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Posted on 06 April 2019 By Antonia Fraser

`FREE PDF ? Marie Antoinette: The Journey ? PDF eBook or Kindle ePUB

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I have a slight fascination with Marie Antoinette. She is what led me to study the French Revolution when I did my minor in History. While in Paris, I wanted to visit everything related to her, and when anything on the History Channel comes on about the French Rev., I must watch it. She is probably one of the most misunderstood monarchs. I suppose it's unjust of me to sympathize with her, but she too, was just a girl. Married at 14 to a prince who knew nothing about how to rule a kingdom. Forced to learn the French language and the French ways. Taught that decadence was her right and then punished for living up to that expectation. Forced to see friends and loved ones beheaded. I can never get over how they lifted the Princess de Lamballe's head on a stake just for her to see just out of cruelty. I'm sure her mother, the Empress of Austria, had no idea what kind of life she was sending her daughter to live. Had she known, she probably would have sent her to a nunnery at birth.

Not only does Antonia Frasier dispell the rumor that Marie Antoinette ever uttered let them eat cake when told that the French were starved for bread, she gives a fuller picture of the queen that shows her than just an extravagant self involved royal out of touch with reality. Frasier packs in gossipy details that keep this from being a dry read. Marie Antoinette is born to be a pawn in her mother's Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresa bid to expand Hapsburg power and influence. At the age of 14, a deal is cut for Antoine to marry the future king of France, sealing an alliance between the two empires. Immediately, preparations begin to prepare her for the marriage. Since birth, Marie Antoinette, like all good royal girls, is groomed to be a feminine and submissive royal wife, with lessons in dance, music and etiquette. Unfortunately she is otherwise poorly educated, even by 18th century standards. At 15, she is wed to the French dauphin and shipped to France, where she is expected, with not so gentle prodding by her mother and the French royal court to deliver a future king. Until she delivers, her position in France is uncertain. Frasier details the early struggles of the teenage couple's marriage and the years it took them to finally consummate it, while painting a vivid picture of royal life with the full court. Marie Antoinette is dressed by ladies in waiting, who get to help based on rank. The royals are crazy. Her mother through Antoinette's servants monitors her monthly periods, others knew the details about when the queen and king tried or had sex. When she finally gives birth, it's before a gathering of those invited based on rank. Of course, in 18th century France, these were all matters of national importance indicating the future direction of the country. It goes a long way to explaining why Marie Antionette and Louis XVI were so unprepared when they became king and queen. They were born to rule via a trusted circle of advisers, of course but when the rules changed after the French Revolution, neither Louis nor Marie Antionette who apparently had little influence in her husband's political decisions were bright enough politicians or visionary enough to see a new role for the monarchy and instead fought every measure to

limit their power, eventually even trying to get Austria to send in troops to help restore them to the throne. By the time the revolution rolls around, Frasier has drunk the kool aid and is fully on the King and Queen's side, explaining why the royals did what they did. Whether it be trying to preserve the King's power or their eventual failed escape from Paris, she paints a picture of a king and queen who were devoted to their children and believed the future of France was best served by keeping the king in power. It would have been interesting to get perspective on the problems going on in the country and whether the King and Queen were totally disconnected as at least Marie Antionette seemed to be. The French Revolution was bloody and eventually led to leaders killing previous leaders in a near continual cleansing and it's easy to believe that by the time of King Louis' execution and then Marie Antoinette's that revolution leaders had gone too far. Even Thomas Paine argued that the family should be allowed to leave the country and resettle in America. Because Frasier seems to be so behind the royal cause doomed to history, it's hard to feel like an impartial observer and I at times ended up arguing with the book for its characterization of the King and Queen's actions, which comes off as a defense. Frasier gives great insight into Marie Antionette's life and experience up to the end, but she doesn't apply her critical eye to their actions leading to the revolution and during it. At the same time, she rightfully doesn't spare the revolutionaries. As a former French major in college, I really enjoyed this book and learned so much about this period of time and the dynamics of the monarchy in France. While at times it was difficult to keep all the characters straight since they had multiple names/titles, I found that the overall narrative was compelling. Most people today have little sympathy for this queen, but I came away from this book with a much altered impression of her character and personality. She was truly in an impossible position: a queen in a country where the royalty was expected to live in a certain fashion, where, in fact, the people demanded it, and yet where the resentment for that lifestyle would eventually be her demise. It reminded me of the hero worship of athletes and entertainment celebrities yet the gratification many feel when they are brought down. It's as though we want them to be bigger than life and put them in that place, yet resent it at the same time. Anyway, an interesting read for the history buff. You will most certainly come away with a much greater understanding of and sympathy for Marie Antoinette.

