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Who Was Marie Antoinette?



Synopsis

From the palaces of Austria to the mirrored halls of Versailles, Marie Antoinette led a charmed life. She was born into royalty in 1755 and married the future king of France at age 15. By 21 she ascended to the throne and enjoyed a lavish lifestyle of masquerade balls, sky-high wigs, and extravagant food. But her taste for excess ruffled many feathers. The poor people of France blamed Marie Antoinette for their poverty. Her spending helped incite the French Revolution. And after much public outcry, in 1793 she quite literally lost her head because of it. Whether she was blameless or guilty is debatable, but Marie Antoinette remains woven into the fabric of history and popular culture.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

We saw the exhibit at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco "Royal Treasures from Louis XIV to Marie-Antoinette" approximately three years ago. They remember the magnificent jewels and treasures. They learned when they were 3 years old about Louis XIV, XV XVI to Marie-Antoinette. We did not learn until we read books about the source of "let them eat cake" came from 100 years before Marie-Antoinette. I also did not appreciate that she was an easy target for political reasons (because she was from Austria etc.). Of course, she did partake in the parties and lavish spending but it is possible had she had had guidance from her mother she would have fared better.

Excellent biography especially for some of our reluctant young readers who are required to read a biography. I enjoyed reading this book and thought the illustrations were very nice. It definitely provided information about Marie Antoinette in a manner that was pleasing and entertaining. I would recommend this other biographies like this for elementary school libraries. Very good biography.

Nicely done,clear ,interesting mini - biography to peak the interest of someone new to the historical scene; I would definitely recommend it for teen level- the illustrations are charming ,though it would have been nice to have one real image of the very attractive young queen.

Just as in Meachen Rau's previous books for the "Who Was" series, she does a great job of reporting the facts, while humanizing the subjects with dialogue and daily living details. For instance, Rau balances the reporting of the young queen's lavish behavior (having been ripped from her home life to be married to a stranger in another country--what teen wouldn't want fancy clothes, yummy foods and parties to console herself?), with dialogue that makes Marie Antoinette accessible. "I love the Empress...but I'm frightened of her even at a distance." Even when she gets her "just (or not) desserts," the reader feels some pity. Meachen Rau doesn't hold any punches about Marie's demise: After "her head tumbled into a basket...Marie Antoinette's body and head were tossed in a wheelbarrow and carted away." I think this book might make young readers--girls especially--think about the perils of aspiring to be a "Queen Bee." And the ending is gory enough to appeal to zombie lovers.

I would have never rated it 5 if it would not have entertained me. I am never a voracious reader but the charisma of the book had compelled me to give this book 5 out 5. Language is very simple. Even a lay man with very little command over English language can easily go through the book. But the book lacks emotionsâ | the execution part where author could have put more emotions but failed to do so. However, it was a nice journey and an interesting read!

Jam packed with facts for kids. I totally recommend it. Pretty good price too. ^ Actually, I recommend all Who Was... Books. Thanks

My children love those books and so do I. They are easy to read and yet detailed enough to make it interesting and instructive.

i did not like this books because why do a who was book if they didnt do something good or better yet great

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