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Look to the Hills: The Diary of Lozette Moreau, a French Slave Girl

Posted on 10 November 2019 By Amanda Foreman

(((DOWNLOAD))) ? Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire PDF eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Do you recognise this person A shy English teenager, she blossomed after she was catapulted to fame by marrying an older, wealthier man Although she had been born into a rich and influential family, her husband came from an even prestigious family After her marriage, she became universally adored a trendsetting fashion icon, who turned heads whenever she entered a room Everything she did, said and wore became news.Yet her confident public persona hid a multitude of personal troubles Her self esteem became so low that she endured periods of loneliness and depression, and was occasionally subject to cycles of starvation and binge eating She was a vulnerable woman who lived the life of an icon.Of course, you might say, this thumbnail sketch is instantly recognisable it is of Diana, Princess of Wales Yet this description not only fits the former Princess, but also Georgiana Cavendish, the subject of Amanda Foreman s 1998 biography, Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire, who died than 200 years ago Even strangely, the two were related Georgiana s maiden name was Spencer , as was Diana s, and she was Diana s great great great great aunt.Both Diana and Georgiana Spencer were born at the family home at Althorp Both sat for artists Mario Testino painted Diana, just as Thomas Gainsborough and Joshua

Reynolds had both painted Georgiana, two centuries earlier Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire Gainsborough Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire Reynolds Both became popular, quickly achieving celebrity status The Morning Herald and The Daily Advertiser each published at least one story a week about Georgiana from 1781 The public bestowed their affection and loyalty on her, when it became obvious that her marriage would never make her happy It seemed as if everyone was in love with Georgiana, except her husband, who showed no concern even when she fainted at a ball during their engagement, preferring to carry on talking to his friends about dogs Indeed the first chapter ends in a nearby rented villa on their wedding day, where another woman, a milliner called Charlotte, was nursing the baby she had had by the Duke. Georgiana suffered the humiliation of being trapped in a very public m nage trois, with her husband and her best friend Bess , Lady Elizabeth Foster, finding herself at the centre of 18th century England s best known love triangle The Duke expected two things from her an heir, and not to gamble his fortune away, but for a long time, it looked as if Georgiana could do neither She continued as an outwardly poised, flamboyant leader of fashion and the Queen of the ton, but she developed eating disorders, became addicted to drink and drugs, and through constant gambling, became heavily in debt This is where the two histories diverge. Lady Georgiana Spencer was just 17 in 1774, when she married the 26 year old William Cavendish, the 5th Duke of Devonshire She had been contracted by her mother, Lady Spencer, to marry England s most powerful aristocrat, and her dowry was immense Georgiana s father was wealthy, and she grew up moving between a series of palaces Her new husband s family, though, had vast estates, including Chatsworth, Hardwick, Londesborough, Bolton Abbey, Lis Castle, Chiswick House, Burlington House and Devonshire House The family owned the electoral boroughs which effectively controlled 23 seats in the House of Commons. There were 200 peers of whom 28 were the highest ranking, Dukes All the peers were entitled by birth to sit in the House of Lords, and 558 members of parliament often their friends and relatives would sit in the House of Commons Britain itself still had less than ten million people, of whom only about 3 per cent were entitled to vote As the wife of a Duke, Georgiana therefore immediately became one of the most influential figures of her time. The periods of English history which stand out as most familiar, are probably the Tudors, the Victorians and the two World Wars Other than that, our knowledge is patchy, unless we have studied history Our views about the freedoms of Georgian females are likely to be inaccurate assumptions, based on our knowledge of the straight laced and outwardly respectable Victorians. Georgiana s acquaintances were very different They included titled ladies who sold their bodies to pay off their gambling debts, or to promote their husbands political careers Others quietly disappeared abroad to give birth to illegitimate children or adopted those of their husbands Georgiana was in fact herself to do both of these In the 18th century, a noblewoman was free to do largely as she pleased, once she had produced an heir. Since William usually looked elsewhere for his sexual pleasures, Georgiana had to do something about it She

duly consulted a celebrated fertility doctor, James Graham, who was popular with the childless nobility. In his Temple of Health and Hymen, infertile couples paid an exorbitant 50 a night to make love on the electro-magnetic bed in his celestial chamber to the strains of an orchestra playing outside, while a pressure cylinder pumped magnetic fire into the room.

