

# [PDF] Catherine De Medici: Renaissance Queen Of France

Leonie Frieda - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

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Author: Leonie Frieda

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** In 1533, 14-year-old Catherine de Medici arrived in France to marry the future king Henri II; over the next 16 years, she endured the dominance of Henri's mistress, Diane de Poitiers, and the disdain of courtiers for her family's merchant background. The sudden death of Henri launched Catherine into three decades as regent and chief adviser to three sons who ruled in succession. Frieda navigates the twists and turns of the French royal court and family with particular attention to the formation of Catherine's political skills. From her lonely childhood as a tool in the diplomacy of her powerful uncles to her carefully cultivated relationship with her father-in-law and maneuvering through shifting family alliances, the queen learned self-possession, deception and strategy. While Catherine has been maligned

for her role in France's wars of religion and in particular the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, Frieda argues that Catherine attempted to reach compromise in the religious strife of her adopted country. While trying to flesh out Catherine, Frieda occasionally paints others with a too-broad brush. At times, her descriptions of Catherine's actions as emotionally or politically motivated seem arbitrary. But Frieda's portrait of Catherine is multifaceted, and her presentation of the complicated narrative of five tumultuous reigns is compelling.

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**From** The sixteenth century was an exceptionally dramatic period in European history. A series of colorful kings and queens performed as power players, rendering those decades not only a bloody battleground but also an exciting pageant of dynastic intrigue. One of the most (in)famous royal players of the time was Queen Catherine de Medici of France, the Italian-born consort of the exciting and effective Henry II and the power behind the throne for her three weak king sons. The author of this revealing biography achieves remarkable balance as she freshly interprets Catherine, whose hands have usually seemed to historians to be forever stained by the religious wars that sent France into frenzies during her watch. Frieda, resisting the easy picture of Catherine--one of despicable complicity in those horrors--puts Catherine's involvement in the episodes into context; what emerges is a woman of "intelligence, courage and indefatigable spirit who did her best for her beloved if adopted country." Not a whitewash but a carefully nuanced portrait. *Brad Hooper*  
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Catherine de Medici was born Catarina Maria Romola de' Medici to an Italian duke named Lorenzo II and his wife Madeleine de la Tour'Auvergne in 1519 at the height of the infamous Medici family's power and wealth. She seemed destined for a life of ease and luxury. Then, within weeks of her birth, she was orphaned. Her father died, reportedly of tuberculosis or syphilis or both, and her mother died of the plague. "Queens of Infamy: The Rise of Catherine de Medici" records how Catherine was passed from her grandmother to her aunt and eventually became a pawn in a game being started by her uncle. Start your review of Catherine de Medici: Renaissance Queen of France. Write a review. Apr 12, 2013 Madeline rated it liked it. I'd read somewhere that Catherine de Medici introduced France to the concept of eating food with a fork. This was a detail I was hoping to learn more about when I started reading this rather huge and thorough book. There was little mention of forks, it turned out, but there were so many other rich and absorbing details, historical and personal, that this turned into an unexpectedly gripping read. History really came to life for me with this one, especially as it gave context to the Protestant movement. I'd read somewhere that Catherine de Medici introduced France to the concept of eating food with a fork. Catherine de Medici played an important part in the history of Sixteenth Century France. Catherine de Medici has been held partly responsible for starting the French Wars of Religion. Citation: C N Trueman "Catherine De Medici" historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, 27 May 2015. 24 Sep 2020. Catherine de Medici played an important part in the history of Sixteenth Century France. Catherine de Medici has been held partly responsible for starting the French Wars of Religion. But has her contribution been exaggerated? It is all but impossible to blame one person for a war let alone what turned into a series of wars. Catherine de Medici, the wife of King Henry II, was the Queen of France from 1547 until 1559. This biography of Catherine de Medici provides detailed information about her childhood, life, achievements, works & timeline. Catherine de Medici, the wife of King Henry II, was the Queen of France from 1547 until 1559. Born as the daughter of Lorenzo di Piero de' Medici, the ruler of Florence, and his wife Madeleine de la Tour d'Auvergne, the Countess of Boulogne, she lost both her parents at an early age. After being cared for by a series of relatives, she was finally housed in the Palazzo Medici Riccardi in Florence, by her uncle Cardinal Giulio de' Medici who was elected Pope Clement VII in 1523. She received a good education and grew up to be an artistic, intelligent, and extroverted girl.

Queen consort of France. Catherine de' Medici. Catherine as Dowager Queen of France, from the workshop of François Clouet, ca. 1560. Queen consort of France. Tenure. 31 March 1547 – 10 July 1559. Catherine believed in the humanist ideal of the learned Renaissance prince whose authority depended on letters as well as arms.[114] She was inspired by the example of her father-in-law, King Francis I of France, who had hosted the leading artists of Europe at his court, and by her Medici ancestors. Catherine de' Medici has been labelled a "sinister Queen" noted for her interest in the occult arts".[138] To some, Catherine and Henry's inability to produce an heir for the first ten years of their marriage gave rise to suspicion of witchcraft. Catherine de' Medici's husband was never meant to become king of France, but things could change extremely quickly in a Renaissance court. In 1536, the heir to the throne, Henry's older brother Francis, was playing a game of tennis when he started feeling ill. Within days, he was dead, shocking Europe and thrusting Henry into the line of succession. All of a sudden, the young orphaned Medici girl found herself in line to become the Queen of France—but dark rumors soon began to swirl. Wikimedia Commons. 15. A Murder Most Foul. Catherine De Medici has been blamed for many of the ills experienced by France after the death of her husband, Henry II. How much complicity she had in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre is still a subject of debate. Leonie Frieda states that she did have some culpability. Catherine's entire reign has been defined by that one event. There was much more to this remarkable renaissance queen. She was a woman of her times and ahead of her time. She received an education far beyond what was considered respectable for a woman. She cultivated the arts, poetry and architecture. And yet, she is considered the "Queen of poisons" because several of her enemies seemed to conveniently die (of poison?). Above all, she was a mother to her children. Catherine de' Medici. Queen consort of France. Catherine de' Medici, attributed to François Clouet, c. 1555. Coronation. Catherine believed in the Renaissance humanist ideal of the learned Renaissance prince whose authority depended on letters as well as arms.[140] She was inspired by the example of her father-in-law, King Francis I of France, who had hosted the leading artists of Europe at his court, and by her Medici ancestors. In an age of civil war and declining respect for the monarchy, she sought to bolster royal prestige through lavish cultural display. Once in control of the royal purse, she launched a programme of artistic patronage that lasted for three decades.