



She was sixteen and doomed to a lifelong
passion for a Royalist captain.

He was thirty-four, a poet and Puritan,
obsessed by her long golden hair.

Marie Powell married John Milton in payment of a
debt. It was a mismatching of bitter ineptitude,
for in temperament and conviction they were
worlds apart.

Their marriage is the focus of this superb novel.
Rich in atmosphere and period detail, it brilliantly
invokes the passions that swept the country,
deftly counterpointing the tragedy of two thwarted
lives against a backdrop of faction, violence
and waste.