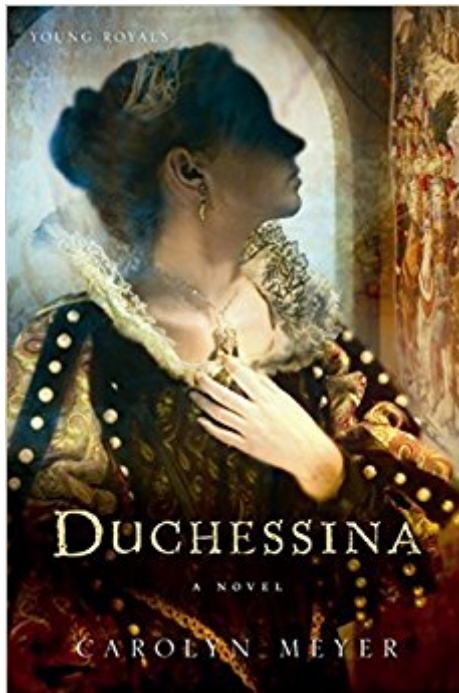


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Duchessina: A Novel Of Catherine De' Medici (Young Royals)



Synopsis

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, 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 France's most powerful queens. Includes a family tree.

Book Information

Series: Young Royals

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (April 27, 2009)

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Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.7 x 4.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #574,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Customer Reviews

As in *Mary, Bloody Mary* (1999), Meyer's latest entry in the Young Royals historical-fiction series creates a sympathetic, engrossing portrait of a noble girl who, later in life, became a feared, notorious queen. Meyer focuses on Catherine de' Medici's sixteenth-century youth and early marriage, closing with her coronation as queen of France. Political treachery is a constant threat, and Meyer creates thrilling suspense from sinister court intrigues and family secrets, all set against thoroughly drawn backdrops, from stark convents to opulent palaces. Women's limited power during the time period is a strong, recurring theme, realized with particular grimness in references to rapes and the realities of Catherine's arranged marriage, plotlines that suggest an older audience. 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. Gillian Engberg

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"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 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

I decided to read this story after reading Meyer's four novels about the Tudor women. What a life, "la duchessina" lived. I had no idea the Popes were so involved in politics back then as they are today. I was very impressed in the way Carolyn Meyer put herself in the mind state of Catherine de' Medici and was able to write Catherine was surely feeling. She was bravest woman of her family because she faced her fears and never did she give up!

This novel blames women for rape.

I always love novels about Made Serpent as she was known in later years. Carolyn Meyers weaves an intriguing story of the life of Catherine de Mexico haven though history doesn't change I enjoyed this story.

This book, although fiction, contains much historical value. I will not into detail, but instead encourage you to read it for yourself.

Great book knee deep reading now love it

Love this book and the quality it was received in even though it was a used book :)

Really enjoyed this read and great service

Great historical fiction. I love these books. Meyer takes figures out of obscurity and gives them flesh and bones.

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