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Confessions Of Catherine De
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The Confessions Of Catherine De Medici

When Mary Tudor's unpopular betrothal to the Catholic prince of Spain sparks rumors that her half-sister, Princess Elizabeth, is plotting to depose her, Brendan Prescott is thrust into a deadly cat-and-mouse game in London's treacherous underworld.

Pursuing the family name as the finest silk producer in Lyon, the young Huguenot Rachelle Dushane-Macquinet is thrilled to accompany her famous couturier Grandmere to Paris, there to create a silk

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trousseau for the Royal Princess Marguerite Valois. The Court is magnificent; its regent, Catherine de Medici, deceptively charming ... and the circumstances, darker than Rachelle could possibly imagine. At a time in history when the tortures of the Bastille and the fiery stake are an almost casual consequence in France, a scourge of recrimination is moving fast and furious against the Huguenots—and as the Queen Mother's political intrigues weave a web of deception around her, Rachelle finds herself in imminent danger.

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Hope rests in warning the handsome Marquis Fabien de Vendome of the wicked plot against his kin. But to do so, Rachelle must follow a perilous course.

From the New York Times-
bestselling author:She is the
wealthiest and most envied
girl in all of Italy—but she
yearns for freedom... Young
Catherine de' Medici is the
sole heiress to the entire
fortune of the wealthy Medici
family. But her life is far from
luxurious. After a childhood
spent locked away behind the
walls of a convent, she joins
the household of the pope,

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where at last she can be united with her true love. But, all too soon, that love is replaced with an engagement to a boy who is cold and aloof. It soon becomes clear that Catherine will need all the cunning she can muster to command the respect she deserves as one of sixteenth-century France's most powerful queens, in this riveting historical novel in the Young Royals series. "This captivating tale of the rise of this Italian merchant family is seldom portrayed, and it plays out delightfully in this well-written novel."—School Library

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Journal "A sympathetic, engrossing portrait of a noble girl who, later in life, became a feared queen...With meticulous historical detail, sensitive characterizations, and Catherine's strong narration, Meyer's memorable story of a fascinating young woman who relies on her intelligence, rather than her beauty, will hit home with many teens."—Booklist Includes a family tree

From Jeanne Kalogridis, the bestselling author of *I, Mona Lisa* and *The Borgia Bride*, comes a new novel that tells the passionate story of a

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queen who loved not wisely . . .
. but all too well. Confidante of
Nostradamus, scheming
mother-in-law to Mary, Queen
of Scots, and architect of the
bloody St. Bartholomew's Day
Massacre, Catherine de Medici
is one of the most maligned
monarchs in history. In her
latest historical fiction, Jeanne
Kalogridis tells Catherine's
story—that of a tender young
girl, destined to be a pawn in
Machiavellian games. Born
into one of Florence's most
powerful families, Catherine
was soon left a fabulously rich
heiress by the early deaths of
her parents. Violent conflict

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rent the city state and she found herself imprisoned and threatened by her family's enemies before finally being released and married off to the handsome Prince Henry of France. Overshadowed by her husband's mistress, the gorgeous, conniving Diane de Poitiers, and unable to bear children, Catherine resorted to the dark arts of sorcery to win Henry's love and enhance her fertility—for which she would pay a price. Against the lavish and decadent backdrop of the French court, and Catherine's blood-soaked visions of the future, Kalogridis reveals the

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great love and desire
Catherine bore for her
husband, Henry, and her stark
determination to keep her
sons on the throne.

The riveting true story of
mother-and-daughter queens
Catherine de' Medici and
Marguerite de Valois, whose
wildly divergent personalities
and turbulent relationship
changed the shape of their
tempestuous and dangerous
century. Set in magnificent
Renaissance France, this is
the story of two remarkable
women, a mother and
daughter driven into
opposition by a terrible

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betrayal that threatened to destroy the realm. Catherine de' Medici was a ruthless pragmatist and powerbroker who dominated the throne for thirty years. Her youngest daughter Marguerite, the glamorous "Queen Margot," was a passionate free spirit, the only adversary whom her mother could neither intimidate nor control. When Catherine forces the Catholic Marguerite to marry her Protestant cousin Henry of Navarre against her will, and then uses her opulent Parisian wedding as a means of luring his followers to their deaths,

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she creates not only savage conflict within France but also a potent rival within her own family. Rich in detail and vivid prose, Goldstone's narrative unfolds as a thrilling historical epic. Treacherous court politics, poisonings, international espionage, and adultery form the background to a story that includes such celebrated figures as Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Nostradamus. *The Rival Queens* is a dangerous tale of love, betrayal, ambition, and the true nature of courage, the echoes of which still resonate. *The Oracle Glass*