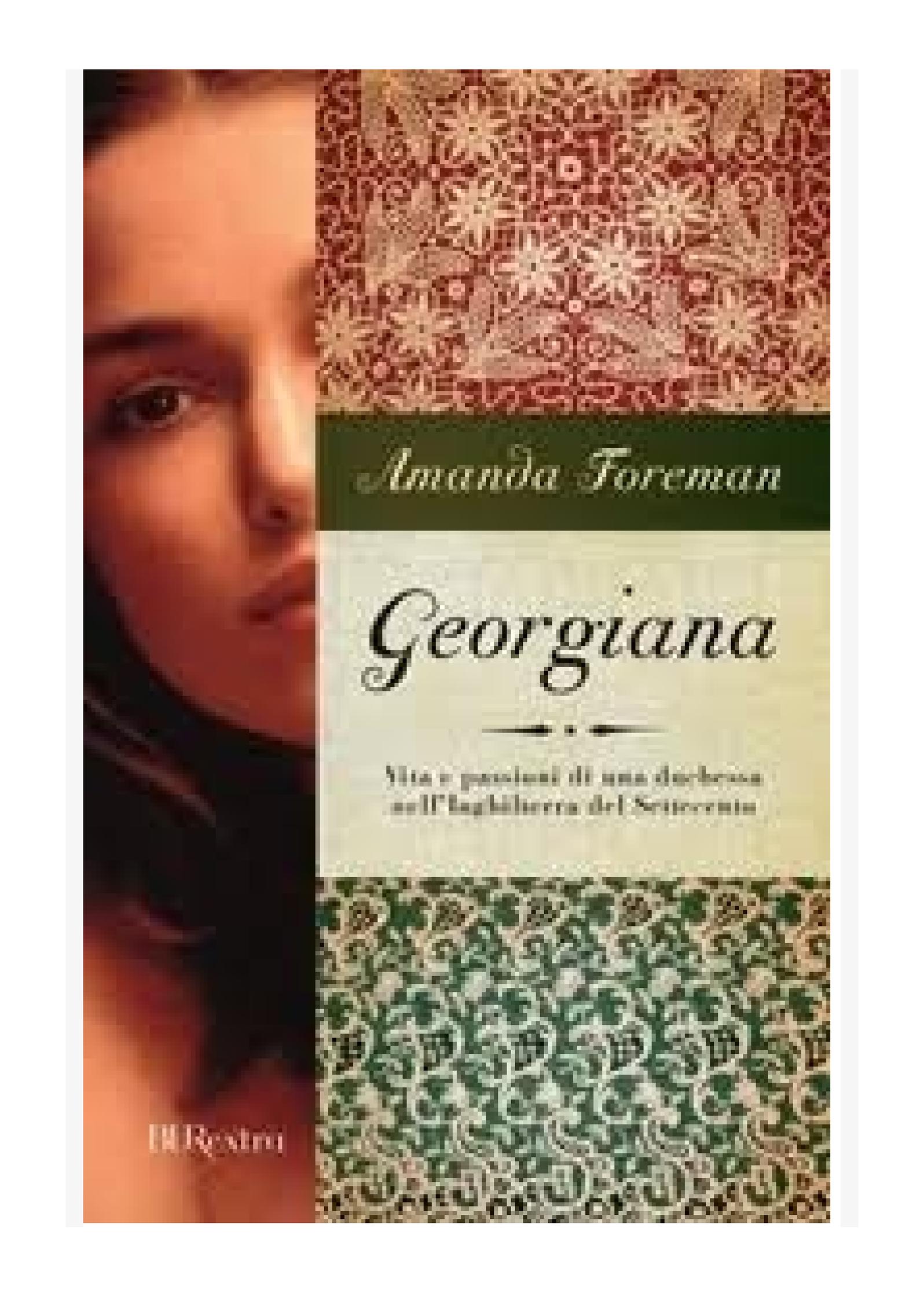
Females in the 18th century could take the initiative in many areas. Both the Spencer and Cavendish families were reformist Whigs, but the Duke's position made it impossible for him to become involved in politics. Georgiana therefore became the public face of the family's political ambitions. Although women could not vote at the time, and were barred from the House of Commons, Georgiana was an intelligent, insightful woman. She was very interested in Enlightenment philosophy, and understanding the importance of public relations very well, she became a passionate contestant in the political arena. She devoted herself to the Whig party campaigning, scheming, fund-raising and recruiting for it until the day she died. Georgiana made Devonshire House, the couple's London home, the centre of activities for Britain's fashionable opposition party. The Whigs were great landowners who contested the power of the crown which at that time sat rather uneasily on the head of the increasingly insane George III and who supported the American War of Independence. George III and his prime minister William Pitt were furious that Georgiana had tempted the vain, idle Prince of Wales into her inner circle, thereby enabling her later to save the fragile Whig coalition government from collapsing. No one in England knew that the fate of the government rested on a woman's influence with a spoiled youth. Whig society was liberal and worldly. It was artistic, gossipy, and not what we would consider polite. After glittering, spectacular balls and lavish dinners with large quantities of alcohol, the women would withdraw, in order for the men to continue their postprandial boozing. The toasting went on for so long that chamber pots were provided, and one French visitor observed that the man with occasion to use one, does not even interrupt his talk during the operation. Georgiana was intelligent, funny and charming. She was a patron of both the sciences and the arts: an amateur chemist and mineralogist, an accomplished musician, poet and novelist. A French diplomat wrote of her in his memoir: "When she appeared, every eye was turned towards her; when absent, she was the topic of universal conversation." Georgiana enjoyed poking fun at everyone, including herself. When big hair started to become fashionable, she created a sensation by creating an elaborate three-foot tower, padded out with wads of horsehair and embellishments, such as a ship in full sail, or a still life with waxed fruit and stuffed birds. Other ladies, slaves to fashion, followed her lead, teetering beneath stacks of hair so tall that they had to ride seated on the floors of their carriages. Georgiana went through the family money like water, spending huge amounts of money on clothes, partying, drinking, and gambling, sometimes all night. She turned her drawing room into a casino, with a commercial bank and professional croupiers. "I do assure you it is innate," she said, "for I remember playing from 7 in the morning till 8 at night at lansquenet with old Mrs Newton when I was 9 years old and was sent to King's Road for the measles." But she accumulated

