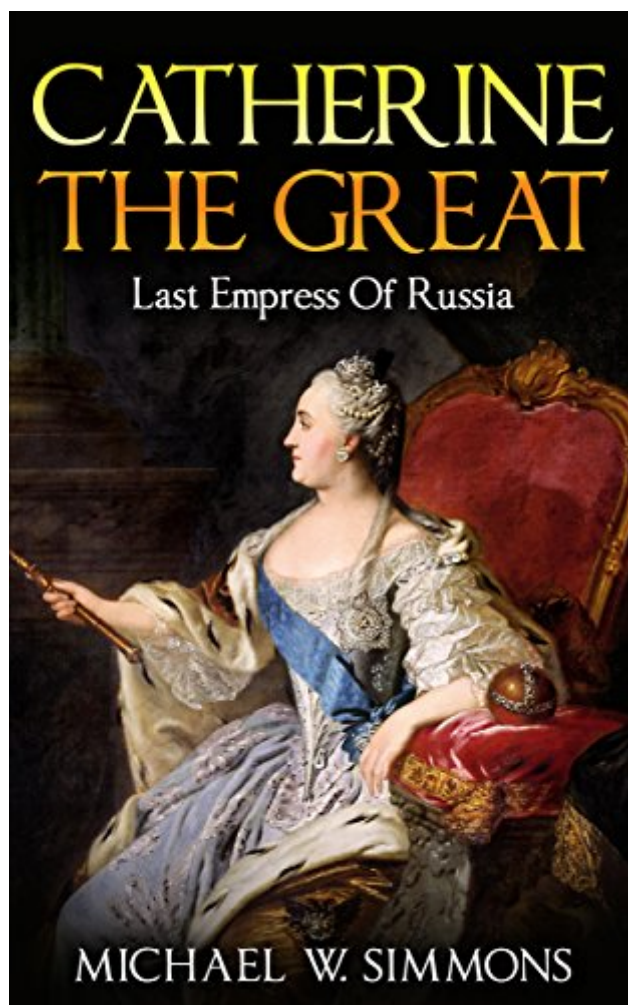


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Catherine The Great: Last Empress Of Russia



Synopsis

Born an obscure German princess who suffered under the control of a domineering, narcissistic mother, the fourteen-year-old Princess Sophie von Anhalt-Zerbst seemed to be destined for a minor marriage and a forgettable career. Destiny had other plans for her: summoned to Russia, then considered by most Europeans to be a vast, primitive wasteland, devoid of culture or sophistication, she became the Grand Duchess Ekaterina, wife of the future emperor Peter III. What followed her short, unhappy marriage was a legendary rise to supreme power. At the age of 33, the Grand Duchess Catherine became the Empress Catherine II, ruler in her own right of the largest empire on earth. In this book, you will learn how, during Catherine's lonely years as a neglected wife in the court of the Empress Elisabeth, she bided her time and amassed the necessary political and military support to overthrow the heir to the Romanov dynasty and seize his throne. You will also learn why, over the course of her 34-year reign, which saw rebellions, foreign wars, popular uprisings, and a string of jealous lovers vying for her favor, she came to be remembered by history under the name conferred upon her by her own people: Catherine the Great.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having just been to Start Petersburg I was hoping for a more detailed account of this great lady's life. The formative years were well done but her adult life glossed over.

A very colorful and ruthless lady.

Although sometimes a bit simplistic in it's tone, I none the less truly enjoyed learning more about the true history of this great lady. Instead of capitalizing on the sensational things that have over the years been either revealed about her or simply attached to her in order to discredit her memory, this book shows us her true history, and why she deserved to be labeled "The Great" in her own lifetime.

I enjoyed learning about this very powerful and astute woman. Also learned so much about the history, society, and culture of Russia. I see now why communism was attractive there. There was no "middle class." If you were a serf, life was lived under horrid conditions and they later revolted. I like this lady's mind...she was tough!

Simmons' transports you to the savage Russian lands as Sophia (Catherine) and her silly, narcissistic mother travel in anticipation of Princess Sophia marrying Empress Elizabeth's heir Peter, who has no interest in being ruler of Russia. Catherine overcomes many obstacles on her way to becoming Catherine The Great.

It was like an outline of her life. No great detail at all. Very disappointing.

Rather dry but informative. Would have liked more detail regarding Paul and her relationship with him and his marriages and children.

Although interesting, its too short to really gain insight in the particularities of the subject empress. No pictures present either.

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