

## Marie Antoinette The Journey

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still a controversial figure as well as a celebrated one marie antoinette s dramatic life

story continues to arouse mixed emotions to many people she is still la reine méchante whose extravagance and frivolity helped to bring down the french monarchy her indifference to popular suffering epitomised by the apocryphal words let them eat cake she was accused of personal profligacies and sexual excesses others are equally passionate in her defence to them she is a victim of misogyny marie antoinette remains one of the genuinely romantic and ill treated characters in history a compassionate queen and devoted mother she did little to deserve her tragic destiny she was born in 1755 one of 16 children of the austrian empress maria theresa at the age of 15 she was to be the bride of the french dauphin heir to his grandfather louis xv the dauphin came to the throne as louis xvi in 1774 and for more than ten years the french court at versailles glittered under the presidency of its young beautiful and artistic queen in what would be seen afterwards as the last throw of the ancien regime in this stunning biography antonia fraser examines her influence over the king the accusations and sexual slurs made against her her patronage of the arts which enhanced french cultural life her imprisonment the death threats made against her rumours of lesbian affairs and her trial during which her 7 year old son was forced to testify to sexual abuse by his mother and eventual execution by guillotine in 1793

drama betrayal religion and sex it s all here fascinating guardian beautifully paced impeccably written don t miss it independent fraser is at her best here lucid authoritative and compassionate sunday times superbly researched the definitive work on the ill fated queen catholic herald marie antoinette s dramatic life story continues to arouse mixed emotions to many people she is still la reine méchante whose extravagance and frivolity helped to bring down the french monarchy her indifference to popular suffering epitomised by the apocryphal words let them eat cake others are equally passionate in her defence to them she is a victim of misogyny antonia fraser examines her influence over the king louis xvi the accusations and sexual slurs made against her her patronage of the arts which enhanced french cultural life her imprisonment the death threats made against her rumours of lesbian affairs her trial during which her young son was forced to testify to sexual abuse by his mother and her eventual execution by guillotine in 1793

an intimate biography revealing marie antoinette s complex life personal struggles and dramatic fall from versailles to the guillotine a seemingly endless parade of books films and television shows have kept marie antoinette in the spotlight for over two centuries since her execution in october 1793 for many she is the ignorant embodiment of foolish careless decadent excess and a deserving example of the terrible fate that on occasion

befalls members of the mega wealthy ruling class who exploit and ignore the needs of those less fortunate than themselves meanwhile for others she is a source of endless fascination thanks to the flamboyant fashions of her era the pastel hued beauty of her surviving residences and above all the extraordinary drama of her almost unbelievable riches to rags life she was a complex woman who lived in a remarkable time and yet she was also a very simple one whose main desire in life was to love and be loved in return this engaging and intimate biography of marie antoinette takes a fresh look at the story of this most fascinating and misunderstood of queens exploring her personal tribulations such as her emotionally unfulfilling marriage rocky friendships and the loss of her children as well as the series of scandals mistakes and disasters that took her from the gilded splendour of versailles to the guillotine

this book considers the ways in which madness has been portrayed in writing by women writers it readdresses the madwoman trope opening up multiple sites of literary madness examining places and spaces outside of the madwoman in the attic in particular a transnational approach sets itself up against a eurocentric approach to literary madness women novelists from the brontës to the indian writer arundhati roy and arab writers fadia faqir and miral al tahawy interrogate patriarchal societies and oppressive cultures female characters who suffer from madness are strikingly similar in their revolutionary subversion of patriarchal environments

the true story of the woman who befriended the last queen of france and the price she paid for her devotion perhaps no one knew marie antoinette better than one of her closest confidantes marie thérèse the princess de lamballe the princess became superintendent of the queen s household in 1774 and through her relationship with marie antoinette she gained a unique perspective of the lavishness and daily intrigue at versailles born into the famous house of savoy in turin italy marie thérèse was married at the age of seventeen to the prince de lamballe heir to one of the richest fortunes in france he transported her to the gold leafed and glittering chandeliered halls of the château de versailles where she soon found herself immersed in the political and sexual scandals that surrounded the royal court as the plotters and planners of versailles sought at all costs to gain the favor of louis xvi and his queen the princess de lamballe was there to witness it all this book reveals the princess de lamballe s version of these events and is based on a wide variety of historical sources helping to capture the waning days and grisly demise of the french monarchy the story immerses you in a world of titillating sexual rumors bloodthirsty revolutionaries and hair raising escape attempts a

must read for anyone interested in marie antoinette the origins of the french revolution or life in the late eighteenth century

she has received numerous accolades including an academy award and two golden globes and in 2004 became the first ever american woman to be nominated for a best director oscar from the virgin suicides to the bling ring her work carves out new spaces for the expression of female subjectivity that embraces rather than rejects femininity fiona handyside here considers the careful counter balance of vulnerability with the possibilities and pleasures of being female in coppola s films albeit for the white and the privileged through their recurrent themes of girlhood fame power sex and celebrity chapters reveal a post feminist aesthetic that offers sustained intimate engagements with female characters these characters inhabit luminous worlds of girlish adornments light and sparkle and yet find homes in unexpected places from hotels to swimming pools palaces to strip clubs resisting stereotypes and the ordinary in this original study handyside brings critical attention to a rare female auteur and in so doing contributes to important analyses of post feminism authorship in film and the growing field of girlhood studies

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