huge debts, unbeknown to her husband A friend, the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan advised paying only encourages them So she told endless lies, making light of her debts to both her friends and her bankers, and even borrowing money from the Prince of Wales. When Georgiana was blackmailed in 1787, she confessed to the Duke that she was unable to repay her debts Her self esteem had become so low that she was totally dependent on her friend Bess, who lived with with the couple as the Duke s mistress Bess was torn between helping Georgiana pay her debts, and convincing the Duke to separate from her. Although by modern standards, this story may seem scandalous, there is no evidence that Georgiana, Bess and the Duke of Devonshire were not all perfectly happy with their arrangement Historians say that at that time, men accepted the fact that married women had romantic relationships with other women, as this allowed them to find comfort without harming the essential fabric of society Georgiana s relationship with Bess, seems to have been a romantic, and possibly a physical or sexual one, too This was nothing new for Georgiana. In a visit to France in 1775, Georgiana had become intimately acquainted with Marie Antoinette and the Duchesse de Polignac Rumours about their relationship had spread like wildfire around the Court at Versailles On her return to England, Georgiana then established a passionate relationship with Mrs Mary Graham One of her letters says I want to say above all that I love you, my dear friend, and kiss you tenderly Georgiana then met Bess in 1782, and they began a relationship which would last their entire lives Their letters contained passionate language, which indicates the intensity of their relationship God bless you my angel love, I adore and love you beyond description I declare to God I am half mad Oh Bess, every sensation I feel but heightens my adoration for you Georgiana had several miscarriages, but eventually gave birth to three children first two daughters and then Hart, a long awaited male heir Georgiana also had a child out of wedlock with Charles Grey, a Whig politician, who would later go on to become prime minister His government passed the Reform Act in 1832, which finally saw the reform of the House of Commons, and the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire in 1833, following William Wilberforce s Slave Trade Act of 1807 Now however we are likely to remember him as giving his name to Earl Grey tea In 1791, Georgiana was banished to the Continent for two years, where she gave birth to Charles Grey s daughter, Eliza Bess accompanied her, and chose to stay with Georgiana for several months, rather than return to the Duke, who insisted that the child interestingly, an ancestor of the Duchess of York was handed over to Grey s parents, who brought her up. The affairs of this privileged circle continue to sound like a modern day soap opera Georgiana s sister Harriet, had two illegitimate children by Lord Granville Leveson Gower, and also had an affair with Sheridan Sheridan s wife was jealous, and had an affair with Georgina s husband the Duke Lord Granville eventually married Georgiana s daughter Harriet s niece, Harryo Thus she became stepmother to her own two cousins, while another legitimate cousin, Caroline, went on to become the notorious Lady Caroline Lamb, the mistress of Byron. Georgiana s own many affairs nearly caused her husband to divorce her,