Madame, vistas v s da ustria para isto Lu s XVIMaria Antonieta era uma inquestion vel amante do prazer e na persegui o desse prazer foi extravagante. O facto de a fam lia real francesa, no seu todo, ser pr diga nos seus gastos, o que explica a atmosfera em que Maria Antonieta vivia, n o a isenta de culpa. No entanto, devemos acrescentar em sua defesa n o s a beleza que criou sua volta, mas tamb m o gosto genu no pelas artes, especialmente a m sica em todas as suas formas, o que fez dela uma protetora generosa. H ainda a quest o de a sua frivolidade ser o resultado de uma situa o extremamente infeliz e humilhante durante os primeiros sete anos e meio do seu casamento. O azar perseguiu a mal p s os p s em Fran a, embaixatriz indesejada e inadequada de uma grande pot ncia, esposa menina rejeitada at ao fim, at se tornar o bode

expiat rio de uma monarquia em decad ncia Sofia Coppola inspirou se neste livro para realizar o conhecido filme Marie Antoinette Do filme, fica nos essa ideia de futilidade e pouco mais Terminada a leitura, lamento a ligeireza com que a realizadora passou sobre a figura de Maria Antonieta, sobretudo sobre a parte final da sua vida, onde o dramatismo se acentuou Fuga, pris o, cativoiro, julgamento, condena o e morte Segundo esta biografia, provou o quanto era dedicada ao rei e aos filhos, e manteve a dignidade e humildade at ao ltimo minuto. Marie is bae. Marie Antoinette 0 385 48949 8I love reading and learning about Marie Antoinette as a historical figure she had such a fascinating life, and was such an interesting person but I could not have been disappointed with this book I m really surprised that it has so many high ratings, so take my review with a grain of salt, but I just found this book to be a complete chore to wade through.It s really frustrating to see Fraser take such a fascinating historical figure and rob her of all interest with some of the dulllest writing and bald assertions I ve ever seen in a biography I m sorry to say that the book reads like the worst of high school history books dryly vomiting up names and dates with very little context, and jumping about the map to cover events chronologically with very little effort made to tie events to one another with any sort of compelling or competent narrative Fraser seems to regard name dropping and quote dropping as being most crucial details, and thus she never hesitates to drop in random quotes from various philosophers, sooth sayers, and poets even when doing so is distracting and detracts from the narrative flow Too much bald assertion is used here, and to ill effect For example, Fraser insists that Marie Antoinette s memorable re dressing ceremony was simply not bothersome or traumatic to the young woman, because it was the fashion of the time, not unusual at all, and that she had, after all, been treated as a doll, to be dressed up in this and that at the adults whim since childhood this was just one example of that process This may be personal preference, but I dislike this style of writing in biographies either tell us how the subject felt through actual, historical sources OR tell us how they might have regarded an experience, based on conjectures from personality documented through actual, historical sources Do not, however, just attempt to channel the spirit of the biography from the depths of time, and tell us how they felt, because it s just not accurate it s one woman s opinion The entire book is written in this vein, and you just never get the impression that you re reading actual history, but rather Fraser s version of how she has decided it must have been Whether you trust her to be the expert and know what she is talking about is another matter I recommend avoiding this book As a source for Marie Antoinette, I found it sadly lacking, as much of what Fraser asserts as truth is undocumented at best As reading material, I was repulsed by the turgid prose and by the jump around the map, cram everything in without context, and drop a lot of cool sounding quotes approach to history Ana Mardoll I am not a history buff, so it s hard for me to judge if this book is historically accurate What I can attest to is that Antonia Fraser knows how to write a very engaging non fictional narrative And from my limited experience with non fiction, it is a hard thing to do

