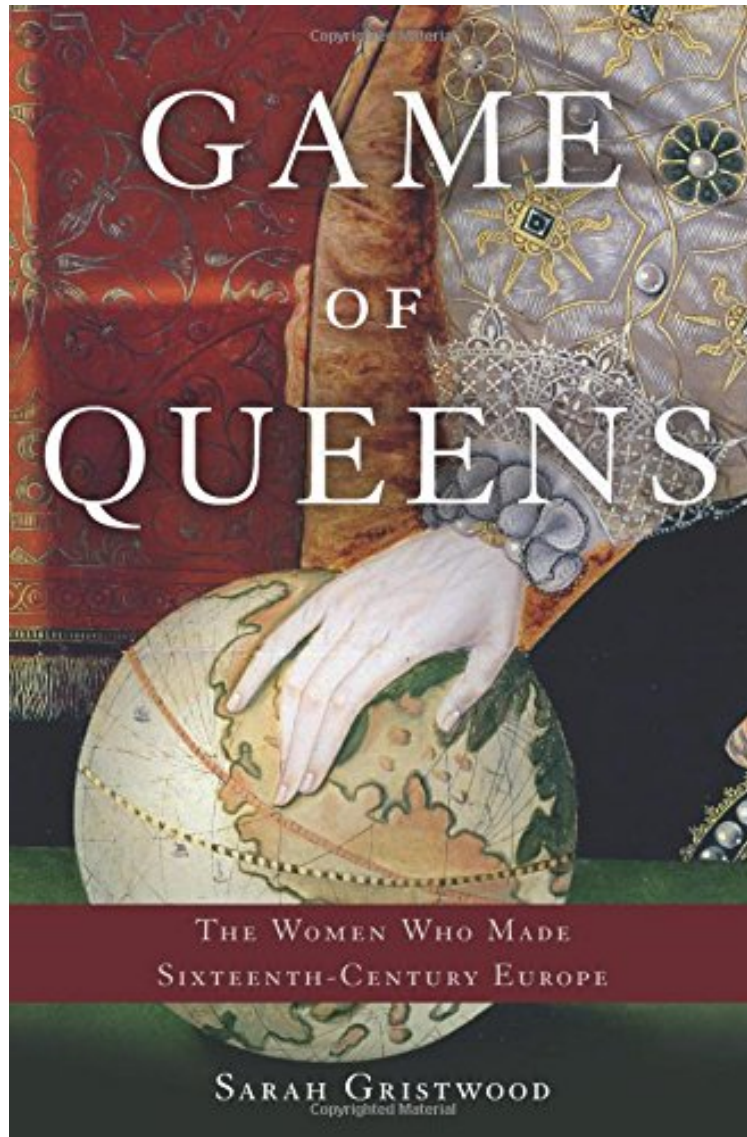


(Pdf free) Game of Queens: The Women Who Made Sixteenth-Century Europe

Game of Queens: The Women Who Made Sixteenth-Century Europe

Sarah Gristwood

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#23947 in Books Sarah Gristwood 2016-11-29 2016-11-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.63 x 1.25 x 6.38l, #File Name: 0465096786384 pages Game of Queens The Women Who Made Sixteenth Century Europe | File size: 57.Mb

Sarah Gristwood : Game of Queens: The Women Who Made Sixteenth-Century Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Game of Queens: The Women Who Made Sixteenth-Century Europe:

43 of 45 people found the following review helpful. Detailed and wonderfully written book celebrating powerful

queens of Western Europe

By Carole P. Roman

Detailed and wonderfully written book celebrating powerful queens of Western Europe. Starting with Isabella of Spain and ending with Elizabeth I. Gristwood writes of the various women from England, The Netherlands, Spain, Hungary, and France and how they impacted history. Isabella of Spain broke the mold as a warrior queen, setting the precedent of a woman taking control of her country as well as standing beside her troops in battle. With each new personality, Gristwood shows how they influenced the next generation of queens in training. Isabella's fierce ability to govern and defend her country set the example for her own daughter Katherine of Aragon to act as regent in Henry's absence and defeat the Scots at Flodden. Similarly, the author compares Margaret Tudor's role in Scotland as well as Anne of France's impact on the girls she mentored. The author moves through time, describing the dynamics of Marguerite of Savoy's relationship with both her brother, Francis I and her mother, Louise of Savoy. Each new era brings a widening influence affecting women across Europe, the older queens tutoring the younger girls in their future roles. Interestingly, she writes that Anne Boleyn's failure and ultimate downfall may have been the result of her not being an actual princess, her common roots leaving her unprepared to navigate the dangerous shoals of palace politics. She asserts that Boleyn was so caught up in the idea of courtly love, she had no understanding of when to stop and perhaps protect herself. She shows the differences of a political savvy Marguerite of Navarre played with her brother, the king when he forced an undesirable marriage on her daughter. Marguerite understood the dangerous dance of when to push and when to retreat, unlike Anne who did not. Mary of Hungary, Catherine de Medici, Elizabeth I, Mary of Guise, Mary of Scotland, are a few of the ruling queens mentioned. The times created women who learned how to steer the world, shaping bloodlines as well as borders with quiet strength. They changed what they believed in with passionate dedication proving leadership did not belong solely in a king's hands. Interesting, at times, riveting, this is a fascinating glimpse into a world that is too often overshadowed by the achievements of kings rather than the women who surrounded and influenced them.