despite his own profligacy, and that of their circle Double standards for men and women were taken for granted The social s allowed him to produce a number of children out of wedlock, but not Georgiana Eventually their household would include three children by Georgiana, two by Georgiana s close friend, Bess Foster, and one by a former mistress of the Duke For than 20 years, until Georgiana s early death, she, Bess and the duke lived together Three years after Georgiana died, the Duke married Bess, who felt it her severe duty to be the Duchess of Devonshire It seems as though Georgiana might have foreseen this, as upon her death in 1806, Georgiana had made Bess the sole guardian of her papers, thus giving her security for at least a time. In a way, this biography is a tale of decadence and excess, and this was the slant taken when rewriting it as a script, for the film *The Duchess* The film hypes it up, creating scenes of great palladian houses, public celebrity and female flamboyance The camera lovingly dwells on the rustling pastel silks, gorgeous gowns with glittering flashes of diamonds, plate, carriages, and lavish dinners There is a constant entourage of footmen and servants, wild parties, love and sexual intrigue and just a nod to party politics. Keira Knightley did her best with the script, but was forced to portray Georgiana as a doe eyed victim a misunderstood woman Her passionate devotion to the Whig cause was presented as a trivial diversion The film barely mentions Georgiana s part in the Westminster election of 1784 Yet in reality, this was the most notorious public episode of her life Georgiana canvassed the streets for the Whig candidate, Charles James Fox, and was pilloried by the press for her efforts He was not a relative, nor was his constituency a family borough, yet Georgiana was willing to bring a torrent of abuse on herself She became the first woman to appear on political platforms, and famously traded kisses for votes on the hustings Many obscene cartoons show satirists, including the famous Thomas Rowlandson, shamelessly caricaturing her sexual reputation Nevertheless, Georgiana s family pressed her to continue the campaign, criticising her for breastfeeding her daughter, Little G , not for street politics In fact well read society women of the time were influenced by Rousseau s view that breastfeeding was preferable to having a wet nurse Georgiana s action was part of her Enlightenment philosophy, but the film uses it to make a different point, from current feminist perspectives. The film s focus is entirely on the bedroom, and not on politics, capitalising on Georgiana as the empress of fashion , to mislead the audience It travesties her very real political influence, making a simplistic point about the lack of political rights for females When they are newly married, the Duke complains that women s clothes are too complicated You have so many ways to express yourself, Georgiana pouts at her husband, but we have only hats It is a cheap joke. There are some credibly theatrical moments in *The Duchess* For instance on Georgiana s wedding night, her new husband demands the scissors, to cut her out of the bridal finery, into which she had been sewn In another comic scene Georgiana, slightly the worse for drink, staggers into the candles in the ballroom, and her huge starched wig catches fire This elicits the wonderful line Please put out Her Grace s hair True to 18th century erotica, Georgiana

