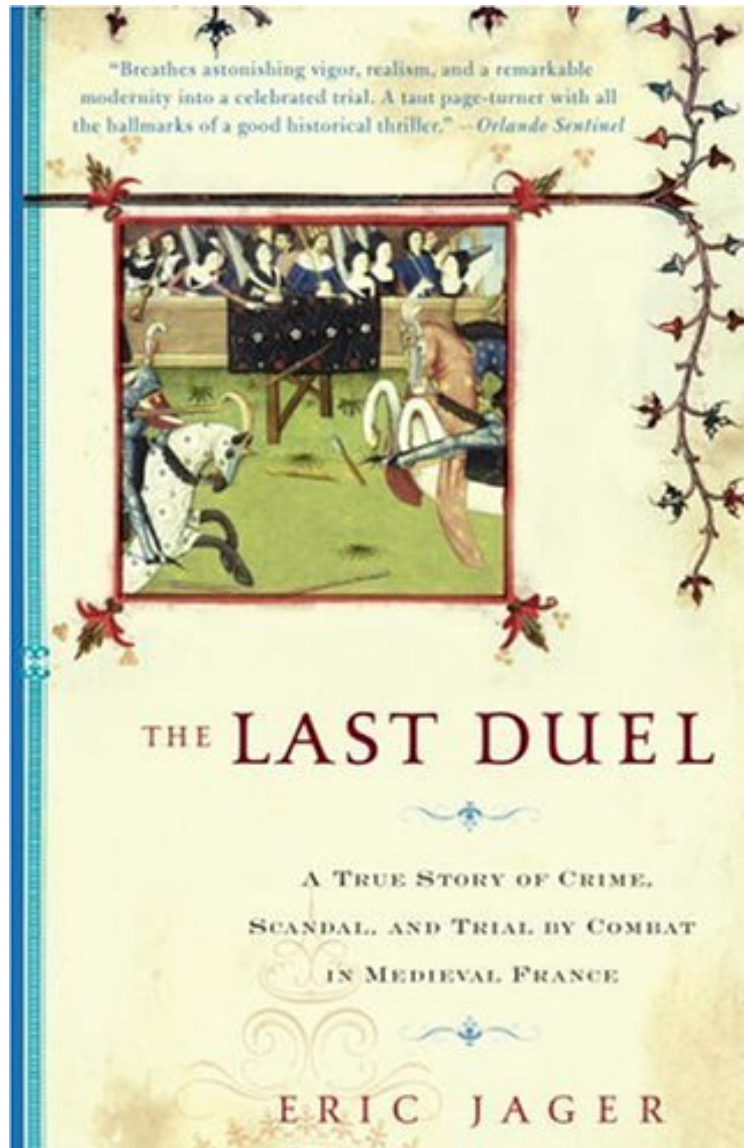


[Free] The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France

## The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France

*Eric Jager*

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#473663 in Books Eric Jager 2005-09-13 2005-09-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.00l, .40 #File Name: 0767914171256 pages The Last Duel A True Story of Crime Scandal and Trial by Combat in Medieval France | File size: 53.Mb

**Eric Jager : The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I liked it  
By Nancy H. That was quite a good book. Mr. Jager included several illustrations of documents that he had found and tapestries that showed the duel, I feel it's important to note that because illustrations don't come through well on a Kindle very often. I thought it was well researched, he went into different events that were examples of when a duel was fought in France at the time. Mr. Jager explained would happen to Marguerite in the event her husband Jean de Carrouges lost the duel. There is also a chapter at the end that explains why some of the claims made at a later date didn't hold up with the evidence that he uncovered in his research. I did enjoy this book and I may read it again.  
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable summer read  
By Surrydog If you are interested in medieval history, legal matters, Catholicism, and a fairly good yarn, this book is for you. It makes for somewhat slow reading, but picks up a bit 1/3 through the book, after which it is difficult to put down. The resolution of the duel, however, leaves some doubt as to what exactly happened in regard to the event that prompted the duel. Since I definitive endings and clear resolution to stories, this resulted in me rating the book at 4 stars rather than 5. Still, I recommended it to my wife, and I would recommend the book to anybody interested in law, history, or medieval matters.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Does not read like a boring historical non-fiction  
By Christian Eloquently written. Very interesting read. Jager captures the scenes masterfully and draws his readers in with his detailed accounts as if he'd witness the trial himself. Does not read like a boring historical non-fiction, at the same time, dutifully stays true to the actual events which occurred during the trial of the century. A must for anyone interested in European history or in the litigation processes of medieval Europe.