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A Novel of Lucrezia Borgia

The Vatican Princess

History's Great Queens 2-Book
Bundle

Queens' Play

A Novel of Sarah Bernhardt

From the author of The

Creation of Eve, "an

intoxicating tale of love,

betrayal and redemption,"*

comes a novel of passion

and madness, royal intrigue

and marital betrayal, set

during the Golden Age of

Spain. Juana of Castile, third

child of the Spanish

monarchs Isabel and

Fernando, grows up with no

hope of inheriting her

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parents' crowns, but as a princess knows her duty: to further her family's ambitions through marriage. When she weds the Duke of Burgundy, a young man so beautiful that he is known as Philippe the Handsome, she dares to hope that she might have both love and crowns. He is caring, charming, and attracted to her—seemingly a perfect husband. But when Queen Isabel dies, the crowns of Spain unexpectedly pass down to Juana, leaving her husband and her father hungering for the throne. Rumors fly that

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the young Queen has gone mad, driven insane by possessiveness. Locked away in a palace and unseen by her people for the next forty-six years, Juana of Castile begins one of the most controversial reigns in Spanish history, one that earned her the title of Juana the Mad. *The Washington Post A Best of the South 2011 selection by Atlanta Journal Constitution From Sunday Times bestseller Anne O'Brien . . . To those around her she was a loyal subject. In her heart she was a traitor.

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The Confessions of Catherine
de Medici A Novel Ballantine
Books

Named a Best Book of the
Year by The Advocate

“Catherine Cusset’s book
caught a lot of me. I could
recognize myself.” —David

Hockney With clear, vivid
prose, this meticulously
researched novel draws an
intimate, moving portrait of
the most famous living
English painter. Born in 1937
in a small town in the north
of England, David Hockney
had to fight to become an
artist. After leaving his home
in Bradford for the Royal

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College of Art in London, his career flourished, but he continued to struggle with a sense of not belonging, because of his homosexuality, which had yet to be decriminalized, and his inclination for a figurative style of art not sufficiently “contemporary” to be valued. Trips to New York and California—where he would live for many years and paint his iconic swimming pools—introduced him to new scenes and new loves, beginning a journey that would take him through the fraught years of the AIDS

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epidemic. A compelling hybrid of novel and biography, *Life of David Hockney* offers an insightful overview of a painter whose art is as accessible as it is compelling, and whose passion to create has never been deterred by heartbreak or illness or loss.

From Suzannah Dunn, the critically acclaimed author of *The Queen of Subtleties*, *The Sixth Wife* and *The Queen's Sorrow*, comes the tragic, gripping, and intensely moving story of Katherine Howard—the fifth wife of England's King Henry

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VIII—and the best friend she nearly took down with her. The Confession of Katherine Howard is masterful historical fiction, ideal for fans of Phillipa Gregory and Allison Weir, bringing to rich, lustrous life the sights and sounds of the royal Tudor court while telling a story of passion, intrigue, betrayal, and destiny that will live in the reader's memory long after the final page is turned.

Four Sisters, All Queens
The Last Queen
Conversions to Confessions
The Rival Queens
The Borgia Bride

Download Free The Confessions Of Catherine De Medici A Novel

Leaving her native Florence to marry Henry II of France, Catherine de Medici embarks on an unanticipated destiny of religious warfare, thwarted leadership and psychologically charged royal machinations. By the author of *The Last Queen*.

A fictional account of Catherine de' Medici, the fourteen-year-old reluctant Italian bride to the second son of the King of France, Henry, during the sixteenth-century.

The Red Queen In a novel of conspiracy, passion, and coldhearted ambition, number one bestselling author Philippa Gregory has brought to life the story of a proud and determined woman who believes that she alone is destined, by her piety and lineage, to shape the course of history. In *The Red Queen*, Gregory

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illuminates the fascinating woman who founded England's most powerful ruling line, the Tudors: Margaret Beaufort. The White Queen Elizabeth Woodville, a woman of extraordinary beauty and ambition, secretly marries the newly crowned boy king of England. While she rises to the demands of her exalted position and fights for the success of her family, her two sons become the central figures in a famous unsolved mystery that has confounded historians for centuries: the lost princes in the Tower of London. Philippa Gregory brings the artistry and intellect of a master writer and storyteller to a new era in history and begins what is sure to be another bestselling classic series.

This enthralling confection of a novel, the first in a new trilogy, follows the transformation of a coddled Austrian

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archduchess into the reckless, powerful, beautiful queen Marie Antoinette. Why must it be me? I wondered. When I am so clearly inadequate to my destiny? Raised alongside her numerous brothers and sisters by the formidable empress of Austria, ten-year-old Maria Antonia knew that her idyllic existence would one day be sacrificed to her mother's political ambitions. What she never anticipated was that the day in question would come so soon. Before she can journey from sunlit picnics with her sisters in Vienna to the glitter, glamour, and gossip of Versailles, Antonia must change everything about herself in order to be accepted as dauphine of France and the wife of the awkward teenage boy who will one day be Louis XVI. Yet nothing can prepare her for the ingenuity and

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influence it will take to become queen. Filled with smart history, treacherous rivalries, lavish clothes, and sparkling jewels, *Becoming Marie Antoinette* will utterly captivate fiction and history lovers alike. Praise for *Becoming Marie Antoinette* —A thoroughly enjoyable novel, brimming with delightful details. Grey writes eloquently and with charming humor, bringing —Toinette— vividly to life as she is schooled and groomed—molded, quite literally—for a future as Queen of France, an innocent pawn in a deadly political game.—Sandra Gulland, bestselling author of *Mistress of the Sun* and the *Josephine Bonaparte* trilogy —In her richly imagined novel, Juliet Grey meticulously recreates the sumptuous court of France's most tragic queen. Beautifully written, with attention paid to even the smallest