wears white stockings and pink garters in bed We can also believe that the Duke does not care if a servant hears his noisy grunts as he indulges in sex with various women, or threatening his wife with exile. But these are details, and taken as a whole this film is flawed. It is only very loosely based on the book, and seems intent on showing us a modern drama, skewed to modern tastes and preconceptions. Surely Georgiana, the film pleads, must have the heart of a modern girl who just needs a bit of love and understanding. The Georgians were really just like us, but dressier. The poster blares a blatant reference to Diana there were three people in the marriage. The film remains narrow in its focus, with no wider perspective on the historical era. It begins with the moment when Georgiana receives the marriage proposal, and ends with her return to the Duke after the end of her affair with Charles Grey and the birth of their illegitimate daughter. Charles Grey is portrayed as the only other person with whom Georgiana has a sexual relationship, and the portrayal of her relationship with Bess is coy, making Bess merely her confidante, to whom she tells intimate secrets. Historical biographies are not my chosen reading, and I would usually find them a bit of a slog. The attraction of this one was Chatsworth, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's estate. It is in Derbyshire many miles from the county of Devon, which may be confusing to a non-English reader and was the local stately home, which I used to visit as a child. The building itself is a lavish pile, with extravagantly ornate Baroque furnishings and heavy use of gilt on all the surfaces, and the grounds, landscaped by Capability Brown, are breathtaking, gentle grassy slopes, with a lake, mature trees, and cultivated areas. Herds of deer roam, and you can get a glimpse of one or two if you are lucky. For as long as I can remember, these aristocrats have allowed the public open access to their grounds. Picnic makers and walkers alike are free to wander, walk or drive through, without charge. I was interested in the dynasty, and this biography proved to be a fascinating read, although a little dry in parts. It did begin as Amanda Foreman's doctoral thesis for Oxford University, after all, and has an strictly academic flavour. Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire is a long book, nearly a thousand pages, in four sections: I Debutante II Politics III Exile IV Georgiana Redux. There is also an Introduction and an Epilogue, a Note on 18th Century Politics, a Chronology, Notes, and a Select Biography, all of which are quite comprehensive. It is illustrated, with monochrome reproductions of contemporary portraits, etchings and cartoons from the time, often two to a page and quite small. They are grouped in the centre. I am pleased to have read a reliable, well researched biography of this remarkable woman. She was not just the it girl of her time, a fashion plate and pioneer of big hair, friend of Marie Antoinette, and the real life inspiration for Sheridan's Lady Teazle, in *A School for Scandal*. She was a force to be reckoned with in politics, as well as in society. I did not find the book mesmerizing, as Antonia Fraser claimed in the *Literary Review*, but it was an absorbing read, and certainly shed new light for me on the nobility of eighteenth century England. I can happily recommend this as a great read for either a scholar or a general reader. ((DOWNLOAD))) ? Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire ? Lady Georgiana

