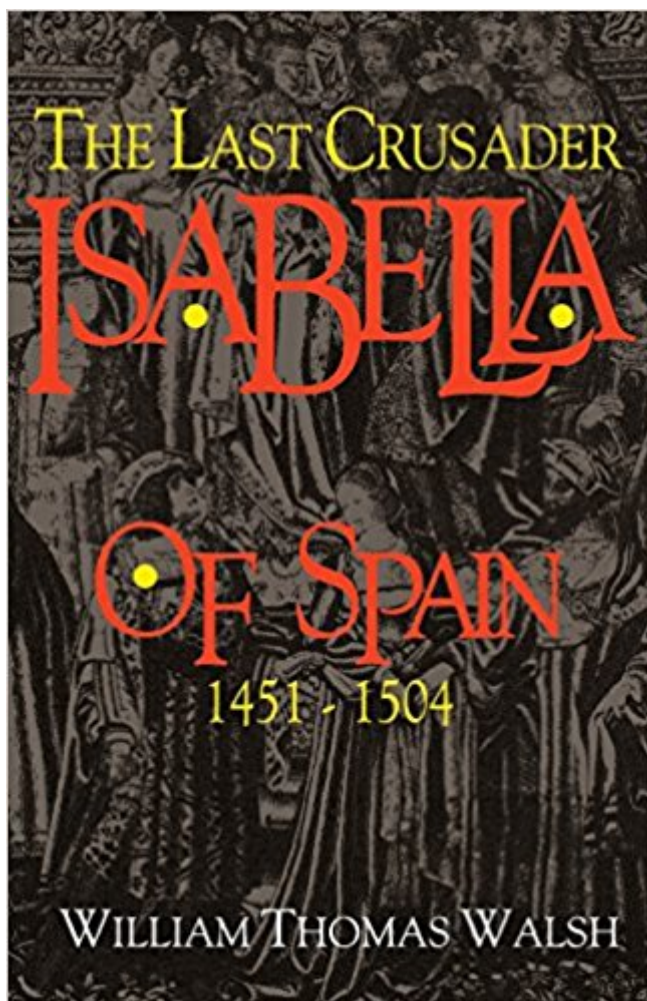


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Isabella Of Spain: The Last Crusader (1451-1504)



Synopsis

Called by her people Isabella la Catolica, she was by any standard one of the greatest women of all history. A saint in her own right, she married Ferdinand of Aragon, and they forged modern Spain, cast out the Moslems, discovered the New World by backing Columbus, and established a powerful central government in Spain. This story is so thrilling it reads like a novel. Makes history really come alive. Highly readable and truly great in every respect! 576 pgs, PB

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Thomas Walsh was born in 1891 at Waterbury, Connecticut, and was a well-known historian, educator and author. His Spanish historical biographies on Isabella of Spain and Philip II have been internationally recognized and translated into Spanish, along with Saint Teresa of Avila and Characters of the Inquisition. He is also the author of the concise, popular Our Lady of Fatima booklet and various short stories and articles in magazines. William Walsh earned a B.A. from Yale in 1913 as well as an honorary Litt.D. from Fordham University. A year later he married Helen Gerard Sherwood, with whom he had six children. Mr. Walsh died in 1949.

A great read! This book does a wonderful job of explaining this amazing Queen and the compelling circumstances that prompted her to make the decisions that she did. This woman was truly one of the greatest world leaders ever!

"Isabel was born to the purple in no ordinary sense", begins William Thomas Walsh in "Isabella of Spain: The Last Crusader". He proceeds with a short, somewhat Matthew-like chronicle of her ancestors - which includes legendary royalty of Castilian, Plantagenet, Frankish, and Anglo-Saxon blood - and then concludes the first paragraph: "The infant was baptized a few days later in the Church of Saint Nicholas, with no special pomp or display. When the voice of her sponsors rumbled among the arches and arabesques of the old church, renouncing Satan and all his works on her behalf, there was no prophet on hand to cry out that one of the most remarkable women in all history had been born." Walsh's beautiful phrasing mixed with a matter-of-fact style is the perfect foil to contrast the breathtaking life of "Isabel la Católica". This is the story of how an 11 year old girl ferociously resisted the evil that had engulfed her, and grew into the woman that would sanctify a backward, degenerate country, making it the most powerful force for good on earth for the next hundred years. While Isabel's accomplishments are a marvel, it is her response to adversity, defeat, and the impossible that rouses the spirit; her towering faith in God and her absolute love for His Holy Catholic Church were her animating force and her spiritual consolation. Walsh keeps this history focused tightly on the person of Isabel, sweeping the reader into a narrative so intimate and compelling, it creates in the imagination a sense of present-ness of the characters and events: the seething Isabel at the debauched court of her half-brother King Enrique; the dusty heat on the long gallops across Spain in support of her beloved Fernando; the scented gardens of the Alhambra yielding under her conquering feet. A word has to be said about the negative reviews that have called this book and its author anti-Semitic: it's simply not true. Written in 1930, this work does not have the post-holocaust sensitivity to which current generations have become accustomed; reading their own political views into this work instead of refuting the facts, they turn to name-calling. Walsh refutes the anti-Catholic and anti-Spanish view of history that is part and parcel of our English-speaking, Protestant culture, and in doing so must reveal the complete record - good and bad - so that the reader can make an accurate judgment. I highly recommend this work for all those who wish to know the true story of Isabel la Católica. It reads so quickly and is so well written, it will most likely spur the reader on to find out more about her and about Walsh's other works, one of which I also highly recommend: Saint Peter, the Apostle.

How the young Isabella got to be queen of Spain is yet to be discovered. I just started reading this book and I'm loving it already. It is intriguing, with characters seemingly from fairy tales. I attribute this sensation to the writer, who obviously knows how to tell a story, even if it IS factual. I love history anyway and even attempt to write my own history, so it's easy for me to love a story that

happened 532 or so years ago.

Thomas's incipient, regal maze and aristocratic depth smooth well into the reign of Christendom's fierce, mighty, and saintly Queen.

It was a history I had been looking for. Mr Walsh wrote a powerful book.

Great author..... Most complete history of Isabella I've ever read. He goes into great detail about her life and it is mesmerizing. What a woman - what a book. I can hardly wait to read another of his books. An author ahead of his time!

Great book.

Loved it.

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