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detail, *Becoming Marie Antoinette* will leave readers wanting more!" —Michelle Moran, bestselling author of *Madame Tussaud* —A lively and sensitive portrait of a young princess in a hostile court, and one of the most sympathetic portrayals of the doomed queen. —Lauren Willig, bestselling author of the *Pink Carnation* series —Wonderfully delectable and lusciously rich, an elegant novel to truly savor. Juliet Grey's *Marie Antoinette* is completely absorbing. —Diane Haeger, author of *The Queen's Rival* —[A] sympathetic take on the fascinating and doomed Marie Antoinette. —Publishers Weekly
New York Times and USA Today Bestseller! "Absorbing and arresting." —New York Times "Fascinating and factual." —Los Angeles Times "Chilly, witty, and completely engrossing ...

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great, good fun." — Kirkus Reviews "An outstanding historical novel of 17th-century France ... based on a real-life scandal known as the Affaire des Poisons, this tale is riveting from start to finish." —Library Journal For a handful of gold, Madame de Morville will read your future in a glass of swirling water. You'll believe her, because you know she's more than 150 years old and a witch, and she has all of Paris in the palm of her hand. But Madame de Morville hides more behind her black robes than you know. Her real age, the mother and uncle who left her for dead, the inner workings of the most secret society of Parisian witches: none of these truths would help her outwit the rich who so desperately want the promise of the future. After all, it's her own future she must control , no matter how much it is

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painted with uncertainty and clouded by vengeance. "Take a full cup of wit, two teaspoons of brimstone, and a dash of poison, and you have Judith Merkle Riley's mordant, compelling tale of an ambitious young woman who disguises herself as an ancient prophetess in order to gain entry into the dangerous, scheming glamour of the Sun King's court. Based on scandalous true events, *The Oracle Glass* brims with our human foibles, passions, and eccentricities; it's a classic of the genre and unlike any historical novel you have ever read."

□ C. W. Gortner, author of *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici*
Queen of the North

The Constant Princess

Becoming Marie Antoinette

The Tudor Secret

The Confession of Katherine Howard

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For readers of *The Paris Wife* and *Z* comes this vivid novel full of drama, passion, tragedy, and beauty that stunningly imagines the life of iconic fashion designer Coco Chanel—the ambitious, gifted laundrywoman’s daughter who revolutionized fashion, built an international empire, and become one of the most influential and controversial figures of the twentieth century. Born into rural poverty, Gabrielle Chanel and her siblings are sent to orphanage after their mother’s death. The sisters nurture Gabrielle’s exceptional sewing skills, a talent that will propel the willful young woman into a life far removed from the drudgery of her childhood.

Transforming herself into Coco—a

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seamstress and sometime torch singer—the petite brunette burns with ambition, an incandescence that draws a wealthy gentleman who will become the love of her life. She immerses herself in his world of money and luxury, discovering a freedom that sparks her creativity. But it is only when her lover takes her to Paris that Coco discovers her destiny. Rejecting the frilly, corseted silhouette of the past, her sleek, minimalist styles reflect the youthful ease and confidence of the 1920s modern woman. As Coco's reputation spreads, her couturier business explodes, taking her into rarefied society circles and bohemian salons. But her fame and fortune cannot save her from heartbreak as the years pass. And when Paris falls to the

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Nazis, Coco is forced to make choices that will haunt her. An enthralling novel of an extraordinary woman who created the life she desired, Mademoiselle Chanel explores the inner world of a woman of staggering ambition whose strength, passion and artistic vision would become her trademark.

A window into a life of insatiable desire and uninhibited sex - this is Parisian art critic Catherine M.'s account of her sexual awakening and her unrestrained pursuit of pleasure. From the glamorous singles clubs of Paris to the Bois de Boulogne, she describes her erotic experiences in precise and beautiful detail. A phenomenal bestseller throughout Europe, *The Sexual Life of Catherine*

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M., like *Fifty Shades of Grey*, breaks with accepted ideas of sex and examines many alternative manifestations of desire. Told in spare, elegant prose, her story will shock, enlighten and liberate you.

A captivating novel of rich spectacle and royal scandal, *Days of Splendor, Days of Sorrow* spans fifteen years in the fateful reign of Marie Antoinette, France's most legendary and notorious queen. Paris, 1774. At the tender age of eighteen, Marie Antoinette ascends to the French throne alongside her husband, Louis XVI. But behind the extravagance of the young queen's elaborate silk gowns and dizzyingly high coiffures, she harbors deeper fears for her future and that of the Bourbon dynasty. From

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the early growing pains of marriage to the joy of conceiving a child, from her passion for Swedish military attaché Axel von Fersen to the devastating Affair of the Diamond Necklace, Marie Antoinette tries to rise above the gossip and rivalries that encircle her. But as revolution blossoms in America, a much larger threat looms beyond the gilded gates of Versailles—one that could sweep away the French monarchy forever.

