



Flaunting, Extravagant Queen

Jean Plaidy

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At the age of fifteen, Marie Antoinette, beautiful and charming bride to the impotent Dauphin, is plunged into the intrigue of Versailles.

Frivolous and reckless, she flouts the strict and demanding etiquette of the glittering court, and discovers the true nature of hate . . . and love.

But the clouds of revolution are overhead, and Marie Antoinette, who only wished to enjoy life, learns too late that the price of her enjoyment is very high...

Flaunting, Extravagant Queen Details

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Author : Jean Plaidy

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History, French Revolution, Romance



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From Reader Review Flaunting, Extravagant Queen for online ebook

Tina says

A good and informative read that got me into wonderful debates with my husband about the marriage of Figaro and the Barber of Seville.

Robin says

At first, I wasn't fond of the writing style - not because it wasn't modern but because it just didn't seem to lend itself to much depth. But by the end of the book, I felt it was well worth the read. The gradual evolution of Antoinette's character was well portrayed and the ending was very moving. I suppose the lack of depth in the beginning was merely because Antoinette herself lacked much depth until her world began to change.

I do have two complaints though. The same adjectives seemed to be used over and over again. Words like "dainty" and "frivolous" were used far too often to describe Antoinette when there are plenty of suitable synonyms. The same thing occurred with other characters too. I just found it rather lazy coming from such a highly acclaimed author.

A minor complaint but I also didn't like the fact that Plaidy frequently used French words and terms without always explaining what they meant. Granted, the author was born and raised in England and I understand most English schools teach basic French. So it's understandable the author might assume her readers know enough French to know these basic words and terms. But in the US, most students choose to learn Spanish, not French and unfortunately I did not always have Google with me while reading. Sometimes, I could get the gist of it from what was going on but I still would have liked to know what was actually said.

From what I've read, Plaidy's work is considered very historically accurate and while it's not something I require from my historical fiction, it is certainly something I can appreciate (though I do struggle to understand how one woman could research and write as many books as she did in her lifetime - I worked out she would have to have written at least 2 books per year). I did not know a huge amount about Marie Antoinette and felt this was a good introduction. With her vast back catalogue, I'm eager to read at least a few more of Plaidy's novels.

Jahnavi Jha says

The writing style is the main downside of this book. The characterizations are surprisingly poor. The descriptions are very childish and the most shocking bit is that revolution is portrayed in the worst way possible. Overall, this book is quite disappointing, considering the fact that there are several, more well-researched historical fiction books out there. Most importantly, this book could not bring Marie Antoinette to life, it is confusion of holler than thou reactions. Expected better from the famed Jean Plaidy. Will surely not venture into any more of her works.

Katie Cowie says

Very good personal look into the life of Marie Antoinette

Anna Gibson says

This book was surprisingly historically solid, and appropriately sympathetic but without any sort of whitewashing. (Though, I'm personally not a fan of this sort of passive narrative style of writing, so I found it hard to get into this book.)

Andrew says

This was written in 1957, but it is still an excellent book covering the period from when Marie Antoinette left Austria to become Louis' wife until her beheading. Overall a very sad story, from this recount of events she had so many enemies in court and beyond, mainly caused by jealousy. Not helped by a weak indecisive king - so many times when he could and should have taken control. I would now like to read one or two other versions of her story. Nice to return to Jean Plaidy, I cut my teeth in Historical Fiction with Jean Plaidy - she was a favourite of my mum's and her books were available in the house. In fact this copy was from then, and was passed onto me shortly before her death.

Phil Syphe says

Having read a biography of Marie Antoinette, I think this fictional account of this fascinating woman is a damn good read. Jean Plaidy has done a great job of bringing Marie Antoinette to life, along with Louis XVI.

The author focuses on many of the most important aspects of this frightening period of French history, mixing in some trivialities, which gives a more rounded story. In reality, Marie Antoinette's final few years were much more drawn-out and wretched than portrayed here. That said, enough events feature here to still make the reader feel the utmost sympathy for Marie Antoinette and her family.

The author does a good job in showing the transition of the "Flaunting, Extravagant Queen" to a loyal wife and mother, who all her life is - in the eyes of lookers-on - is damned in whatever she does, and damned in whatever she doesn't.

Jazelle says

This is the fifth book about Marie Antoinette that I've read and I liked it because it's written in a third point

of view compared to the usual format that I've read, which was always first POV (Marie Antoinette's). I love the way this was written too because it served facts in a more objective and understandable way like the events concerning the diamond necklace.

In this book too, it was so much easier to imagine the "fall from grace" of the royal family since it also told the story AFTER the glorious days in Versailles whereas the other books focused mainly on Marie Antoinette's extravagant days... Anyhow, I really liked this book. Eventhough I already knew the sad ending awaiting this queen, I couldn't help but be hopeful whenever I read about the escape plans that just ended in tragedy.
