



# I, Jacqueline

*Hilda Lewis*

Download now

Read Online 

# I, Jacqueline

*Hilda Lewis*

## **I, Jacqueline** Hilda Lewis

A historical fiction that presents the life and loves of Jacqueline of Hainaut, thrice married, thrice imprisoned and ransomed; the extraordinary 15th-century life of a woman who endured the power politics of the courts of England, Burgundy, and France.

## **I, Jacqueline Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2008 by The History Press (first published December 1957)

ISBN : 9780752445649

Author : Hilda Lewis

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Medieval, Fiction, Literature, 15th Century, Cultural, France

 [Download I, Jacqueline ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online I, Jacqueline ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online I, Jacqueline Hilda Lewis**

---

## **From Reader Review I, Jacqueline for online ebook**

### **Suzanne says**

Dutch translation of "I, Jacqueline"

4 - 4.5, perhaps even 5 stars.

Jacoba van Beieren was an awesome lady, and everyone with an interest in history should read her story (it will however help to read up about this period of time a little bit, if you haven't already, before you start reading the book - the French/English situation for instance)

Why does everyone remember Jeanne d'Arc, but is Jacoba far less known, even though she was a woman leading troops into war at the same period of time? (difference being she was a ruler fighting for her own crown and not a peasant girl claiming to have orders from God - but still!)

Captivating read, and nicely translated. My only issue was that in the part of the book describing the 1420's, too many sentences started with "Maar" (english: "But". I don't know if this is an issue with the translation or if the original has the same issue.) Luckily that stopped around the time she moved to Zeeland.

---

### **Adrienne says**

Well written, well documented. Would recommend !

---

### **``Laurie Henderson says**

While reading HF books set during the Hundred Years War, Jacqueline of Brabant was always a peripheral character that I was curious to learn more about.

I, Jacqueline, was a well researched effort by one of my favorite authors Hilda Lewis and richly deserves a 5 star rating.

Jacqueline was heir to her father Duke William VI, hereditary prince of Hainault, Holland, Friesland and Zealand after his death when she was still a young teen.

The rapacious Duke of Burgundy kingdom borders Jacqueline's and he's determined to make them his own. Since her mother was the sister of Duke Phillip of Burgundy she assists him in his efforts to steal Jacqueline's inheritance.

Her father's brother also desires to steal Jacqueline's inheritance and even plots to marry her. Jacqueline is horrified and agrees to marry the degenerate John of Brabant to avoid marriage to her uncle. She had never met her husband prior to their marriage and she was suitably repulsed when first meeting him at their marriage feast.

As if being caught between 2 heartless uncles wasn't bad enough her new husband joins her enemies in persecuting her by selling off her territories for his financial gain.

(view spoiler)

Although Jacqueline's life was short and filled with sorrows she ultimately played a big part in ending the Hundred Years War.

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedi...>

---

### **Marita says**

Perhaps Jacqueline of Hainault had many good qualities and achieved much in real life. I don't know if that is the case, but it wasn't my impression from reading this novel. I found her quite tiresome. The actual words are never used, but a "woe alas! woe-is-me" attitude permeates this novel. Eventually I suffered from that "are we there yet?" feeling.

On his deathbed her dying father warned her against various individuals. Did she heed his advice? What were the consequences of her choices? Read the novel to find out.

---

### **Nikki says**

The setting - Europe at the time of Henry the 5th, encouraged me to pick up this book. It could have been brilliant, because the eponymous Jacqueline did some amazing things trying to reclaim her crown, and struggling with her love life. The trouble is, there are far too many banal conversations between women that reflect the main plot rather than taking you into the heart of it, and too many major events either happening out of sight, or being skated over in a few lines. I disliked the portrayal of the heroine until the last quarter or so of the book. Overall, a bit of a let down.

---

### **Ape says**

Fictionalised history about an historical figure I'd never heard of, and a period of history I feel I should know more about than I can remember these days. In the 1400s, Jacqueline is a Dutch princess who finds herself mixed up in others' power plays after the early death of her beloved father. She chooses to ignore the advice from his death bed - much that she comes to regret over the years - and makes a couple of very inappropriate marriages. Just before her father's death she had been married to a French prince whom she had grown up with and saw as a brother. He died very young. She was then persuaded by her scheming mother to marry a cousin, who turned out to be an alcoholic drunk and impotent - so there wasn't any love lost there. She then considered that marriage void, and went lusting after the English king's brother, Humphrey Gloucester. Who

was a fickle and inconstant lover with little staying power. She fights for her position to rule in Holland and tries, unsuccessfully, to play the politics game. But she doesn't have a great talent for it and this isn't a world that gives women many chances. She eventually marries a Dutchman and finally gets a happy marriage, but by then she is dying of consumption and ends up dead a couple of years into the marriage.

Jacqueline certainly had an eventful short life and there was a lot going on around her. But I don't think this book makes the most of it. I really couldn't get away with Lewis' style of writing. Honestly I feel that she would have been better off with history books and biographies. She bangs through this story at a fair whack, she gives massive events the slightest of mentions and then will spend pages and pages on boring conversations and the same old thoughts going round and round Jacqueline's head (it's told in first person narration) about her worrying about Gloucester. There isn't a sense of place or atmosphere created at all. And Jacqueline comes across as a very arrogant and haughty young woman - maybe she was or maybe Lewis does her a disservice. I don't know. The constant self pitying we have to read is very repetitive and tiresome. And yes, she has a tough life, but by god she didn't have the toughest of lives that were being lived at the same time. It was difficult to have any sympathy for her at times.

---

### **C. says**

The life and loves of Jacqueline of Hainaut thrice married, thrice imprisoned and ransomed, the extraordinary fifteenth-century life of a woman of substance who endured the power politics of the courts of England, Burgundy and France.

With a summary like that, I was interested in reading about this "Daughter of Holland" of whom I knew nothing. It was good to read because I knew little of this power play, set about the time of Henry V of England, but I was disappointed in her. She seemed to be unable to hold the reins of power even though she was supposedly trained to rule. The writing was good, it was the story itself that disappointed me. Guess it's typical of the times, although there were powerful women who did take charge, and her age, being only 16 when she came to her throne.

---

### **Jules says**

I, Jacqueline centres around the true story of a girl of 16 left to rule parts of what is now The Netherlands and Belgium when her father dies. It is set in the 15th century, a time when Europe seemed to run out of male heirs to their thrones but would not accept autonomous female rulers. The young lady of the title was left with few supporters, even fewer options and many enemies including her mother.

I didn't much like the book. The story itself is one that should have grabbed me as so many of the kind have (most recently C.W. Gortner's *The Last Queen*). Unfortunately, Jacqueline does not compare too well to Juana of Castille. Jacqueline comes across as a spoilt petulant young lady with no judgement when it comes to politics. She marries again and again contrary to her dead father's advice and reaps the dire consequences. This in itself could have made a cracking story but our 'heroine' is rather dull. It seems she rode at the head of her armies but apart from a cursory mention of this we find out no more about it. I felt sorry for her hardships but in the end I couldn't like her. I can't help feeling that if more had been made of her forays into battle she would have been a more interesting character. On the plus side, I enjoyed the writing style. It was old world enough to give you a feeling of antiquity without it sounding too forced.

All in all, it wasn't a waste of time to read it but I doubt it will make it to my reread list.

---