For readers of Philippa Gregory and Alison Weir comes a dramatic novel of the beloved Empress Maria, the Danish princess who became the mother of the last Russian tsar. "This epic tale is captivating and beautifully told."—Lisa Wingate, New York Times bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours*

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Barely nineteen, Minnie knows that her station in life as a Danish princess is to leave her family and enter into a royal marriage—as her older sister Alix has done, moving to England to wed Queen Victoria's eldest son. The winds of fortune bring Minnie to Russia, where she marries the Romanov heir, Alexander, and once he ascends the throne, becomes empress. When resistance to his reign strikes at the heart of her family and the tsar sets out to crush all who oppose him, Minnie—now called Maria—must tread a perilous path of compromise in a country she has come to love. Her husband's death leaves their son Nicholas as the inexperienced ruler of a deeply divided and crumbling empire. Determined to guide him to

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reforms that will bring Russia into the modern age, Maria faces implacable opposition from Nicholas's strong-willed wife, Alexandra, whose fervor has led her into a disturbing relationship with a mystic named Rasputin. As the unstoppable wave of revolution rises anew to engulf Russia, Maria will face her most dangerous challenge and her greatest heartache. From the opulent palaces of St. Petersburg and the intrigue-laced salons of the aristocracy to the World War I battlefields and the bloodied countryside occupied by the Bolsheviks, C. W. Gortner sweeps us into the anarchic fall of an empire and the complex, bold heart of the woman who tried to save it. Praise for The Romanov Empress "Timely . . .

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[Gortner's] ability to weave what reads as a simple tale from such complex historical and familial storylines is impressive. . . . Maria's life as a royal reads like a historical soap opera."—USA Today "Gortner, an experienced hand at recreating the unique aura of a particular time and place, will deftly sweep historical-fiction fans into this glamorous, turbulent, and ultimately tragic chapter in history."—Booklist (starred review) "Mesmerizing . . . This insightful first-person account of the downfall of the Romanov rule . . . is the powerful story of a mother trying to save her family and an aristocrat fighting to maintain rule in a country of rebellion."—Publishers Weekly "A twist on the tragic story you've heard many

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times before.”—Bustle

In this wonderfully transporting novel, award-winning author Karen Essex turns a timeless classic inside out, spinning a haunting, erotic, and suspenseful story of eternal love and possession. From the shadowy banks of the river Thames to the wild and windswept Yorkshire coast, Dracula's eternal muse, Mina Murray, vividly recounts the intimate details of what really transpired between her and the Count—the joys and terrors of a passionate affair that has linked them through the centuries, and her rebellion against her own frightening preternatural powers. Mina's version of this gothic vampire tale is a visceral journey into Victorian England's dimly lit bedrooms, mist-filled cemeteries,

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and asylum chambers, revealing the dark secrets and mysteries locked within. Time falls away as she is swept into a mythical journey far beyond mortal comprehension, where she must finally make the decision she has been avoiding for almost a millennium.

Bram Stoker's classic novel offered one side of the story, in which Mina had no past and bore no responsibility for the unfolding events. Now, for the first time, the truth of Mina's personal voyage, and of vampirism itself, is revealed. What this flesh and blood woman has to say is more sensual, more devious, and more enthralling than the Victorians could have expressed or perhaps even have imagined.

Days of Splendor, Days of Sorrow

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Philippa Gregory's Wars of the Roses
2-Book Boxed Set

A Novel of Marguerite de Valois
Mademoiselle Chanel

Confessions of Marie Antoinette

A Catherine De' Medici Novel

***A fictional portrait of
Henry VIII's first wife,
Katherine of Aragon,
follows her through her
youthful marriage to
Henry's older brother,
Arthur, her widowhood,
her marriage to Henry,
and the divorce that led
to Henry's marriage to
Anne Boleyn.***

***This second book in the
Legendary Lymond***

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Chronicles follows Francis Crawford of Lymond who has been abruptly called into the service of Mary Queen of Scots. Though she is only a little girl, the Queen is already the object of malicious intrigues that extend from her native country to the court of France. It is to France that Lymond must travel, exercising his sword hand and his agile wit while also undertaking the most unlikely of masquerades, all to make

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*sure that his charge's
royal person stays
intact.*

*"From her beginnings as
the daughter of a
courtesan to her
extraordinary
transformation into the
most celebrated actress
of her era, Sarah
Bernhardt is brought to
life by an
internationally
bestselling author
praised for his
historical novels
featuring famous women.
Told in her own voice,
this is Sarah*

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Bernhardt's incandescent story--a fascinating, intimate account of a woman whose unrivaled talent and indomitable spirit has enshrined her in history as the Divine Sarah."--Publisher description.

The inspiration for the STARZ original series, The Serpent Queen, premiering September 11.