59 of 63 people found the following review helpful.

The Condensed History of Women Rulers

By libbye

This is my new favorite book. Reading this, I understand now, the significance of Anne Boleyn learning from Louise of Savoy, and her daughter, Marguerite of Navarre. This book covers sixteen reigning Queens, from 1472, until the death of Elizabeth the First, in 1603. Very fast read, with much information, and several asides from the author. This book also has three family trees (Spanish, English, and French), as well as a list of the cast, for quick reference.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Long may they reign

By Carolina Casas

Simply one of the best books that brilliantly illustrates queenship, giving other examples of female leadership, and highlighting female bonds from the late medieval and renaissance eras. Whereas other books focus solely on Tudor queens and matriarchs, Ms. Gristwood chose to focus on other key figures who were part of the European stage, also mentioning other women who because of their common struggles and their gender, chose to rely on some of these formidable women. Another thing that Sarah Gristwood does is show us just how brutal -and complicated- these eras were. These women took refuge in their religion, using it as a justification for their actions or to validate themselves as regents, queen regnants or governors, but painfully brushed it aside when it came to their survival and their kingdoms future.

"Sarah Gristwood has written a masterpiece that effortlessly and enthrallingly interweaves the amazing stories of women who ruled in Europe during the Renaissance period." --Alison Weir

Sixteenth-century Europe saw an explosion of female rule. From Isabella of Castile, and her granddaughter Mary Tudor, to Catherine de Medici, Anne Boleyn, and Elizabeth Tudor, these women wielded enormous power over their territories, shaping the course of European history for over a century. Across boundaries and generations, these royal women were mothers and daughters, mentors and protégés, allies and enemies. For the first time, Europe saw a sisterhood of queens who would not be equaled until modern times. A fascinating group biography and a thrilling political epic, *Game of Queens* explores the lives of some of the most beloved (and reviled) queens in history.

.com

An Best Book of December 2016: When chess was first played, all the human figures were male. Only around the eight century did the Queen appear and not until the sixteenth century did the Queen become the most powerful piece in chess. Credit for this development is given to Isabella of Spain, the warrior queen, herself a skillful and enthusiastic chess player. Coincidentally, from Isabellas accession to the throne in 1474 through the next hundred years, an Age of Queens flourished to a degree not seen before or since, with women on the thrones of many European countries. Both the influence of chess and Isabella of Spain feature heavily in *Game of Queens*. Though few of the female regents met one another, the passage of power and influence (including strategic chess plays) flowed from mothers to daughters and from mentors to protégés, across borders and across generations. The stories of some of the greatest (and hated) queens are told here (in an amusing authors note, Gristwood points out that in a story with sixteen protagonists, eight of them are named either Mary or Margaret and she absolves herself of responsibility for any confusion that may result). Against a backdrop of religious reformations and the innovations of the new age, Gristwood deftly shows how the explosion of female rule came about, the machinations and power plays behind the thrones, and how the Age of Queens ultimately played out; unsurprisingly, fidelity and fertility were used to create scandals that threatened to topple each Queen. From Isabella of Castile and her granddaughter Mary Tudor, to

Catherine de Medici, Anne Boleyn, and Elizabeth Tudor, what could be a dry examination of policy and power becomes, in Gristwood's hands, a lively, accessible, occasionally hilarious, absorbing account of an astonishing era. -- Vanessa Cronin, *The Book* "Densely packed with fascinating material, this immensely ambitious undertaking succeeds triumphantly." *Literary (UK)* "A fascinating work of world and women's history." *Booklist* "Gristwood's fresh take on a well-documented period and the achievements, failures, and relationships of some of Europe's most powerful players is intriguing, cohesive, and accessible." *Publishers Weekly* "[*Game of Queens*] casts a well-researched time period in an intriguing light.... Readers of popular history, especially of Tudor England, and of women's history will find much to enjoy." *Library Journal* "Sarah Gristwood handles multiple narrative strands with tremendous finesse, dexterously synthesizing the stories of women who, in many cases, never met but whose lives intertwined in manifold ways." *Literary (UK)* "*Game of Queens* is a magnificent exploration of a most remarkable group--the women who ruled sixteenth century Europe. Sarah Gristwood gives us impeccable research, incisive attention to detail, and exquisite writing as she investigates these truly fascinating women and their lives of courage, tribulation, and determination. Absolutely unputdownable." *Kate Williams, author of England's Mistress* "Sarah Gristwood's study of the brilliant, beleaguered, and often bloody difficult women who kept Europe going in the sixteenth century is compelling, clear-eyed, beautifully rendered, and never-more-timely." *Jessie Childs, author of God's Traitors: Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England* "In her elegant and engaging style, she combines incisive detail with over-arching and eye-opening themes of queenship and the role of women in a male-dominated world. This book is a wonderful, timely contribution to our understanding of the period, and a pacy and illuminating good read." *Alison Weir, author of The Lost Tudor Princess* About the Author Sarah Gristwood is a regular contributor to many London publications as well as a commentator on royal and historical affairs. The author of several previous books, including *Blood Sisters*, Gristwood splits her time between London and Kent, United Kingdom.