

Name: Louis XIII, or Louis the Just

Date of Birth: 9/27/1601

Date of Death: 6/14/1643, of tuberculosis

Age at time of story: Theoretically, 17 (if the novel takes place in 1627)

Parents: Henry IV, or Henry of Navarre

- of “Paris is worth a mass” fame

Marie de Medicis, Queen Regent

- disliked her son after he took over the kingship and raised two unsuccessful rebellions against him

Spouse: Anne of Austria (m. 1615)

- marriage was consummated but they did not sleep together for another three years (this was very odd and people thought he might be homosexual even though both of them were only 14 when they were married), they only had children after 20 years of marriage
- 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 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 (to the point where he actively persecuted Protestants); he was almost exclusively advised by Cardinal Richelieu after 1624

Early Life:

- As a child he was sullen, secretive and shy, probably due to the neglect of the Queen Regent, his mother
- Due to his appetite as a child, the membrane under his tongue was cut; this type of abuse scarred him into adulthood
- The Queen Regent’s principal minister was Cardinal Richelieu, and until Louis XIII gained majority he despised the Cardinal
- In 1624 Louis XIII officially appointed the Cardinal his personal minister; together the two proceeded to wage a great many wars, and ultimately Louis XIII left France in a good military position for his son Louis XIV

Personality:



- Demanded strict conformity to etiquette
- Held absolute authority at court, saying things such as “I wish you to know that I shall punish all those who conspire against me” or “I would not be king if I had the sentiments of ordinary men”
- Was willful; always managed to get what he wanted one way or another
- Displayed fearlessness in battle; deeply enjoyed being outside and fighting
- Supported the arts financially, but generally kept a somber court

Public Opinion

- Many thought Louis XIII promoted a chaotic state

“ Shall I speak of the thefts and atrocities committed by the scholars ; of the violence of the valets, that puts the entire town into confusion ; of the rage for duelling ; of the many murders committed by paid agents ; of the number of gaming houses ; of the licentious representations at the theatres ; of the fevers and pestilential diseases, engendered by poverty, dirt, and a bad police ? Do not let us forget, to crown the whole, the assassination of a beloved monarch, — a marshal of France murdered by his rival, who is rewarded for the murder with the baton of connetable ; the mother and the brothers of **Louis XIII.** driven from Paris by order of the monarch, who was too weak not to be cruel.

Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu

- “Louis XIII. has been well styled the Just, and he would have merited the title had he been known for nothing else than his steadfast confidence in his Cardinal-Minister. But his contemporaries inform us that the monarch chafed under the yoke of the great statesmen whom he could not but admire. We are told that he both envied and feared him, without whom, to use the words of Mme. de Motteville (the first to affirm this aversion), “he could not live, nor with him.” La Rochefoucauld, another contemporary, says that the King “bore the yoke impatiently”; and that “he hated Richelieu,” though “he never ceased to bend to the Cardinal’s will.”
- Letters between the King and the Cardinal suggest that the King trusted the Cardinal’s advice implicitly, but was always determined to hear the other side before he made a decision