"A beautifully written portrait of a ruthless, subtle and fearless woman fighting for survival and power in a world of gangsterish

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*brutality, routine
assassination and
religious mania. . . .
Frieda has brought a
largely forgotten
heroine-villainess and a
whole sumptuously
vicious era back to
life. . . . This is The
Godfather meets
Elizabeth.” –Simon Sebag
Montefiore, author of
Stalin: The Court of the
Red Tsar Poisoner,
besotted mother, despot,
necromancer, engineer of
a massacre: the dark
legend of Catherine de
Medici is centuries old.*

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*In this critically
hailed biography, Leonie
Frieda reclaims the
story of this unjustly
maligned queen of France
to reveal a skilled
ruler battling
extraordinary political
and personal odds. Based
on comprehensive
research including
thousands of Catherine's
own letters, Frieda
unfurls Catherine's
story from her troubled
childhood in Florence to
her tumultuous marriage
to Henry II of France;
her transformation of*

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French culture to her reign as a queen who would use brutality to ensure her children's royal birthright.

Brilliantly executed, this enthralling biography goes beyond myth to paint a very human portrait of this remarkable figure.

In 1556, the prophet Nostradamus stumbles upon a plot by the queen, Catherine de Medicis, to rid herself of the king's mistress and races against time to stop the queen from

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*acquiring a magical but
cursed artifact before
it is too late.*

*The Last Queen and The
Confessions of Catherine
de Medici*

*The First Actress
Captive Queen*

Dracula in Love

*Catherine de' Medici,
Her Daughter Marguerite
de Valois, and the
Betrayal that Ignited a
Kingdom*

Catherine de Medici

A tale inspired by the
life of the Spanish
warrior-queen traces her
rise from a defiant

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daughter of an exiled widow to a powerful monarch who risks her life to marry her true love before advocating for education and the arts, financing Columbus's voyage to America and healing her fractured kingdom. By the author of *The Tudor Secret*. 20,000 first printing.

Summer 1553: A time of danger and deceit. Brendan Prescott, an orphan, is reared in the household of the powerful Dudley family. Brought to court, Brendan finds himself sent on an illicit mission to

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the King's brilliant but enigmatic sister, Princess Elizabeth. But Brendan is soon compelled to work as a double agent by Elizabeth's protector, William Cecil—who promises in exchange to help him unravel the secret of his own mysterious past. A dark plot swirls around Elizabeth's quest to unravel the truth about the ominous disappearance of her seriously ill brother, King Edward VI. With only a stable boy and Elizabeth's lady-in-waiting at his side, Brendan plunges into a

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ruthless gambit of half-truths, lies, and murder. Filled with the intrigue and pageantry of Tudor England, **THE TUDOR SECRET** is the first book in the Elizabeth's Spymaster series.

In this stunning novel, C. W. Gortner brings to life Juana of Castile, the third child of Queen Isabel and King Ferdinand of Spain, who would become the last queen of Spanish blood to inherit her country's throne. Along the way, Gortner takes the reader from the somber majesty of Spain to the

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glittering and lethal courts of Flanders, France, and Tudor England. Born amid her parents' ruthless struggle to unify and strengthen their kingdom, Juana, at the age of sixteen, is sent to wed Philip, heir to the Habsburg Empire. Juana finds unexpected love and passion with her dashing young husband, and at first she is content with her children and her married life. But when tragedy strikes and she becomes heir to the Spanish throne, Juana finds herself plunged into

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a battle for power against her husband that grows to involve the major monarchs of Europe. Besieged by foes on all sides, Juana vows to secure her crown and save Spain from ruin, even if it costs her everything. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from C. W. Gortner's *The Queen's Vow*. Praise for *The Last Queen* "This moving tale of Juana la Loca (the Mad) vividly re-creates the passion, politics, and betrayals that drove a smart and spirited queen to the brink of insanity . . . or

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perhaps, as C. W. Gortner suggests, to the pretense of insanity—a pretense that baffled Juana's enemies and led to triumph for her children and her country. The Last Queen is an absorbing account of one of history's most fascinating women, from her never-before-told point of view."—Donna Woolfolk Cross, author of Pope Joan "I ached for this intelligent, one-of-a-kind queen. Her struggle and passion kept me up until the early hours of the morning. A page-turner, a nail-biter, an

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eye-opener: I loved being possessed by The Last Queen!"—Ki Longfellow, author of The Secret Magdalene "A vibrant tapestry of love and hate . . . brings to life an extraordinary queen at an unforgettable time in history."—Sandra Worth, author of Lady of the Roses "An exquisite evocation of a dangerous era and of a forgotten queen."—Holly Payne, author of The Virgin's Knot "Gripping and unforgettable . . . captures Juana of Castile's electrifying

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drama.”—Judith Merkle
Riley, author of *The Water
Devil*

A novel for fans of
Philippa Gregory and
Michelle Moran,
*Confessions of Marie
Antoinette* blends rich
historical detail with
searing drama, bringing to
life the first years of
the French Revolution and
the final days of the
legendary French queen.
Versailles, 1789. As the
burgeoning rebellion
reaches the palace gates,
Marie Antoinette finds her
privileged and peaceful
life swiftly upended by

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violence. Once her loyal subjects, the people of France now seek to overthrow the crown, placing the heirs of the Bourbon dynasty in mortal peril. Displaced to the Tuileries Palace in Paris, the royal family is propelled into the heart of the Revolution. There, despite a few staunch allies, they are surrounded by cunning spies and vicious enemies. Yet despite the political and personal threats against her, Marie Antoinette remains, above all, a devoted wife and

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mother, standing
steadfastly by her
husband, Louis XVI, and
protecting their young son
and daughter. And though
the queen secretly
attempts to arrange her
family's rescue from the
clutches of the rebels,
she finds that they can
neither outrun the dangers
encircling them nor escape
their shocking fate.

