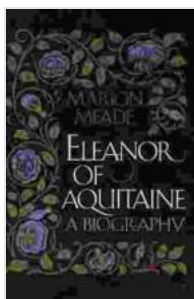


# Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life of Power, Passion, and Intrigue

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most powerful and influential women in the Middle Ages. She was Queen of France for 15 years and Queen of England for 37 years. She was also Duchess of Aquitaine, Countess of Poitiers, and suo jure Duchess of Gascony. Eleanor was a patron of the arts and a champion of education. She was also a skilled diplomat and a formidable military strategist.



## Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Biography by Marion Meade

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 418 pages



## Early Life

Eleanor was born in 1122 in Poitiers, France. She was the eldest daughter of William X, Duke of Aquitaine, and Aenor de Châtellerault. Eleanor's father died when she was only 8 years old, and she became the heiress to the Duchy of Aquitaine.

Eleanor was a beautiful and intelligent child. She was educated in the liberal arts and was fluent in several languages. She was also a skilled

musician and dancer.

### **Marriage to King Louis VII of France**

In 1137, Eleanor married King Louis VII of France. The marriage was arranged by Eleanor's mother and was intended to strengthen the alliance between France and Aquitaine.

Eleanor was crowned Queen of France in 1137. She was only 15 years old. Eleanor was a popular queen and was well-liked by the French people. She was also a close advisor to her husband.

In 1147, Eleanor accompanied Louis on the Second Crusade. The crusade was a disaster, and Eleanor was horrified by the violence and bloodshed. She returned to France in 1149 and divorced Louis in 1152.

### **Marriage to King Henry II of England**

In 1154, Eleanor married King Henry II of England. The marriage was arranged by Henry's mother, Empress Matilda, and was intended to strengthen the alliance between England and Aquitaine.

Eleanor was crowned Queen of England in 1154. She was 32 years old. Eleanor was a powerful queen and was actively involved in the government of England. She was also a close advisor to her husband.

Eleanor and Henry had eight children together, including five sons and three daughters. Their sons included King Richard I of England, King John of England, and King Henry the Young King.

### **Later Life**

Eleanor's later life was marked by tragedy. In 1189, her husband, Henry II, died. Eleanor was devastated by her husband's death and retired from public life.

In 1190, Eleanor's son, Richard I, was crowned King of England. Richard was a skilled military commander and led the Third Crusade. Eleanor accompanied Richard on the crusade and was present at the siege of Acre.

In 1199, Richard was killed in battle. Eleanor's son, John, succeeded him as King of England. John was a weak and unpopular king, and Eleanor was forced to intervene in his government on several occasions.

Eleanor died in 1204 at the age of 82. She was buried in Fontevraud Abbey in France.

## **Legacy**

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most remarkable women of the Middle Ages. She was a powerful queen, a skilled diplomat, and a formidable military strategist. She was also a patron of the arts and a champion of education. Eleanor's legacy continues to inspire women today.

## **Image of Eleanor of Aquitaine**

[Image of Eleanor of Aquitaine]

Eleanor of Aquitaine was a beautiful woman. She had long, flowing hair and piercing blue eyes. She was also known for her elegant dress and her love of jewelry.

## **Eleanor of Aquitaine's Coat of Arms**

[Image of Eleanor of Aquitaine's coat of arms]

Eleanor of Aquitaine's coat of arms was a golden lion on a red field. The lion was rampant, which means that it was standing on its hind legs and facing the viewer. The red field symbolized the Duchy of Aquitaine.

### **Eleanor of Aquitaine's Seal**

[Image of Eleanor of Aquitaine's seal]

Eleanor of Aquitaine's seal was a round wax seal with her image on it. The image showed Eleanor seated on a throne, holding a scepter in her right hand and a globe in her left hand. The seal was used to authenticate documents.

### **Eleanor of Aquitaine's Tomb**

[Image of Eleanor of Aquitaine's tomb]

Eleanor of Aquitaine was buried in Fontevraud Abbey in France. Her tomb is a simple stone slab with her name and dates of birth and death inscribed on it.

### **Eleanor of Aquitaine's Quotes**

\* "I am a queen, and I will not be treated like a servant." \* "I am a woman, and I will not be silenced." \* "I am a warrior, and I will not be defeated." \* "I am a lover, and I will not be denied." \* "I am Eleanor of Aquitaine, and I am a force to be reckoned with."

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