Spencer, Nata Nel Nella Campagna A Nord Di Londra, Moglie Del Quinto Duca Del Devonshire E Antenata Di Lady Diana, Anim I Salotti Della Societ Inglese Ed Europea Del Suo Tempo Protesse Le Arti, Scrisse Romanzi, Aliment Un Epistolario Sorprendente Per Brio E Acutezza, Si Dilett Di Scienza Una Vita Non Idilliaca Per , Segnata Da Un Torbido M Nage Trois Con Il Duca E L Amica E Forse Amante Di Lei , Lady Elizabeth Foster, E Da Una Rovinosa Dipendenza Da Alcol, Droghe E Gioco D Azzardo Amanda Foreman, In Una Biografia Che Anche Un Affresco Della Vita Aristocratica Dell Inghilterra Settecentesca, Ripercorre La Storia Di Una Donna Cos Immersa Nella Sua Epoca Eppure Estremamente Moderna Georgiana, the Duchess of Devonshire, was a complicated lady She was politically active, a progressive thinker, had an atrocious gambling habit that kept her perpetually in debt and suffered from an unfortunate, sometimes unhappy, marriage. Did I mention she lived in the late 1700 and early 1800s There was enough popular participation to make politics as big a national obsession as sport, if not bigger The emergence of national newspapers turned politicians into celebritiespg 18 ebook. And one of the brightest stars among them, was the Duchess of Devonshire This was the age of oligarch politics, when the great landowning families enjoyed unchallenged pre eminence in government While the Lords sat in the chamber known as the Upper House, or the House of Lords, their younger brothers, sons, and nephews filled up most of the Lower House, known as the House of Commonspgs 22 23. It wasn t a particularly great age for democracy or for modern thought Georgiana s methods were too modern for eighteenth century society She was never allowed to canvass openly in London again, nor did other aristocratic women imitate her example It would be another hundred years before women once ventured boldly into street politics as Georgiana had not been afraid to do in 1784pgs 178 179, ebook 1784 She felt that she had the same qualities as a man it was simply her sex, not her capability, which barred her from taking part in politicspg 346. Imagine that The leaders of the Whig party, Georgiana s political friends, were brilliant but flawed Eighteenth century England was full of wits, connoisseurs, orators, historians, drinkers, gamblers, rakes, and pranksters, but only Charles James Fox embodied all these thingspg 75, ebook. I confess, though this book has extraordinary detail and research about Georgiana s political activities, I found her personal life far fascinating. Her marriage may have been doomed from the start The Duke did not know how to be romantic never having experienced tenderness himself he was incapable of showing it to Georgiana He did not mean to hurt her, but there was a nine year age difference between them and a gulf of misunderstanding and misplaced expectationspg 49, ebook. There was another woman, who may or may not have been both Georgiana and the Duke of Devonshire s lover There were multiple handsome men who entered and exited Georgiana s life. She even had an illegitimate child with one of them. A fascinating biography of an extraordinary lady highly recommended.



Amanda Foreman

Georgiana

Vita e passioni di una duchessa
nell'Inghilterra del Settecento

Einaudi

One of the 5 reads I managed to gobble down in my last semester of grad school in between internships at Hachette and dissertation writing. Loved this read. Non-fiction isn't typically my go-to drug of choice, but when it's done well, I really latch onto it. This one definitely was well done and delved into aspects of her life before the fame and in her later life that the commercial movie which I also loved never touched on. A good choice of read for sure. This was a book that I would like to have loved, but ultimately, it did not cut the mustard, pass the port, or lead in the quadrille. The back story to Foreman's research is fantastic. She was studying 18th-century British politics and was taught that the involvement of women like the Duchess of Devonshire was basically just eye candy for the voters, but she found out that Georgiana for the Whigs and later the Duchess of Gordon for Pitt the younger were important political figures because women were meant to be apolitical; therefore they could invite people to dinner at which business could be agreed informally. So for example, dinners at her table were important in the peace negotiations with the rebel colonies in North America, also since invitations to upper-class parties at Devonshire House had social cachet, it functioned as an early form of party discipline: if you failed to vote with the party then you got no invite to Devonshire House to drink tea and play whist. Equally, feminine blandishments might be employed to encourage some leading figure to cross the floor of the House of Commons, finally she might turn up on the campaign trail. British aristocrats controlled large numbers of seats in the Commons but it was unacceptable for them to campaign personally, but it was apparently OK for their wives to kiss babies, promise to do all their shopping at certain merchants and basically win votes. Georgiana was a big fan of Charles James Fox and agreed, like the still rebellious 13 colonies, that George III had an evil plan to wield despotic power over the Empire, so much of the politics of this book is a simple inversion of the story in Macaulay's *George III and the mad business*: George falls ill, Whigs rejoice, he recovers and the prince regent pouts in Brighton with Mrs. Fitzherbert. Added to this is Foreman's account of the Duchess's personal life: Georgiana was a terrible gambler and was in debt for millions of pounds; she borrowed money widely to attempt to service her gambling debts, including from Richard Arkwright. View spoiler of *Spinning Jenny* fame, if you remember her. Hide spoiler. For those of us who love to read, hearing about an exciting movie adaptation makes us want to read the book. We, the few and the proud, will sit on our literary high horses and wait to finish the book even if it means the movie is no longer in theaters. I am one such reader and this is one such book. I saw a preview and was immediately drawn in, but as soon as I realized it was based upon a prize-winning biography, I immediately ordered a copy. I had high expectations, which I am glad to report were not disappointed. Foreman admits to readers in her preface that during her research she became enraptured by Georgiana, which few could deny after a quick skim of her source material: how many letters, diaries, newspapers, and books she must have slogged through over the years to create this entertaining picture of the Duchess of Devonshire. In many ways, Georgiana's life was rather tragic, or I