Advance praise for
Confessions of Marie
Antoinette "Juliet Grey
brings her trilogy on
Marie Antoinette's life to
a triumphant finale,
depicting with sensitivity

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and compelling vividness
the collapse of a bygone
glamorous world and the
courageous transformation
of its ill-fated
queen.”—C. W. Gortner,
author of *The Queen’s Vow*
“A heartfelt journey with
Marie Antoinette in her
wrenching last days . . .
We see the end looming
that is still veiled from
her eyes, and knowing her
hopes are in vain makes it
all the more poignant. Far
from the ‘let them eat
cake’ woman of legend,
Juliet Grey’s Marie
Antoinette reveals herself
to be a person we can

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admire for her courage,
her loyalty, and her love
of her family and her
adopted country,

France.”—Margaret George
Look for special features
inside. Join the Random
House Reader’s Circle for
author chats and more.

An innovative analysis of
the representational
strategies that
constructed Catherine de’
Medici and sought to
explain her behaviour and
motivations.

Reign of Madness
The Identities of
Catherine de’ Medici
Madame Serpent

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**A Novel of Tsarina Maria
Feodorovna
Médicis Daughter
The Queen's Vow**

“The Confessions of Catherine de Medici is a dramatic, epic novel of an all-too-human woman whose strength and passion propelled her into the center of grand events. Meticulously-researched, this engrossing novel offers a fresh portrait of a queen who has too often been portrayed as a villain. Bravo Mr. Gortner!”—Sandra Gulland, author of The Josephine B Trilogy and Mistress of the Sun The truth is, not one of us is innocent. We all have sins to confess. So reveals Catherine de Medici, the last legitimate descendant of her

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family's illustrious line. Expelled from her native Florence, Catherine is betrothed to Henri, son of François I of France. In an unfamiliar realm, Catherine strives to create a role for herself through her patronage of the famous clairvoyant Nostradamus and her own innate gift as a seer. But in her fortieth year, Catherine is widowed, left alone with six young children in a kingdom torn apart by the ambitions of a treacherous nobility. Relying on her tenacity, wit, and uncanny gift for compromise, Catherine seizes power, intent on securing the throne for her sons, unaware that if she is to save France, she may have to sacrifice her ideals, her reputation, and the

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secret of her embattled heart.

BONUS: This edition contains a
The Confessions of Catherine de
Medici discussion guide and an
excerpt from C.W. Gortner's *The
Queen's Vow*. Praise for *The
Confessions of Catherine de Medici*
“Alison Weir and Philippa Gregory
fans will devour this.”—Booklist

“Highly recommended . . . a
compelling and fascinating view of
Catherine’s life and
world.”—Historical Novels Review

“Remarkably thoughtful in its
insight into an unapologetically
ruthless queen.”—Publishers
Weekly “A fresh, well-researched
and powerful portrait.”—RT Book
Reviews

I was ten years old when I

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discovered I might be a witch... The sixteenth century: the era of queens. Catherine de Medici is an impressionable, mystical girl. She is orphaned and taken hostage by her enemies, and manipulated by her advisors; yet she is to become France's most powerful regent. History will make her name synonymous with evil, but she is all too human. Humiliated at the hands of her husband and his mistress, and haunted by her gift of second sight, she must rise above her troubles and fight to save her dynasty and adopted country from the brutal Wars of Religion... In THE CONFESSIONS OF CATHERINE DE MEDICI, C W Gortner vividly depicts the turbulent

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life of one of history's most notorious yet misunderstood women.

For fans of Philippa Gregory and Alison Weir, bestselling author C. W. Gortner effortlessly weaves history and drama in this captivating novel about one of the world's most notorious families. Glamorous and predatory, the Borgias fascinated and terrorized fifteenth-century Renaissance Italy, and Lucrezia Borgia, beloved daughter of the pope, was at the center of the dynasty's ambitions. Slandered as a heartless seductress who lured men to their doom, was she in fact the villainess of legend, or was she trapped in a familial web, forced to choose

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between loyalty and survival? With the ascension of the Spaniard Rodrigo Borgia as Pope Alexander VI, a new era has dawned in Rome. Benefitting from their father's elevation are the new pope's illegitimate children—his rival sons, Cesare and Juan, and beautiful young daughter Lucrezia—each of whom assumes an exalted position in the papal court. Privileged and adored, Lucrezia yearns to escape her childhood and play a part in her family's fortunes. But Rome is seductive and dangerous: Alliances shift at a moment's notice as Italy's ruling dynasties strive to keep rivals at bay. As Lucrezia's father faces challenges from all sides, the threat of a French

