

**Name:** Anne of Austria, Queen Consort of France

**Date of Birth:** 9/22/1601

**Date of Death:** 1/20/1666, of breast cancer

**Age at time of story:** Theoretically, 16 (if the novel takes place in 1627)

**Parents:** King Philip III

- A Hapsburg (Holy Roman Empire family)

Margaret of Austria

- Anne was especially close to her mother, who helped her develop her Catholic faith; her mother died when she was 10

**Spouse:** Louis XIII (m. 1615)

- Marriage was consummated but they did not sleep together for another three years
- They were very happy together the day they were married
- From that point onward they lived in separate households and the King would visit Anne twice a day
- In the beginning, the couple was devoted, but at a distance; Louis said that he “adored” Anne and would stay by her side when she was sick but tended to be overprotective, which made Anne fear his moods
- Once Richelieu came into power, he and Anne were at loggerheads because he had tried to seduce Anne and she had refused; this caused a divide between Anne and the King
- Anne miscarried four times. Each time, the King took away more of her friends and her household.
- Anne gave birth, finally, after 20 years of marriage, and called her son Louis “God-given”; she and Louis XIV adored each other
- Anne and the King had a mistrustful marriage until the King died (he even tried to make sure that she couldn’t become regent for their 8-year-old son) but upon his death Anne assumed the regency

**Children:** Louis XIV (1638) and Philippe I (1640)

**Religion:** Catholic

**Life:**

- She was the first and most beloved daughter of her father
- She was married when she was 14, and was very excited to do it, for she saw it as the beginning of peace for the Spanish People
  - She also enthusiastically adopted France, learning the language fluently
- She was determined that Louis XIV should enjoy the same absolutism as his father, and kept power away from the nobles
  - She schemed using the help of Jules Mazarin, Richelieu’s protegee, and some historians have concluded the two were secretly married



- After her son succeeded to the throne and Mazarin died, Anne retreated from politics
- The legendary foreign-born queen of France is remembered for her political strategies and personal strength as regent.

#### **Personality:**

- Enjoyed the theater, music, dancing, and socializing
- Enjoyed visiting convents and churches; she actually first conceived after she attended the pilgrimage of Notre-Dame de Consolation in the nearby town of Thiézac
- Deeply religious
- Anne had many friends, including the mischievous and scheming Marie de Rohan-Montbazon, duchesse de Chevreuse; Louis ended up sending many of them away from her, especially after her miscarriages
- Was known as a “happy” lady whose happiness was overshadowed by her miserable marriage and her trouble fitting into her adopted country

#### **Public Opinion**

- Buckingham cast a pall over the Queen’s already imperiled reputation; Spain and France were enemies, and Louis’ marriage was unpopular. When gossip came out that Buckingham and the Queen were lovers, an entire country turned against her.
- Anne found herself at odds with her husband in 1635 after France declared war on Spain. During this time, she corresponded with her brother—who had become King Philip IV—on the sly. While she apparently never gave away any secrets, Anne was accused of treason by Cardinal Richelieu in 1637. She was eventually pardoned, but King Louis XIII remained suspicious of her for the rest of his life.