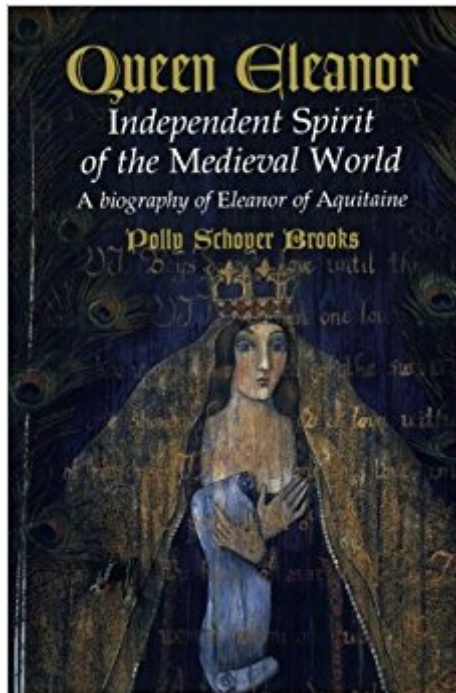




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# Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit Of The Medieval World



## Synopsis

Accused of being a demon by those who could not tolerate her independence, Eleanor of Aquitaine made her mark as one of the most dynamic and extraordinary figures of the Middle Ages. Born in 1122, Eleanor refused to be confined by the traditional gender roles of her time. She became well educated, gaining political and governing know-how from her father, William X, duke of Aquitaine, and armed herself with the skills necessary to become an influential queen-first of France, and later, England. With an impact that reached beyond politics, Eleanor shaped the future of the arts and humanities. And in a time when women were viewed as inferior to men, the virtues of chivalry and courtly love were born. Once described by a contemporary as "a woman beyond compare," Eleanor of Aquitaine is a figure who will remain controversial, powerful, and enchanting in the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Polly Schoyer Brooks lives in New Canaan, Connecticut, where she enjoys her four children, ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

This book is very well written, accurate, and as interesting as it can be. I do my family tree on Ancestry.com and found Eleanor to be my 37th great grandmother but I wanted to know if the information given about her was correct. The first place I thought to find a book was . And, as

always I found exactly what I was looking for. Thanks Cynthia J Bradford

This is another terrific biography from Polly Schoyer Brooks. It's perfect for an adolescent audience, but plenty captivating and well-written enough to engage an audience as well. Eleanor of Aquitaine is such a fascinating historical figure, and a rare figure of female empowerment during the middle ages. While I think anyone would enjoy this book, I would particularly recommend it to adolescent/teenage girls.

Well researched. Fascinating.

Granddaughter loves this book.

Very interesting read. Highly recommend the seller.

Brooks copyrighted this herself in 1983 and, although there is no useful biographic information, I get the impression she wrote it for the k-12 school library market. The book feels like it is written for an 8th grade audience but with an admirable extent to the vocabulary and historical contexts. Brooks has done a good job on relating geography, medieval culture and art, and history in an enjoyable and informative read. Perhaps I don't understand the prejudices of the school library market, but I do wish that books like this would do some referencing and citations of quoted material to give readers the concept of backing up what is said with authoritative research sources. This is a good solid introductory book on Eleanor. It is comprehensive (unlike so many of the newer Eleanor books that focus on and tend to glamorize only one part of her life). It presents most of the known historical facts and mentions most of the commonly known myths as well (clearly presenting them as unfounded legend). This is a good place to start if you want an overview of Eleanor's life. It's a quick read for adults and a good comprehensive exploration of a medieval life for an elementary or high school student.

This is an okay beginner book for learning about Eleanor of Aquitaine. It's not as well researched as Alison Weir's version, but it does well for introducing children into early English history and monarchy. My daughter loved it (and she doesn't even like to read!) and was able to discuss Eleanor with me. I'm very happy in that it has gotten my daughter more interested in reading, and especially in history.

I suppose it was overly romanticized. I suppose maybe it was written for a younger audience. But read other books to compare with it then. I think it may have been a bit biased, and truly great history is never biased. But Ms. Schoyer Brooks did a great job of making this interesting, and good history books are always interesting. Good humor (though it may not have been intended), a snappy biographee, and interesting and engaging writing. What more could I ask? I might have liked it to be a bit more detailed, and a bit less biased, but that's all I'd like. Still, it was a wonderful book that I'll be reading again soon. Thanks for reading my review!~Harpingtonforever

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