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invasion forces him to marry her off to a powerful adversary. But when she discovers the brutal truth behind her alliance, Lucrezia is plunged into a perilous gambit that will require all her wits, cunning, and guile. Escaping her marriage offers the chance of happiness with a passionate prince of Naples, yet as scandalous accusations of murder and incest build against her, menacing those she loves, Lucrezia must risk everything to overcome the lethal fate imposed upon her by her Borgia blood. Beautifully wrought, rich with fascinating historical detail, *The Vatican Princess* is the first novel to describe Lucrezia's coming-of-age in her own voice. What results is a

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dramatic, vivid tale set in an era of savagery and unparalleled splendor, where enemies and allies can be one and the same, and where loyalty to family can ultimately be a curse. Praise for *The Vatican Princess* “In a literary exploration riven with Shakespearean quantities of murder, lies, deceptions, and treachery, Gortner’s narrative gains veracity with his atmospheric exploration of fashion, architecture, and art on the stage of ‘loud, filthy, and dangerous’ Rome. Gortner has imagined Lucrezia Borgia’s life from a feminist perspective.”—Kirkus Reviews “[Gortner] has invested his novel with impressive historical detail that

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is woven neatly into the threads of the story, and his afterword and references offer excellent insight.”—Historical Novels Review

“Assiduously researched and expertly crafted, this novel takes readers inside the treacherous world of the Borgias—one of history’s most dysfunctional ruling families—and brings to life the sympathetic and freshly imagined character of their leading lady, Lucrezia. This unholy plunge into Rome’s darkest dynasty is wholly engrossing.”—Allison Pataki, New York Times bestselling author of *Sisi: Empress on Her Own*

“The world of Renaissance Italy is vividly brought to life—I’m captivated by this knowledgeable author’s take

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on the controversial

Borgias.”—Alison Weir, New York

Times bestselling author of

Katherine of Aragon, The True

Queen “Impressive research, a

lush background, and deft

characterization of these turbulent

times make for a fascinating

read.”—Margaret George, New York

Times bestselling author of

Elizabeth I

BONUS: This edition contains a

Captive Queen discussion guide

and an excerpt from The Lady

Elizabeth. Nearing her thirtieth

birthday, Eleanor of Aquitaine has

spent the past dozen frustrating

years as wife to the pious King

Louis VII of France. But when

Henry of Anjou, the young and

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dynamic future king of England, arrives at the French court, he and the seductive Eleanor experience a mutual passion powerful enough to ignite the world. Indeed, after the annulment of Eleanor's marriage to Louis and her remarriage to Henry, the union of this royal couple creates a vast empire that stretches from the Scottish border to the Pyrenees—and marks the beginning of the celebrated Plantagenet dynasty. But Henry and Eleanor's marriage, charged with physical heat, begins a fiery downward spiral marred by power struggles and bitter betrayals. Amid the rivalries and infidelities, the couple's rebellious sons grow impatient for power, and the scene

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is set for a vicious and tragic conflict that will threaten to engulf them all.

Vivacious Sancha of Aragon arrives in Rome newly wed to a member of the notorious Borgia dynasty.

Surrounded by the city's opulence and political corruption, she befriends her glamorous and deceitful sister-in-law, Lucrezia, whose jealousy is as legendary as her beauty. Some say Lucrezia has poisoned her rivals, particularly those to whom her handsome brother, Cesare, has given his heart. So when Sancha falls under Cesare's irresistible spell, she must hide her secret or lose her life. Caught in the Borgias' sinister web, she summons her courage and

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uses her cunning to outwit them at their own game. Vividly interweaving historical detail with fiction, *The Borgia Bride* is a richly compelling tale of conspiracy, sexual intrigue, loyalty, and drama. Courtesan

The Confessions of Catherine de Medici

A Novel of Isabella of Castile
Renaissance Queen of France
The Tudor Conspiracy

A Novel of Marie Antoinette

The truth is, not one of us is innocent. We all have sins to confess. So reveals

Catherine de Medici, the last legitimate descendant of her family's illustrious line.

Expelled from her native

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Florence, Catherine is betrothed to Henri, son of François I of France. In an unfamiliar realm, Catherine strives to create a role for herself through her patronage of the famous clairvoyant Nostradamus and her own innate gift as a seer. But in her fortieth year, Catherine is widowed, left alone with six young children in a kingdom torn apart by the ambitions of a treacherous nobility. Relying on her tenacity, wit, and uncanny gift for compromise, Catherine seizes power, intent on securing the throne

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for her sons, unaware that if she is to save France, she may have to sacrifice her ideals, her reputation, and the secret of her embattled heart.

