

This chapter is part of a book in progress entitled “*The Politics of Emotions: Love, Grief, and Madness in the Court Culture of Medieval and Early Modern Iberia*,” This study explores the intersection of love, grief, madness, emotions, gender, and political power in the Iberian Peninsula in the transition from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern period. Although this book will approach these themes broadly, it focuses on three particular individuals: Isabel of Portugal (1428–96), the queen-consort of Castile, Isabel of Aragon (1470–98), the queen-consort of Portugal, and Juana of Castile (1479–1555), who ruled Castile and the Spanish Empire in her own right. Chapter 4 centers on Isabel of Portugal who married to Juan II of Castile and became parents of Isabel I of Castile the Catholic. This chapter analyzes Isabel of Portugal’s reputation as a sick and melancholic dowager queen after her husband’s passing in 1454 and considers the reasons behind her retirement from court. It also examines her allegedly fraught relationship with one of her ladies-in-waiting, Beatriz de Silva, who was eventually canonized. The hagiographical narratives written to promote Beatriz’s order and her canonization present a violently jealous and insane Isabel pushing Beatriz towards sainthood, while depriving these women of the agency they showed in life.