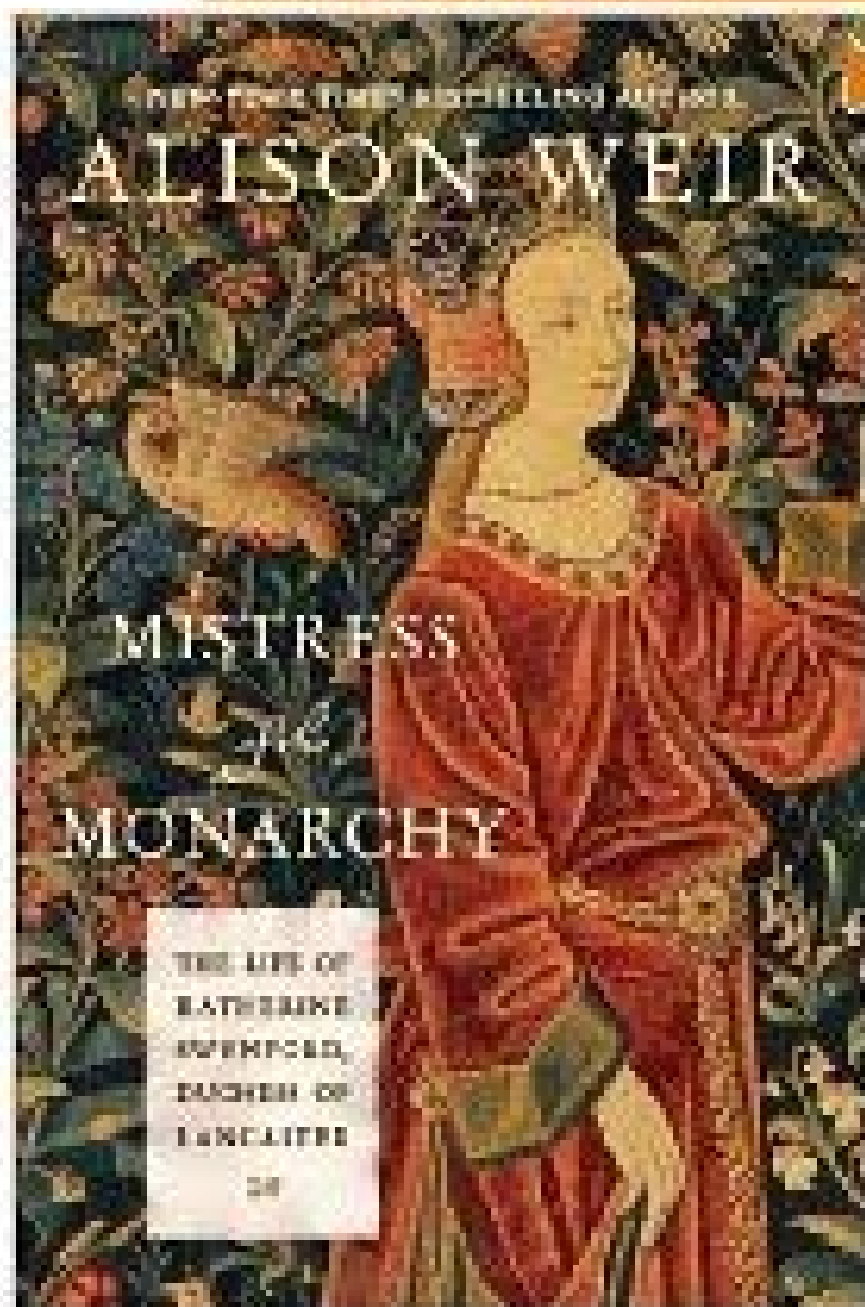


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Alison Weir

Mistress of the Monarchy: The Life of Katherine Swynford, Duchess of Lancaster



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Mystery woman of British History revealed! Katherine Payn Roet, girl of an impoverished knight serving the Plantagenet Court in fourteenth hundred years England, married another nearly equally impoverished knight, Sir Hugh Swynford, who served John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, on his various army excursions into Europe. After Swynford's loss of life, Katherine began an affair with John of Gaunt which lasted, intermittently, for the rest of their lives, bore his kids, the Beauforts, and culminated in John of Gaunt marrying her a couple of years before his death, thereby making her the Duchess of Lancaster, the First Woman of England, and the ancestor of the Royal houses of the country, all the way down to the present day. During all the years before her eventual marriage to John of Gaunt, although still under the loose safety of Lancaster, the girl led a reclusive life mostly in Lincolnshire, tending her manor, and concerning herself quietly, in some of the business enterprise and developments going upon in the town of Lincoln, where the girl right now lies buried in the Cathedral. The tale, which also addresses her lifetime, is historically accurate as well. I would much favour read a publication that was admittedly fiction predicated on reality, than one assuming probabilities predicated on very little reality. Highly readable, and recommended.

