

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette

Marie Antoinette writes a diary which tells about her life. She is an archduchess of Austria and becomes the queen of France because she is married to King Louis XVI, King of France. Their marriage is arranged because of political reasons, so there is no love between them. Because of that, Marie has an affair with two men, Eric, her horse's groom and Count Axel Fersen, a Swedish man.

As a queen, Marie Antoinette wishes to have an heir as soon as possible. For a long time, there is no baby in their marriage as King Louis never touches her. Of course in this case, Marie Antoinette is blamed by the society, although it is not her fault but her husband's. But finally King Louis wants to make love with Marie Antoinette. Later, a baby girl is born. After that she gives birth to a baby boy. Everybody worships him as if he were a god because one day he will be a successor to the throne. However, the baby is weak and he dies in the end. It makes Marie feel sorrowful. Soon, she is pregnant again and has a son, a healthy boy.

Marie Antoinette is blamed by the society because she spends a great amount of money to buy personal necessities and she even spends people's money. Later, she realizes that it is not right to spend a lot of money. She begins to lessen her money

spending, but she is still blamed and chased by society. In the end, she is caught and sentenced to death under the blade of guillotines.

Synopsis of A Thousand Orange Trees

The novel tells about the lives of two women, who are born on the same day, but they have very different backgrounds, and they do not know each other. They are Marie Louise de Bourbon, a niece of King Louis XIV and Francisca de Luarda, the daughter of a Castilian silk grower.

Marie Louise is a princess from Paris who is put into an arranged marriage to King Carlos, King of Spain. After her arrival in Spain, her name is changed into Maria Luisa. She seems to lose her freedom after her marriage to King Carlos. Every single aspect of her life is dictated, such as the food that she eats daily, her hair arrangement, and the dress that she has to wear. She becomes more depressed when she finds out that actually her husband, King Carlos is impotent. This fact really makes her feel more frustrated because as a queen, one of her jobs is to produce an heir, which she cannot fulfill due to her husband's impotence. Because of that, she is blamed by the society. Moreover, her mother-in-law really hates her. Maria feels alone and miserable in Spain. She misses everything in France. She always wants to come home and dreams about a thousand orange trees that grow in Versailles. After her long struggle in Spain, at last, she is poisoned by her mother-in-law and dies.

Francisca de Luarda also experiences almost the same thing with Maria Luisa. She is imprisoned because she falls in love with a young priest. The difference is that Francisca is put in a real prison, while Maria Luisa is imprisoned in a palace.

Biography of Carolly Erickson

Carolly Erickson was born in 1943. She lives in Hawaii. She is a historical fiction and nonfiction author. Even when she was still an undergraduate, she had a feeling that she would be a historical writer. She received her double B.A. degree from the University of Washington in 1963. In 1969, she had her history doctorate, a Ph.D. in medieval history from Columbia University. It has led Erickson to a six-year experience as a professor in a college, then as a full-time writer. Erickson mainly writes biographies of famous people in European history. She has also taught history for several years. She is also a distinguished historical biographer and author of The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette, and several other historical books, as well as many other prize-winning fiction and nonfiction books.

Her novels include The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette (2005), The Last Wife of Henry VIII (2006), and The Tsarina's Daughter (2008), while her non-fiction works include Alexandra: The Last Tsarina (2001), The Girl from Botany Bay (2004) and Brief Lives of the English Monarchs (2007).

Sources: “Carolly Erickson (Cyclopedia of World Author)”

“Carolly Erickson, Macmillan.”

“Carolly Erickson, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.”

“To the Scaffold: The Life of Marie Antoinette (Biography)”

Biography of Kathryn Harrison

Kathryn Harrison is an American author who was born in Los Angeles, California on March 20, 1961. She is raised in Los Angeles by her maternal grandparents. After getting married, she lives in New York with her husband, the novelist and book editor Colin Harrison, whom she met in 1985 when they were registered in the Writers' Workshop. They have three children, who were born in 1990, 1992, and 2000.

Harrison received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Art History from Stanford University in 1982. Later, she graduated from the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop in 1987 with a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Harrison has published six novels, three memoirs, a travelogue, a biography, and a book of true crime. She frequently publishes reviews in The New York Times Book Review. She also wrote her personal essays, which appeared in Harper's Magazine, More Magazine, The New Yorker, O Magazine, and Vogue

She wrote a triangulation that involved her father, her mother, and herself in the memoir The Kiss (1997), which persisted for four years and is reflected in the plots and themes of her first three novels, published before The Kiss. While much of her works, the essays collected in Seeking Rapture: Scenes From a Life (2003); a second memoir, The Mother Knot (2004); and The Kiss (1997) documents her tormented relationship with her mother, who died in 1985, she has also written comprehensively of her maternal grandparents, both in her personal essays and in fictionalized form, in her novels, The Binding Chair (2002) and The Seal Wife (2002).

Source: "Kathryn Harrison"