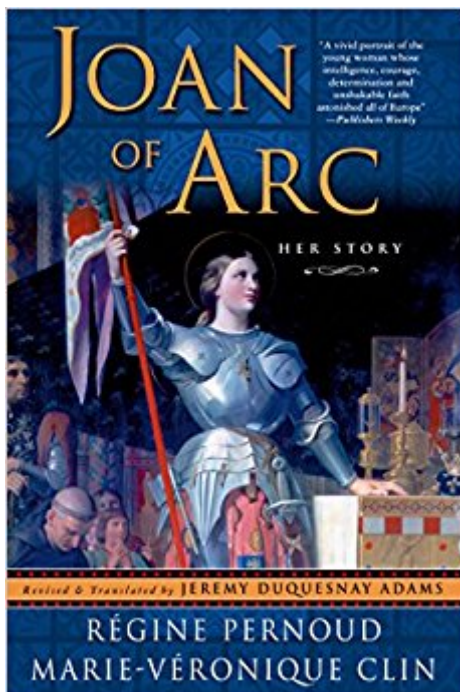


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# Joan Of Arc: Her Story



## Synopsis

In an exquisite English translation from the bestselling French edition, *Joan of Arc: Her Story* now appears for American readers. From the French peasant girl who led an army to the icon burned at the stake, Joan has been a blank slate on which thousands have written. Pernoud and Clin clear away the myths so that modern readers can see Joan as she was and include a glossary of important individuals, historical events and interpretations of Joan through the ages. *Joan of Arc: Her Story* is the thrilling life of a woman who obsesses us even to this day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The peasant girl who led an army against the English and placed Charles VII on the French throne has inspired countless books since her death at age 19. While others have claimed Joan the Maid (as she called herself) for every cause from feminism to working-class radicalism, this meticulous volume by two French scholars sticks close to the known facts. The authors make extensive use of contemporary documents that bring to life the turbulent political scene in which Joan operated as well as her forceful personality. Joan followed the directives of voices she believed were sent to her by God; her deep piety, self-assurance, decisiveness, and shrewd intelligence radiate from her letters and from her responses to hostile questioning at the rigged trial that resulted in her being burned alive as a heretic in 1431. General readers may be intimidated at first by a detailed narrative studded with lengthy quotations, but those who persevere will discover a story all the more moving because it is not manipulated to make a modern-day point. This English translation updates the 1986 French volume's bibliography, supplements the biographies in part 2 with sketches of

historical figures less familiar outside of France, and generally makes the book more accessible for English-language readers. --Wendy Smith --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joan of Arc means many things to many people: the incarnation of French patriotism, a Fascist mascot for anti-Semitism, the symbol of working-class resistance, the ultimate proto-feminist, the political prisoner, the innocent woman persecuted for heresy. In order to separate legend from fact, her uses from herself, Pernoud and Clin have ingeniously turned the mystifying question "Who is Joan of Arc?" into the more manageable "What is [her] historical record?" Joan's history was brief: a year of fighting, a year of imprisonment. In 1429, inspired by holy "voices," she traveled to the failing dauphin Charles (later King Charles VII) and declared that she would free the city of Orleans from his English enemies and lead him to his coronation. Shortly after fulfilling both prophecies, she was captured by the English, who tried her for heresy and burned her at the stake. In 1455, 24 years after her death, a new trial concluded that the English inquisition was improperly conducted and nullified its decision. Throughout their descriptions of these events, the authors draw upon copious letters and trial transcripts to present a vivid portrait of the young woman whose intelligence, courage, determination and unshakable faith astonished all of Europe. A brief introduction and a section of profiles of the major players make this thorough book accessible to the general reader. Though the writing is sometimes dry, Pernoud and Clin do an admirable job of bringing clarity to their complicated subject. This is the first English translation of a book published in 1986 in France. 12 illustrations, 8 maps. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is about the 7th or 8th book I've read about St. Joan, my patron saint, and I must say it did not disappoint. Regine Pernoud is a renowned French historian who has done other books about St. Joan, each a little different than the other. She does not exhaust the reader with a detailed account of her entire life, but condenses major events so that it doesn't bore you with endless details. There's plenty of other books about St. Joan if that's what you're looking for. Every book I've read has painted a clearer and clearer picture of this fascinating young lady, and the more details I discover, the more real she becomes to me. This is one of few books that I believe gives a whole picture of St. Joan, and doesn't just focus on one aspect of her life or another. You read about Joan the girl, Joan the military genius, Joan the soldier, Joan the saint. All of this gives the reader a very human, realistic image. One of my favorite things in this book was reading the "extras" that take up