Interesting read This is a very interesting read. In this publication on Katherine, Weir is certainly blocked by the fact that nothing at all exists regarding this very important woman. For reasons unknown all written correspondence and only or two land and several annuities are visible on other records. Weir connects Katherine's probable actions to other events. I knew actually back in the late 50s that KATHERINE was a romance. The fictional book she talks about discussed Katherine in 1950's. Is fabulous. None of us experienced brains enough in equipment to attempt to work out who the writers of the "histories" were and who these were trying to impress or had been paid by, or to think that just maybe none of them even attempted to give us the whole story. No comprehensive story leaves the book a disappointment but the detail of the end result of her lifestyle is superb. The 1950's book is still in publication. Obtain both "Katherine" by Seton and the publication for a perfectly rounded view. I have without doubt that she liked writing this publication, but Weir must have left Anya Seton's novel alone -- her very own inventions aren't almost as dramatic or enjoyable to learn. It is this period of comparative mystery that Alison Weir has researched thus carefully, there is never a good portrait of Katherine showing us what she appeared as if, and for the very first time, interested readers can learn about the girl as she probably actually was, rather than just as the much vilified adultress and begetter of royal bastards. She weaves a story in such a way that you feel as if you are back in 12th hundred years England. I especially worth the evaluations that summarize the contents briefly therefore I can get some notion of the way the topic is treated. Three Stars It's a good book but not one of those books that are hard to put down A great medieval love story. You finish the book feeling like you honestly know something about who she was as a person and not simply an historical amount. The negative reviews of the book are good illustrations of this. I went through a period of almost sadness to learn the best stories had maybe only a smidgen of truth, but I quickly shifted into appreciating the imagination of the storytellers who could bring dry records to life to form a picture of what lifestyle was like in the distant past. I reread it many times. I've been fascinated with medieval England since I first read Howard Pyle's tales of King Arthur and Robin Hood when I was in grade school. As I grew older and started reading non-fiction and histories, I began putting myth and legend into perspective with historical research. I go through KATHERINE by Anya Seton in the later 1950s, and we loved it. Among my college professors in a history of England class gave us a starting assignment - write your edition of the conquest of England only using sources dating no later than a century (I believe - maybe 200 years) of 1066. Thank you, Anya Seton. I have carried it with me from my teenage years (which disappeared in the past). What a disappointment. Traditional research isn't for sissies. This is a masterful publication of fine detail. It wasn't until probably 10-15 years afterwards when I had studied the sociology and also the history of the center age range that I realized precisely how romanticized it had been. It's a story about a long-standing like and a mother who sacrifice everything for her children. It has been interesting to discover what Ms Weir offers

been able to find in her long and arduous analysis on John of Gaunt and all of the characters (actual people) in the lives of the two fans. These included the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the Bayeux tapestry, three or four other chroniclers - whenever we appeared at them, there was maybe five or six pages of information mainly from Norman French resources. And thank you, Alison Weir. You possess both made my entire life much richer. Katherine, Duchess of Lancaster, eventually Alison Weir may be the author of this and the Tudor period. It is thoughtful, well researched, and evenhanded. Miss Weir has spent considerable work researching the available information involving gifts of fabric, wines, and assorted other things to place where so when people were. Lots of very interesting details. She resists the temptation to totally place people without collaborative evidence. I enjoyed reading this book. Very interesting and informative story of the center Ages. This is a fascinating book to read regardless of its small print. I have been interested in medieval history of England and France since I examine Anya Seton's novel Katherine in senior high school. Ms Seton's book is still a good story (I still bought it and reread it with enjoyment), and it fed my curiosity in studying background. I was not aware of the need for Katherine Swynford in the nobles and many kings to whom she was ancestress. The reserve moves along nicely generally, only occasionally hanging someplace a tad much longer than it requires to, keeping the reader in limbo looking forward to something to arrive and force it free. Ms. Weir is clear in her study and factual information and logical in her speculation at completing the details in the lives of these people. Obscurity to Eternity: Enduring Love & the Rise of the House of Beaufort Overall, a fairly informative book, however, not so complex that you start to lose track of who's who amongst the people surrounding Katherine, and about what side someone is, that is easy to do simply because switching loyalties appeared to be rather common in the high Middle Ages. This reserve, though in some instances, a difficult read, will probably be worth the time and effort to learn more about many of the most influential and interesting people of history. When this happens, though, it does an excellent job breathing lifestyle and description into Katherine as a person. However, the negative testimonials go far in the other direction, especially when the author has hit nerves on sensitive issues or debunked a spot of view. We surely don't believe about ourselves and our ideals today as did people living centuries ago. Great historical novel Weir does an incredible job composing about the life span and times of an often overlooked historical amount who was the ancestor of most English monarchs since Henry VII. When I wish to read a book on a topic that interests me and I have no idea much about the author, I really enjoy reading the evaluations - both for and against. Yup, I was one of those who flunked the paper big time. I tried to such as this book. A book based on suppositions, likelihood and WAGs is certainly unsatisfactory & most unforgivably a complete waste of my time. For all those millions of readers around the world, who read Anya Seton's marvelous "semi biographical" novel "Katherine", this is an essential work with which to complete the known picture of this historically important, enigmatic, female. As a genuine history buff, I found this read seeking, and will consequently not really be ordering any longer of her books. Plenty of research; sloppy conclusions Weir apparently did seeing that much research as she could, and then spent a large section of her time developing assumptions and leaping to unsupported conclusions, and declaring them to be true. For example, judging from Weir's performance on Geoffrey Chaucer, she'd make use of snippets of dialogue from Shakespeare's plays to choose that the playwright must have been a lecher, a miser, a woman-hater, a power-mad schemer, and a boastful cheat, then declare as very much and cite the dialogue as solid proof. Weir doesn't have a strong knowledge of medieval attitudes and behaviors, which badly weakens her arguments. Mistress of the Monarchy. Occasionally the evaluations for are unbelievably favorable, and I could well believe they're compiled by friends and relatives. I spent Christmas in Lincoln and attended many solutions in the cathedral therefore I was thinking about the Swynford connection. The only sad element of their lives was the ongoing failure of John of Gaunt to have success on the battlefield. Four Stars good read



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