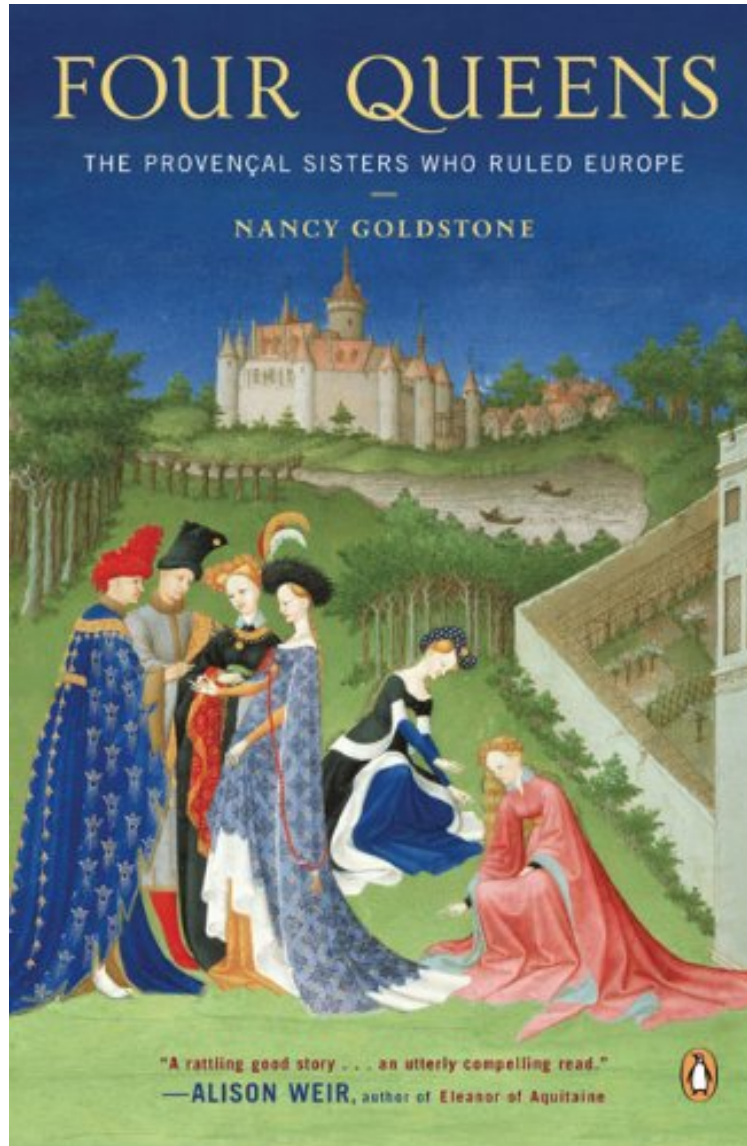


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Four Queens: The Provençal Sisters Who Ruled Europe

Nancy Goldstone

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Nancy Goldstone : Four Queens: The Provençal Sisters Who Ruled Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Queens: The Provençal Sisters Who Ruled Europe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interestingBy Kindle Customer This was a well-written, engaging look at a time when women were never going to get the credit the deserved but we're very much the neck moving the head of the major European kings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clever ThoroughBy

LakePen This well researched narrative reads like a modern "Tell-all" in the lives of royal houses in the 1200's. It's amazing how families get tangled up, even back then. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A new take by Mimi An interesting take on the period. I have read other books starring the same protagonists and they don't seem to notice that these four queens were sisters. Well written and researched.

For fans of Alison Weir and Antonia Fraser, acclaimed author Nancy Goldstone's thrilling history of the royal daughters who succeeded in ruling and shaping thirteenth-century Europe. Set against the backdrop of the thirteenth century, a time of chivalry and crusades, troubadours, knights and monarchs, *Four Queens* is the story of four provocative sisters: Marguerite, Eleanor, Sanchia, and Beatrice of Provence who rose from near obscurity to become the most coveted and powerful women in Europe. Each sister in this extraordinary family was beautiful, cultured, and accomplished but what made these women so remarkable was that each became queen of a principal European power: France, England, Germany and Sicily. During their reigns, they exercised considerable political authority, raised armies, intervened diplomatically and helped redraw the map of Europe. There is a drama of courage, sagacity and ambition that re-examines the concept of leadership in the Middle Ages.

From Publishers Weekly Starred. The four beautiful, cultured and clever daughters of the Count and Countess of Provence made illustrious marriages and lived at the epicenter of political power and intrigue in 13th-century Europe. Marguerite accompanied her husband, King Louis IX of France, on his disastrous first crusade to the Holy Land, where straight from childbirth she ransomed him from the Mamluks. And with her sister Eleanor, queen of England, Marguerite engineered a sturdy peace between France and England. Ambitious Eleanor walked a narrow line while she struggled to build her own power base without alienating her cowardly husband, Henry III. Beatrice's coronation as queen of Sicily was the culmination of her long, hard-fought campaign to earn respect from her world-famous, mightily accomplished older siblings. Sanchia wed one of the richest men in Europe, but her reign as queen of Germany, brought her only misery. On Goldstone's (coauthor of *The Friar and the Cipher*) rich, beautifully woven tapestry, medieval Europe springs to vivid life, from the lavish menus of the royal banquets and the sweet songs of the troubadours to the complex machinations of the pope against the Holy Roman Emperor. This is a fresh, eminently enjoyable history that gives women their due as movers and shakers in tumultuous times. Illus., 4 maps. (Apr. 23) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Historian Goldstone tracks the historically and politically significant lives of four thirteenth-century sisters born into the minor nobility of medieval Provence. Although their origins were not as lofty as many others, Marguerite married Louis IX of France, Eleanor was wed to England's Henry III, Sanchia was married to Richard of Cornwall, who eventually was crowned king of Germany, and Beatrice assisted her husband, Charles of Anjou, in seizing the Sicilian throne. Goldstone deftly analyzes what separated these women from their peers--beauty, ambition, familial connections, political aspirations, and timing--in compulsively readable detail. This fascinating collective biography will appeal to students of the period and should generate some crossover appeal for fans of intelligent historical fiction featuring strong female protagonists à la Philippa Gregory. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "A wonderful book about four remarkable women . . . An utterly compelling read." -Alison Weir, author of *Eleanor of Aquitaine* "A densely woven narrative of sibling rivalry, simmering resentments, and thwarted ambitions. . . . Times change but not, it seems, sisterly love." -Dr. Amanda Foreman, author of *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* "Remarkable . . . told with all the verve and aplomb and richness of detail that four such extraordinary women deserve." -Ross King, author of *Brunelleschi's Dome* "Goldstone weaves a vivid tapestry worthy of her subjects." -Entertainment Weekly "On Goldstone's rich, beautifully woven tapestry, medieval Europe springs to vivid life. . . . This is a fresh, eminently enjoyable history that gives women their due as movers and shakers in tumultuous times." -Publishers Weekly (starred review)