The gripping, atmospheric true story of the duel to end all duels in medieval France: a trial by combat pitting a knight against a squire accused of violating the knight's beautiful young wife. When Jean de Carrouges, a Norman knight, returns from combat in Scotland to find his wife, Marguerite, accusing Jacques LeGris, her husband's old friend and fellow courtier, of brutally raping her, the knight takes his cause before the teenage King Charles VI. Amid LeGris's vociferous claims of innocence and doubts about the now pregnant Marguerite's charges (and about the paternity of her child), the deadlocked court decrees a trial by combat that leaves her fate, too, in the balance. For if her husband and champion loses the duel, she will be put to death as a false accuser. Carrouges and LeGris, in full armor, eventually meet on a walled field in Paris before a massive crowd that includes the king and many nobles of the realm. A fierce fight on horseback and then on foot ensues during which both combatants suffer wounds but only one fatal. The violent and tragic episode was notorious in its own time because of the nature of the alleged crime, the legal impasse it provoked, and the resulting trial by combat, an ancient but increasingly suspect institution that was thereafter abolished. The dramatic true story of the knight, the squire, and the lady unfolds in 1386, during the devastating Hundred Years War between France and England, as enemy troops pillage the land, madness haunts the French court, the Great Schism splits the Church, Muslim armies threaten Christendom, and rebellion, treachery, and plague turn the lives of all into toys of Fortune. Based on extensive research in Normandy and Paris, *The Last Duel* brings to life a colorful, turbulent age and three unforgettable characters caught in a fatal triangle of crime, scandal, and revenge. It is at once a moving human drama, a captivating detective story, and an engrossing work of historical intrigue.

From Publishers Weekly  
In 1386, Jean de Carrouges accused his former friend, Jacques LeGris, of raping his wife, and the young king of France allowed their dispute to be resolved in what was to be the last legally ordered judicial combat in Paris. Jager deftly blends this story with the background necessary to understand it: the ideas behind trial by combat, the realities of 14th-century marriage, the complexity of the regional and central powers in France, and the personal rivalries at court. Jager describes a harsh and violent era, when public executions were a form of entertainment and both commoners and elites eagerly anticipated the increasingly rare duel to the death. But it was also a time of lawyers, chroniclers and ceremony. Jager doesn't condescend to the people of medieval France but explains the complicated logic by which they could believe that a duel would prove guilt or innocence, pregnancy could be considered proof that sex had been consensual, and a lady could be convicted and executed as a false accuser if her champion lost. A brief history of the duel demonstrates its origins in age-old military tradition rather than divine providence. Jager acknowledges where the definitive facts of his story are unknown while presenting a riveting account that will satisfy general readers and historians alike. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
\*Starred\* Feudal society in the Middle Ages was founded on a hierarchy of relationships between servants and lords. Improving one's station in life generally meant winning and retaining favor with one's lord. Sometimes this led to competition and jealousy among knights serving the same lord. Such was the case with Jean de Carrouges and Jacques LeGris, two fourteenth-century French nobles (one a knight, the other a squire). A rivalry formed between the once-close friends that started with jealousy, progressed into lawsuits, escalated with the alleged rape of Carrouges' wife by LeGris, and ended with a judicial duel to the death by which (it was believed) the righteous man would be revealed by God himself. Jager provides an excellent depiction of feudal society, placing the reader into the lives of knights and nobles, detailing their relationships with each other and their lords. The ongoing Hundred Years' War and each man's role in it give this personal conflict its historical context. The story of the duel and the rivalry leading up to it make for quick reading as enthralling and engrossing as any about

a high-profile celebrity scandal today. Gavin Quinn Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved  
Advance Praise for *The Last Duel* This high-suspense, sanguinary tale ensnares readers. . . . The tension is nearly unendurable. . . . Sex, savagery, and high-level political maneuvers energize a splendid piece of popular history. Kirkus  
sAn enthralling story that reads like fiction but is based on reliable sources. A world of passion, cruelty, and mismanaged law. Norman Cantor, author of *Inventing the Middle Ages* and *In the Wake of the Plague* If you read only one book about the Middle Ages, Eric Jager's thriller is the one to read. Steven Ozment, author of *A Mighty Fortress* and *The Burgermeisters Daughter* Eric Jager uses the historical record to marvelous effect when recounting the riveting story of two men locked in mortal combat. . . . Two worlds duel in this fascinating portrait of an end of an age—the feudal aristocracy and the chivalric court and who we deem the true victor is brilliantly left open to interpretation in Jager's engrossing tale. Margaret F. Rosenthal, author of *The Honest Courtesan* A spectacular panorama of the late Middle Ages. . . a historical thriller that leaves us with the impression of having known and lived in another world. It combines the vivid erudition of Barbara Tuchman's *Distant Mirror* with the suspense and drama of Umberto Eco's *Name of the Rose*. Eric Jager has invented a genre that reminds us that human nature has not changed very much over the ages and that sometimes reality is bigger than life and more riveting than fiction. R. Howard Bloch, Augustus R. Street Professor of French, Yale University