suppose as tragic as a life can be when part of the late 18th century aristocracy. Though she was for much of her life the glamorous head of the ton, the social elite and friends with the fashion forward Marie Antoinette, she suffered from gambling addiction, marital problems, exile from her family, and ill health. Despite these constant anxieties in her life, Georgiana was well educated and deeply involved in politics. This book details her active support of the Whig party, including election canvassing, and the extent to which she directed its strategy. A great patron of the arts and sciences, her influence was far reaching and she was admired as often as she was jealously envied. Her story seems to write itself, but that owes to Foreman's skill as a biographer than to the amount of history left behind. Generations of Spencers yes, the same family that also brought us Princess Diana destroyed many of her correspondences or censored parts that could have been embarrassing to them later. While Foreman does take some liberties of omniscience, these are easily forgiven in the grand scheme of the work as a whole her reliability as a biographer is never endangered. Georgiana truly jumps off the page and gives readers an appreciation of how active 18th century aristocratic women could be both socially and politically. This biography is truly worth your time, though of course I would recommend reading it before seeing the movie which I can now view guilt free. The separate spheres view of life in the 18th century in particular was probably necessary in order to shift perceptions of what was important to dig out of attics and archives and study. The focus has usually been the eternal rehashings of king, prime minister, Parliamentary carousels, or economic development. Marxist scholars. Until Braudel and his French quantifiers started looking at cemetery stones and baptismal records and counting up demographics, no one paid much attention to what the female half of the population was doing. Then feminist scholars got into the act, making women's work a separate but equal sphere, a little like a Le Guin novel. But, while I've enjoyed much of the endeavors of recent female scholars what I get hold of, which I know is a minuscule portion of *What's Out There*, the separate spheres concept made me increasingly impatient. The implication is that what women did was as important as men, it just wasn't leading governments, or considered important. Okay, sure, I'm with you. But the concept itself sort of hangs there, forcing an artificial view on readers just as the old style of history did, in which women weren't mentioned much at all, unless they were queens or famous courtesans. The idea being that women carried on separate lives largely invisible to men. When one reads letters of both men and women of the 1700s, just for example, one discovers just how much influences was going both ways, despite the forms. Sidestep. One of the things that I've been wondering about for years was the shift in Whig politics during the 1770s and 80s these wealthy landowners who favored the Revolution to the extent of adopting the Colonists colors of buff and blue. Something changed there, and it eluded me when I read contemporary accounts and later histories. Though I think some of the answer lies in Horry Walpole's letters. Well, another side quest has been my effort to find a good account of the inmates of Devonshire House. I hate those peeking through the window salacious bios that