Marie Antoinette doesn't appear to be an overly objective book, the tone of it is very involved and I guess that's what makes it so readable. Fraser paints a very sympathetic portrait of Marie Antoinette, who at some point in French history was the most hated woman in the country and was accused of being sexually deviant to the point of incest, an Austrian spy, an enemy of French people, of bankrupting the country. The list goes on. Fraser's French queen is extremely likable. Not raised for the high throne, lacking education and crucial understanding of politics, Marie Antoinette is a tragic figure than anything else. She marries French Dauphin at the age of 14 almost by default, when her sister dies. Without proper tutoring, with her marriage unconsummated for over 7 years, Marie Antoinette keeps herself busy by frivolous occupations: she organizes parties, she dances, she gambles, she buys jewelry and dresses. She is kept in the dark about politics and current events, her first obligation is to be a decoration, not to rule French people who are struggling under heavy taxes. As the years pass, Marie Antoinette becomes a mother, and a great mother at that. She is still apolitical, and yet strangely held responsible for everything bad happening in the country. Marie Antoinette's political awakening finally happens when France is taken over by the revolutionary forces. When her husband, as inexperienced in politics as she is, finds he has no courage or ability to make decisions about their future, it is Marie Antoinette who takes charge and attempts to salvage monarchy for her son. Unfortunately, due to the lack of clear understanding of politics, she is unable to make the right decisions, and her entire family eventually meets an awful demise. Marie Antoinette is an interesting and sad story of a woman whose only aspirations are her family and peaceful life. She is thrown into the world of politics without any preparation and is quickly consumed by it. Recommended to those readers who are interested in history and biographies of royalty. This was a good for a beach-ready kind of history. Fraser's good in terms of readability, but she bends over backwards to explain how Antoinette was misunderstood without really coming to terms with the complexity of her public face. I would have liked footnotes, although I'm probably not the target audience in that regard. I REALLY would have liked some editing, not just in terms of overall repetitiveness, but in terms of readability. Fraser writes engagingly and well most of the time, but every now and then, you arrive at these sentences that make no sense at all. I prefer histories that try to stir up an argument or some kind of engagement with the reader. I felt like I was being handed a bill of goods.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

ANTONIA FRASER

MARIE
ANTOINETTE

The Journey

the
book that
inspired
the film

"Fascinating . . .
the court at Versailles
comes alive."
—*The Washington Post*



Next Saturday, October 16th will be her 217th Death Anniversary On that same day, 217 years ago, Marie Antoinette or Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna 1755 1793 was executed by guillotine She was convicted of treason Nine months prior to that her husband, King Louis XIV was executed These all happened at the height of the French Revolution 1789 1799. Marie Antoinette was a victim from birth to death Her marriage to King Louis XIV was a move to forge alliances among the warring countries included in the Seven Years War Included in these countries were Austria, where Marie Antoinette was an Archduchess and France, where Louis Auguste who became King Louis XIV was a Dauphin Prior to their marriage, France was used to be Austria's traditional enemy Even at the time of her execution, peasants were shouting Hang the Austrian woman Long live France Marie Antoinette did not dream of becoming a French queen She just followed the wishes of her mother, Empress Maria Theresa who she did not have a good relation as she later had her favorite, Marie Antoinette's younger sister, Maria Carolina Thus leaving Hamburg for Paris to live in Versailles was Marie Antoinette's way of ending her jealousy of being the less favoured daughter of the empress. Unfortunately, King Louis XIV did not love her and it took time for their marriage to be consummated They had 4 children and two of them died at their young age Their eldest survived, Marie Therese Charlotte 1778 1851 who later became Dauphine of France upon ascension of her father in law to the throne of France in 1824 After the death of the first son who died at the age of 7, the second son third child was born Louis XVII 1785 1795 He, too died but this time, during the imprisonment of her parents in the palace tower The line let them eat cake, with them being the hungry French peasants because of bread shortage, has not been proven to have come from her It first appeared in Jean Jacques Rousseau's Confessions but Rousseau did not name who the great princess was Marie Antoinette was never a political animal She had no power and was content in playing her role as a queen attending social functions and doing civic works Her unhappy marriage resulted to her becoming frivolous She dressed herself up extravagantly and wanted to have all the luxuries despite the poor economic condition of the country She was accused of everything from lesbianism, occult and having incestuous relation with her own son. This is a heartfelt biography of a misunderstood famous figure in French history She is said to be one of the 4 world famous French figures in the history following Napoleon Bonaparte, Joan of Arc and Charles de Gaulle According to Wiki, Fraser's depiction of Marie Antoinette here is kind For me, that's baloney This work presented the balanced view of Marie Antoinette and is well documented as Fraser has all the footnotes and cross references Is anybody here a mother was her heartfelt line during her trial when her accuser brought up her alleged incestuous relation with her own son Pardon me Sir, I meant not to do it were her last words addressing her executioner when Marie Antoinette accidentally stepped on his toes on her way to the guillotine Oh yes, like her king husband he faced her trial and execution with grace Those last words that should have come from the people who condemned her, in my honest opinion Her being a political pawn and

