



Queens, Concubines and Dowagers: The King's Wife in the Early Middle Ages (Women, Power, and Politics)

Pauline Stafford

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'Between the sixth and eleventh centuries, many women exercised a profound influence on the politics of Western Europe. The histories of Frankia, Italy, and England would have been different had it not been for queens such as Brunhild, Judith, Angelberga, Emma and others. This is a composite biography of the early queens and royal bedfellows and provides a fascinating picture of their political importance and the many factors that affected their personal lives. Woven with the political story of these women is the story of courtships, weddings, dowries; the anxieties of confinements, sterility and infant mortality; the tense relationships with in-laws; and the peaceful, if often involuntary, religious retirement of widowhood. A fascinating study of a period in world history that requires more illumination. Maps and charts are excellent. Highly recommended.' Genealogical Library Journal

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