

# Princess of Versailles: The Extraordinary Life of Marie Antoinette



## The Royal Diaries: Marie Antoinette: Princess of Versailles, Austria-France, 1769 by Kathryn Lasky

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2761 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 248 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France, was one of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures in history. Her life was a whirlwind of glamour, intrigue, and tragedy. Born into a life of luxury and privilege, Marie Antoinette became a fashion icon and a symbol of the French monarchy.

But her life was also marked by scandal and controversy. Her lavish spending and her alleged affairs earned her the ire of the French people. When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, Marie Antoinette was arrested and imprisoned. She was executed two years later, along with her husband, Louis XVI.

Marie Antoinette's life has been the subject of countless books, movies, and television shows. But few have captured her story as vividly and

engagingly as Princess of Versailles. This new biography, by acclaimed historian Antonia Fraser, draws on a wealth of new sources to paint a fresh and revealing portrait of the queen.

Fraser's book is not a mere rehash of the familiar story of Marie Antoinette. Instead, she offers a nuanced and complex look at the queen's life and times. Fraser explores Marie Antoinette's childhood, her marriage to Louis XVI, her role in the French court, and her tragic end.

What emerges is a portrait of a woman who was both deeply flawed and deeply human. Marie Antoinette was a victim of her own circumstances, but she was also a woman of great strength and courage. Fraser's book is a fascinating and moving account of her life.

### **The Palace of Versailles**

Marie Antoinette's life was inextricably linked to the Palace of Versailles. This magnificent palace was built by Louis XIV, the Sun King, in the 17th century. It was the largest and most opulent palace in Europe, and it became the symbol of the French monarchy.

Marie Antoinette arrived at Versailles in 1770, at the age of 14. She was immediately swept up in the palace's whirlwind of glamour and intrigue. She became a fashion icon and a trendsetter. She also became a close friend of the king's mistress, Madame de Pompadour.

Marie Antoinette's life at Versailles was not all fun and games. She was constantly under scrutiny from the court and the public. Her every move was criticized and dissected. She was also the target of malicious gossip and slander.

Despite the challenges, Marie Antoinette remained a popular figure at Versailles. She was known for her beauty, her charm, and her intelligence. She was also a devoted mother to her four children.

## **The French Revolution**

The French Revolution broke out in 1789. Marie Antoinette was one of the first targets of the revolutionaries. She was accused of being a traitor and a spendthrift. She was also blamed for the country's financial crisis.

In 1792, Marie Antoinette was arrested and imprisoned. She was held in the Tower of the Temple, along with her husband and children. The following year, she was tried and convicted of treason. She was executed on October 16, 1793.

Marie Antoinette's death marked the end of the French monarchy. The palace of Versailles was ransacked and looted. The monarchy was abolished, and the French Republic was established.

## **Marie Antoinette's Legacy**

Marie Antoinette remains one of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures in history. She was a woman of great beauty, charm, and intelligence. But she was also a victim of her own circumstances. She was born into a life of luxury and privilege, but she was also a pawn in the hands of the powerful.

Marie Antoinette's life is a cautionary tale about the dangers of power and privilege. It is also a story of resilience and courage. Despite the challenges she faced, Marie Antoinette never gave up hope. She remained a proud and defiant figure to the very end.

## Reviews

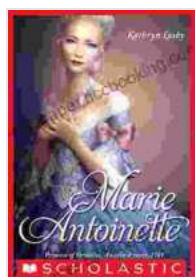
"Princess of Versailles is a captivating and moving account of Marie Antoinette's life. Antonia Fraser has written a fresh and revealing portrait of the queen, and her book is a must-read for anyone interested in French history." - The New York Times

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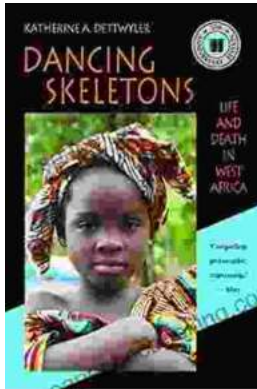
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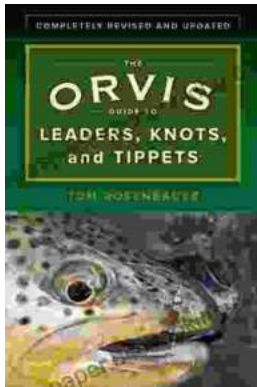
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