scapegoat was too tragic A queen killed by her own people was too sad Excellent writing though Well researched Amazing biography `FREE PDF ? Marie Antoinette: The Journey ? Brilliantly Written, A Work Of Impeccable Scholarship An Utterly Riveting And Intensely Moving Book By One Of Our Finest Biographers Never Before Has The Life Of Marie Antoinette Been Told So Intimately And With Such Authority As In Antonia Fraser S Newest Work, Marie Antoinette The Journey Famously Known As The Eighteenth Century French Queen Whose Excesses Have Become Legend, Marie Antoinette Was Blamed For Instigating The French Revolution But The Story Of Her Journey Begun As A Fourteen Year Old Sent From Vienna To Marry The Future Louis XVI To Her Courageous Defense Before She Was Sent To The Guillotine Reveals A Woman Of Greater Complexity And Character Than We Have Previously Understood We Stand Beside Marie Antoinette And Witness The Drama Of Her Life As She Becomes A Scapegoat Of The Ancien Regime When Her Faults Were Minor In Comparison To The Punishments Inflicted On Her The Youngest Daughter, Fifteenth Out Of Sixteen Children, Of Austrian Empress Maria Teresa And Francis I, Marie Antoinette Was Sent On A Literal Journey By Her Mother From Vienna To Versailles With The Expectation That She Would Further Austrian Interests At All Times Yet, Marie Antoinette Was By Nature Far From Interested In State Affairs And Much Inclined To Exert A Gracious, Philanthropic Role, Patronizing The Arts Especially Music, As Royalty Would Come To Behave In The Nineteenth Century Despite This The French Accused Her Of Political Interference And Wrote Scandalous Tracts Against Her, Mocking Her Lack Of Sophistication Meanwhile, Longing For A Family And The Birth Of An Heir Who Would Have Cemented The Franco Austro Alliance, The French Queen Had To Endure Than Eight Years Of Public Humiliation For Her Barren Marriage Before The Delivery Of Her First Of Four Children As These Problems Unfold, Antonia Fraser Also Weaves A Richly Detailed Account Of Marie Antoinette S Other, Poignant Journey From The Ill Educated And Unprepared Girl Who Sought Refuge In Pleasure As A Consolation Into A Magnificent, Courageous Woman Who Defied Her Enemies At Her Trial With Consummate Intelligence, Arousing The Admiration Of Even The Most Hostile Revolutionaries Brilliantly Written, Marie Antoinette Is A Work Of Impeccable Scholarship Drawing On A Wealth Of Family Letters And Other Archival Materials, Antonia Fraser Successfully Avoids The Hagiography Of Some The French Queen S Admirers And The Misogyny Of Many Of Her Critics The Result Is An Utterly Riveting And Intensely Moving Book By One Of Our Finest Biographers

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