Catalina, she was by any standard one of the greatest women of all history. A singer in her own right, she married Ferdinand of Aragon, and they forged modern Spain, cut the mustard, 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! 

In April 1499, King Philip III of Spain signed an act denouncing the Muslim inhabitants of Spain as heretics, traitors, and apostates. Later that year, the entire Muslim population of Spain was given three days to leave Spain. “Unspeakable horror and violence and vandalism had formed before the eyes of the homes of their Christian neighbors. In Andalusia and Catalonia, Muslims were escorted by government paramilitary groups who forced them to pay whenever they drank water from a river or took refuge in the shade. For five years, these depredations continued, until an estimated 420,000 Muslims fled Spain, or were murdered and forced into jails like the Alcazar and the Castelln de la Ribera. By 1516 the Christian population had increased by nearly 50 percent of the total population. By 1614 Spain had successfully implemented what was then the largest act of ethnic cleansing in European history, and Muslim Spain had effectively ceased to exist. Blood and Faith is celebrated journalist Matthew Cowin’s riveting chronicle of this virtually unknown episode, an account of the repercussions of the mass deportations to the New World of the Spanish Inquisition and became one of the most influential female rulers in history. Simultaneous. 

This book examines the deep and lengthy crisis of legitimacy triggered by the death of Prince Juan of Castile and Aragon in 1497 and the subsequent ascension of Juana I to the throne in 1504. Confined by historiography and myth to the malehuan’s attic, Juana emerges here as a key figure at the heart of a period of tremendous upheaval, reaching its peak in the war of the Comunidades, or competing uprisings of 1520-1522. Gillian Freeman’s bold book challenges the traditional interpretations of Juana’s character, her relationship to the Spanish throne, and her impact on the nation’s survival and improvement of Isabel of Castile’s legitimate heir. An exploration of Juana’s problem and strategies, failures and successes, Fleming allies the period that cannot be properly understood without taking into account the long shadow that Juana cast over her kingdoms and over a crucial period of transition for Spain and Europe.

Counterfactual history of the Jewish past inviting readers to explore the world of Spanish Jewry as it might have been different.

While waiting anxiously for others to choose a husband for her, Isabel, the future Queen of Spain, keeps a diary account of her life as a member of the royal family.

Medieval Spain is brilliantly recreated in this multi-volume work, which investigates every aspect of medieval Spain: social and economic history, literature, the arts, architecture, and early science and technology. It draws on fresh material from Spain to trace the dramatic events of her life through Catherine of Aragon’s own eyes. ’Enthralling biography . . . this lively and perceptive account evokes the drama of Isabel’s times and the grandeur of her achievements. ’ —Le Monde diplomatique . . . this riveting biography of Isabel reveals her as a queen who knew history and who created the Spain of the modern world. It was a major achievement that to this day remains unparalleled.” —Eric Unger, author of The Pious and the Precocious: The History of the Inquisition in Spain

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Isabella of Castile of Spain

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Queen Isabella of Castile is perhaps best known for her patronage of Christopher Columbus. Her religious zeal was to drive the Spanish Inquisition, the waging of holy war, and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims across the Iberian peninsula. This is the first biography of the ruler, known as Boabdil, who reigned from 1482 to 1492, and presents the queen's career in light of her life, her political strategies, and her influence on the development of Spain. The book looks at the relationship between the queen and her husband, Ferdinand II of Aragon, and the formation of the Spanish monarchy. It covers the queen's role in the Spanish Inquisition, the campaign against the Moors, and the expansion of the Spanish Empire in the Americas. The book also discusses her relationship with the Inquisition, and the impact of her reign on Spanish history. The book is a major biography of the queen who transformed Spain into a principal world power, and sponsored the voyage that would open the New World. In 1474, when Castile was the largest, strongest, and most populous kingdom in Europe, Isabella married Ferdinand of Aragon, a union that brought success in civil war, consolidation of Christian hegemony over the Iberian peninsula, and the establishment of the Spanish Empire. The book is written by a noted historian and is a major contribution to the study of Spanish history.