roughly half of the book. The author doesn't give the details of certain people and events in St. Joan's life when telling her story in the first half, but provides details-sometimes abundant depending on the person/subject-in the second half. A rather interesting article is written in this part of the book on the particular form of French she spoke and even how she pronounced certain words. Amazing! I loved reading the little things about her: about how she clapped Gobert Thibault, a royal esquire, on the shoulder; how she had a very sharp and witty sense of humor; how she "hung out" with her fellow soldiers before and after battle, and even shielded them with her own body when riding in to an assault; and one of my personal favorites-how she talked with a certain accent particular to the Lorraine region of France where she was from. I found this last fact particularly fascinating as I'd never read anything about it before. Just an amazing book. I highly recommend.

I bought this book based on the many positive reviews and completely agree. It is an excellent read: well documented, well written, and an excellent translation from the original French. In addition to a completed telling of the life story of Joan, including the context of her achievements in European history, this book includes sections with complete translations of her existing letters, separate discussions of the key players in the story, discussions of her impact in film and the theaters, passion plays, etc., etc. Basically, it is an excellent starting place to learn about Joan of Arc and her impact on history. Highly recommended!

"Joan of Arc: Her Story" begins with a foreword, a preface, acknowledgments and a prelude. I've never seen so much to precede a story. The preface explains the structure of the book, which may be confusing if not read. To gain an understanding of the history and climate of Joan's time, one should read the prelude. Then begins the bulk of the story. It is fascinating, well-written in chronological order. It is not a light read. Any distractions can set one back, confused about the cast of characters, as I can attest. Joan of Arc's story could not have been better told. Each chapter begins with a summary and then delves into the details of her journey. Excerpts from various writings describe her impact on others, the interrogations and Joan of Arc's own words. The second part details the lives of the cast of characters surrounding her life; and the last part investigates the different issues surrounding Joan of Arc's story, like whether she was betrayed, did she actually survive the fire and another girl take her place, was she of royal blood? I admit the least interesting section was the middle section, as I did not care much for the lives of her interrogators, for instance. Of course, to know their lives is to understand their actions, so it was not completely unnecessary. I

just did not care for it. This is a fine book for anyone wanting learn more about the life of Joan of Arc. It is organized very nicely. For those who just want to know the basic story, read the first part. Those who need more details may continue on to parts two and three.

Very nice historical text on Joan of Arc and the cultural context in which she emerged as a popular religious and patriotic figure in Medieval France. Covers what is known of her childhood and her family, mysteries and theories, military and diplomatic achievements, imprisonment and torture, trials, adversaries and allies, her tragic and untimely death, and her impact on French and international pop culture. Many passages include Joan's own words from her letters and trial transcripts, and her letters are reprinted in their original French in the back of the book, which I loved. Illustrative maps help the reader retrace Joan's steps and gain a new perspective of the geological implications of Joan's journey and her impact on France. The typeset in the back of the book is extremely small, which caused this volume to lose one star because it took forever to trundle through the tiny type and make my eyes hurt. Overall, a great book on Joan of Arc and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in her history.

Great for our Camp Memaw and Granddaddy a la Knights earlier this summer. Our five year old and only granddaughter adopted this book straight away after she came to camp declaring that she wanted to be the very character of Joan of Arc!

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