful women in the world.  
**The Eleanor of Aquitaine Trilogy:**  
*The Summer Queen* (Book 1)  
*The Winter Crown* (Book 2)  
*The Autumn Throne* (Book 3)  
Praise for *The Summer Queen*: "The Summer Queen is a fabulous novel based on the most up-to-date and meticulous research. This is historical fiction at its best and I loved every page of it." — For Winter Nights: A bookish blog

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eleanor of Aquitaine is famous. This story was a good way to learn more about her than just her

name. However, the very fact that we still know her should rest on more than who she married and who she birthed. I just did not get the sense of the woman as so well-educated and politically savvy that we still know her today. For instance, she played chess, which was just barely mentioned as window dressing. She reads and writes and does some math. Was this incredibly remarkable or just expected? The way the author uses these facts makes Eleanor seem no different from any modern woman. But she must have been very different, very remarkable if she is still known today. Chadwick does a very credible job of placing action within the century these people lived. When they stop for food on a long trip, they eat bread and cheese, not elaborate meals. They pitch tents because there are not sufficient housing to put up a group of 20 people on a moment's notice. I will read the next book because I am interested enough in her, but I still am seeking what made her so charismatic that we remember her.

Wonderfully written. The story sucked me in from the beginning and was very hard to put down. I pre-ordered the next book in the series as soon as I finished this one, and am anxiously awaiting its release. Four star rating is due to some minor editing needed - mostly punctuation and a few fragment sentences. This happened infrequently enough that it was easy to ignore and continue with the book, but should be corrected if any revisions are made in the future. Overall, this is a fantastic book and if you like historical fiction, you'll love this book! I would have given it 4.5 stars if possible.

The Greatest Knight - Unsung Hero of the Queen (William Marshal) This was the first book I read by Elizabeth Chadwick. This sat in my book cloud for probably over a year prior to reading it. I just finished The Summer Queen and have become hungrier for more of Eleanor and also William Marshall. As I started following the author on her Facebook posts, I began to learn that her research and dedication to finding the truest history with an amazing gift of imagination (mixed critical thinking) brings the books to life. Being an American enhances my imagination as I read and gives me desire to learn more about the history of England during these times. I recommend this book to anyone liking historical novels that are not whimsical but based upon what I perceive to be years of research by Elizabeth Chadwick about her country during Medieval times.

This wasn't my favorite book, but it held my attention and when it ended I found I was surprised. I think this shows that I was enjoying the ride, and not looking for the book to end. I now know there is more to come, and I will read those novels as they become available. I thought Eleanor's story was

very interesting. I didn't particularly love her as a character in the novel, and Louis was intolerable (but that was his nature). This novel shows how leaders grow over time. How easily one can fall into bad deeds and corruption when initially starting with better intentions. The pilgrimage to Jerusalem was painful, and I don't mean reading about it. I can't imagine what a long difficult trip that would be. I was exhausted reading about it, which shows the author did a fine job writing the scenes. My favorite character was of course Henry. He made the story come alive after such a bleak history in Eleanor's history. I was enchanted by him, as Eleanor. But I worry... many of these powerful men end up being perfectly awful. I could look up the history, but I prefer to wait. A good read for those who are interested in this time period in history.

As a reader of much historical fiction over the years Chadwick has done her research such that the details give the story an atmosphere of reality. Although I knew most of the broad outlines of the Eleanor story this was like reliving it with her. The audible narration is also exceptional.

I really enjoyed this book -Elizabeth Chadwick does an exceptional job with historical fiction. I have read most of her books and this one does not disappoint. I must admit I was not expecting to enjoy this book as much as I did - only because I have read other excellent novels on Eleanor by great authors such as Sharon Pennman and thought it would be just another book on Eleanor of Aquitaine. It is a refreshing view of her early life. Her marriage to Louis VII was detailed and gives much more insight on her earlier life than any of the other historical fiction accounts that I have read - most focus on her later years and marriage to Henry II. The author's research and personal summation is rich and rewarding. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in this series.

I was truly entranced with this book. It was interesting to read a more personal view of Eleanor rather than pages of documentary facts. Looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

An interesting story of a young girl having to find her way in the dealing of nobility and how her dying father the Duke of Aquitaine decides her future.

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