Amid the disapproving gossip of the Court, a royal romance defies all obstacles. The Court of François I is full of lust, intrigue, and bawdy bon temps—a different world from the quiet country life Diane de Poitiers led with her elderly husband. Now a widow, the elegant Diane is called back to Court, where the King's obvious interest marks her as an enemy to

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the King's favourite, Anne d'Heilly. The Court is soon electrified by rumors of their confrontations. As Anne calls on her most venomous tricks to drive Diane away, Diane finds an ally in the one member of Court with no allegiance to the King's mistress: his teenage second son, Henri. Neglected by his father and disliked by his brothers, Prince Henri expects little from his life. But as his friendship with Diane deepens into infatuation and then a romance that scandalizes the Court, the Prince begins

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to discover hope for a future with Diane. But fate and his father have other plans for Henri—including a political marriage with Catherine de Medici. Despite daunting obstacles, Henri's devotion to Diane never wanes; their passion becomes one of the most legendary romances in the history of France. Also available as an eBook

It's the winter of 1564 and the beautiful young Princess Margot is summoned to her mother's household, where her true education begins in earnest. Known across Europe as Madame la

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Serpente, Queen Catherine is an intimidating and unmoving presence in France, even as her country recovers from the first of many devastating religious wars. Among the crafty nobility of Queen Catherine's royal court, Margot learns the intriguing and unspoken rules she must live by to please her manipulative family. Eager to be an obedient daughter, Margot embraces her role as a pawn to be married off to the most convenient bidder. Despite her loyalty, Margot finds herself charmed by the

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*powerful and charismatic
Duc de Guise and falls for
him even as she is promised
to another. Finally setting
aside her happiness for duty,
Margot leaves the man she
loves for Henri of Navarre, a
Huguenot leader and a
notorious heretic. Yet Queen
Catherine's schemes are
endless, and Margot's
brother plots vengeance in
the streets of Paris. Forced
to choose between her
family and what's right,
Margot at last finds the
strength within herself to
forge her own destiny.
Médicis Daughter is historical*

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fiction at its finest, weaving a unique coming-of-age story and a forbidden love with one of the most dramatic and violent events in French history.

In two stunning novels, C. W. Gortner brings to life two of history's most intriguing and courageous women:

Catherine de Medici, the last legitimate descendant of the illustrious Medici family of Italy, and Juana of Castile, daughter of Queen Isabel and King Ferdinand of Spain, who would be the last queen to inherit her country's throne. THE CONFESSIONS

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OF CATHERINE DE MEDICI

Catherine de Medici has been expelled from her native Florence and betrothed to Henri, son of François I of France. In an unfamiliar realm, she strives to create a role for herself through her patronage of the famous clairvoyant Nostradamus and her own innate gift as a seer. But in her fortieth year, Catherine is widowed, left alone with six young children in a kingdom torn apart by the ambitions of a treacherous nobility. Relying on her tenacity, wit, and uncanny

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gift for compromise, Catherine seizes power, intent on securing the throne for her sons, unaware that if she is to save France, she may have to sacrifice her ideals, her reputation, and the secret of her embattled heart. THE LAST QUEEN Born amid her parents' struggle to unify and strengthen their kingdom, Juana, at the age of sixteen, is sent to wed Philip, heir to the Habsburg Empire. There, she finds unexpected love and passion with her dashing young husband, and at first she is content with her children

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and her married life. But when tragedy strikes and she becomes heir to the Spanish throne, Juana finds herself plunged into a battle for power against her husband that grows to involve the major monarchs of Europe. Besieged by foes on all sides, Juana vows to secure her crown and save Spain from ruin, even if it costs her everything. Includes an excerpt from C. W. Gortner's much-anticipated new novel featuring Isabel of Castile, The Queen's Vow. Rich in intrigue and

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scheming, love and lust, Sherry Jones's vibrant historical novel follows four women destined to sway the fate of nations and the hearts of kings... Amid the lush valleys and fragrant wildflowers of Provence, Marguerite, Eléonore, Sanchia, and Beatrice have learned to charm, hunt, dance, and debate under the careful tutelage of their ambitious mother—and to abide by the countess's motto: "Family comes first." With Provence under constant attack, their legacy and safety depend upon

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powerful alliances.

Marguerite's illustrious match with the young King Louis IX makes her Queen of France. Soon

Eléonore—independent and daring—is betrothed to

Henry III of England. In turn,

shy, devout Sanchia and

tempestuous Beatrice wed

noblemen who will also

make them queens. Yet a

crown is no guarantee of

protection. Enemies are

everywhere, from

Marguerite's duplicitous

mother-in-law to vengeful

lovers and land-hungry

barons. Then there are the

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dangers that come from within, as loyalty succumbs to bitter sibling rivalry, and sister is pitted against sister for the prize each believes is rightfully hers—Provence itself. From the treacherous courts of France and England, to the bloody tumult of the Crusades, Sherry Jones traces the extraordinary true story of four fascinating sisters whose passions, conquests, and progeny shaped the course of history.

The Devil's Queen
The Romanov Empress
Daughter of Silk

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*The Red Queen and The
White Queen*

Duchessina

"This narrative of the first half of Augustine's life conjures the intellectual and social milieu of the late Roman Empire with a Proustian relish for detail." --New York Times In Augustine, celebrated historian Robin Lane Fox follows Augustine of Hippo on his journey to the writing of his Confessions. Unbaptized, Augustine indulged in a life of lust before finally confessing and

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converting. Lane Fox
recounts Augustine's
sexual sins, his time in
an outlawed heretical
sect, and his gradual
return to spirituality.
Magisterial and
beautifully written,
Augustine is the
authoritative portrait of
this colossal figure at
his most thoughtful,
vulnerable, and profound.
A Novel of Catherine de
Medici
The Master of All Desires
The Sexual Life of
Catherine M.
Life of David Hockney
Book Two in the Legendary

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