just go on and on about who was sleeping with whom So I regarded Amanda Foreman's bio of Georgiana Spencer with a skeptical eye, even after it won some award or other But I finally thought what the heck, and was I glad I did Bingo Not only did she do a decent job with their lives it connects up with other good stuff about Fox and Pitt and the Lennoxes, etc, that I've read over the years but she stepped out of the spheres thing to finally connect the Whig changes. I don't think male scholars have seen how the hostesses changed politics at the times There'd always been something missing, and this book seems to make the connection at last The dinners, the Whig uniform all that was her idea She made the Whigs popular by combining their political ideas with fashion Nobody I've read has seen that And what a lethal combo GEORGIANA THE ORIGINAL INFLUENCER Popsugar Reading Challenge 2019 A book with an item of clothing or accessory on the cover There are two types of historical biographies the populist ones and the scholarly ones This definitely falls mainly into the first category, but while populist biographies often take shortcuts and mainly use secondary sources and therefore never add anything new to the subject they describe see, for instance, anything written by G.J Meyer, Amanda Foreman has here managed to write a populist biography based almost solely on primary sources That is quite an achievement and it paid off Biographers are notorious for falling in love with their subjects It is the literary equivalent of the Stockholm Syndrome THE THINGS I LIKED Writing about history is no easy feat It can be confusing and hard to make sense of the past And having a character pool filled with Duchess this and Duke that, who all have the same first names, can make the task almost impossible But Foreman does such a good job of writing in a straight forward and approachable language that the history blossoms in front of your eyes Georgiana continues to fascinate because of her single minded determination to be the heroine of her own story Sources Like I said, usually I don't expect too much of populist biographies, simply because they add nothing new to the table But here we have a biography that is written for the masses in an accessible language that doesn't sacrifice knowledge I loved the inclusion of Georgiana's own words through her letters. THE THINGS I DIDN'T LIKE Assumptions Foreman writes, that biographers have a tendency to fall in love with their subjects, which makes them assume things about them that might not be true, simply because they want them to be true Sadly, I felt like Foreman herself fell into this trap a few times Like saying that the Duke of Devonshire had no intention of hurting Georgiana That may very well be true, but where is the evidence Where is the proof I am of the opinion that if you make an assumption, you have to own up to the fact that it is an assumption Don't state it as if it is a fact. FOLLOW MY BLOG FOR MORE BOOK GOODNESS Beautiful, passionate, but lost That story didn't have a happy ending in the 18th century, either This story is rather depressing at times, but vastly amusing and interesting otherwise To say this woman led a fascinating life is an understatement She did ridiculous, stupid things, and the author is a little bit overly tolerant of these mistakes She said herself she's in love with Georgiana a little So you have to take the somewhat rosy

picture of Georgiana's character being painted with a little bit of salt. But she makes you so involved with her. You want to shake her and scream at her like any good book would make you do with a character you cared for. You cheer for her and in the end I would argue that there is a high likelihood of the reader being a little in love with her too. The title of the biography and the jacket blurb would lead one to believe that *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* is about Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. But I think the biography was less about Georgiana and about the politics in Georgiana's time. I realize that Georgiana was very involved in the Whig party, but the book as a whole droned on and on about England's political scene. And while I personally find politics fascinating, in this book the Duchess of Devonshire, the most popular person of her day (think Princess Di, who is actually Georgiana's great great great great aunt, who lived during the American revolution, the French revolution and George III), was almost a second thought. *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* is a very dense, detailed book and as a whole reads like an incredibly boring textbook you're forced to read for school. Chapter after chapter after chapter goes into great detail about her addiction to gambling and her attempts to cover her debts, but only gives ten or so pages to Georgiana's relationship with Charles Grey and the birth of their illegitimate child. Georgiana is a fascinating person, but this book is just too long and too chalked full of facts. Besides the error of the ages when Bess's children were returned to her, the fact Bess had two children by the Duke, and a slight disregard for how often Georgiana stood up to her husband, The Duchess does a much better job of portraying Georgiana's life than this book ever will.

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