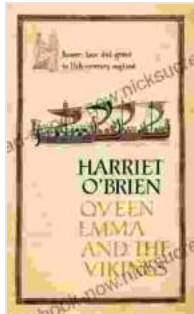


Queen Emma and the Vikings: A Saga of Power, Love, and Legacy



Queen Emma and the Vikings: A History of Power, Love, and Greed in 11th-Century England by Harriet O'Brien

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1295 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 288 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Queen Emma, known as Ælfgifu of Normandy in her youth, was a remarkable figure in Anglo-Saxon England and the Viking Age. Her life was a tapestry of power, love, and legacy, intertwining with the fates of some of the most influential figures of her time.

Early Life and Marriage to King Æthelred the Unready

Emma was born in Normandy, France, around 985 AD. Her father was Richard I, Duke of Normandy, and her mother was Gunnor, daughter of the Count of Burgundy. She was a member of the powerful Norman aristocracy and received an education befitting her status.

In 1002, at the age of 17, Emma married King Æthelred the Unready of England. The marriage was a political alliance, designed to strengthen ties

between England and Normandy. Æthelred was a weak and indecisive ruler, and England was under increasing threat from Viking raids.

Vikings and the Danish Conquest

In the early 11th century, England faced a series of devastating Viking invasions. In 1013, the Danish King Sweyn Forkbeard invaded England and forced Æthelred to flee. Emma and her children accompanied Æthelred to Normandy, where they lived in exile.

After Sweyn Forkbeard's death in 1014, his son, Cnut the Great, continued the invasion of England. In 1016, Cnut defeated Æthelred and became King of England. Æthelred died shortly after, leaving Emma a widow.

Marriage to King Cnut the Great

In 1017, Emma married Cnut the Great. The marriage was a strategic move by Cnut, who sought to consolidate his power in England. Emma was a respected figure among the English, and her marriage to Cnut helped to legitimize his rule.

Emma and Cnut had two children together, Harthacnut and Gunhilda. Emma also became stepmother to Cnut's children from his previous marriage, including the future King Harold I of England.

Queen of England and Regent

As Queen of England, Emma was a powerful and influential figure. She played an active role in government and was involved in the administration of justice. She also patronized the arts and was a patron of the church.

In 1035, Cnut the Great died, leaving Emma as regent for her young son, Harthacnut. Emma ruled England for three years, during which time she faced challenges from rival claimants to the throne.

Death and Legacy

Emma died in Winchester, England, in 1052. She was buried in Winchester Cathedral, alongside her husband, Cnut the Great. Emma left a lasting legacy as a powerful and influential queen who played a significant role in the history of Anglo-Saxon England and the Viking Age.

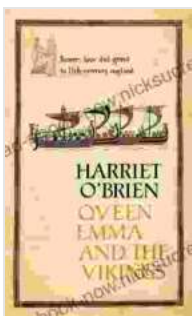
Emma's life is a fascinating tale of power, love, and legacy. She was a woman of great strength and intelligence who navigated the turbulent waters of politics and war to become one of the most influential figures of her time.

Additional Images





King Cnut the Great of England



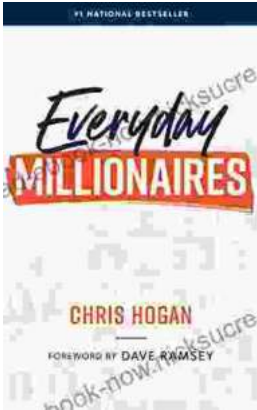
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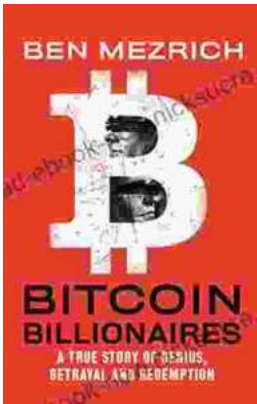
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