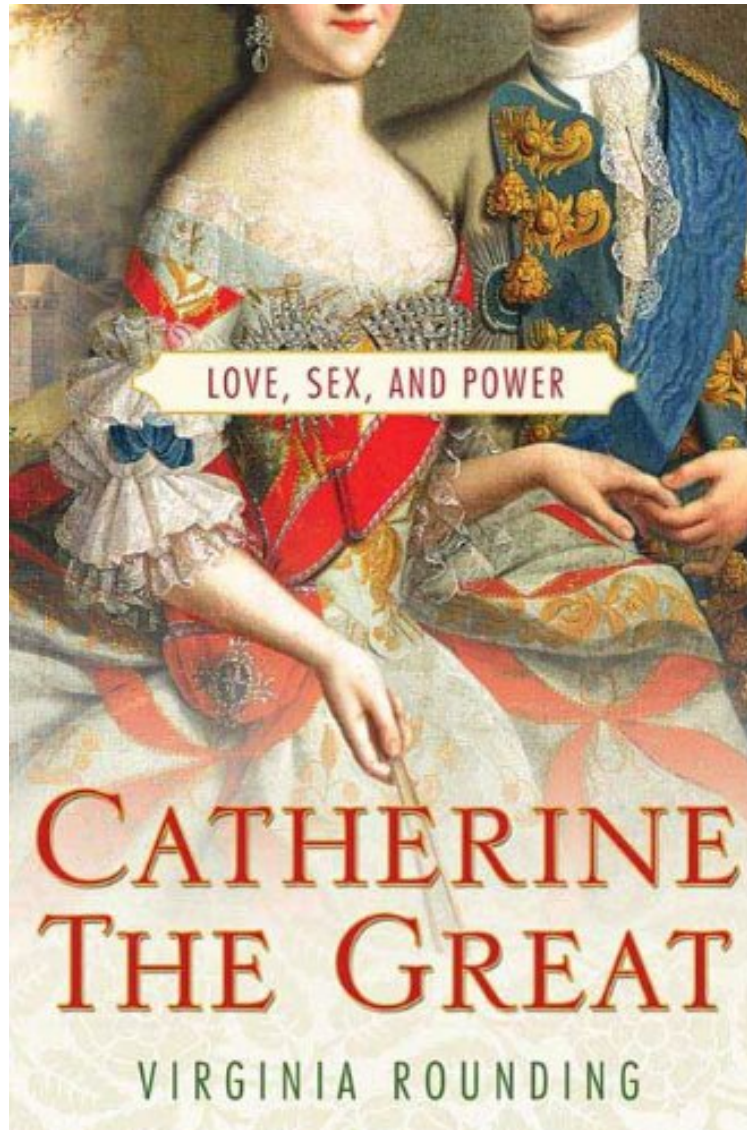


(Mobile book) Catherine the Great: Love, Sex, and Power

Catherine the Great: Love, Sex, and Power

Von Virginia Rounding

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Von Virginia Rounding : Catherine the Great: Love, Sex, and Power before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catherine the Great: Love, Sex, and Power:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A long, long read, requiring good memory. Von A userCarefully researched and documented in vast detail. The quoting gets in the way of a fluent "read". Only for the persevering reader. If you cannot commit much to memory, you will have lost the 1st quarter of the book by the time you read the 3rd quarter. By then, you still have a long read to the end.I

recommend the book, though.

Kurzbeschreibung Dutiful daughter, frustrated wife, passionate lover, domineering mother, doting grandmother, devoted friend, tireless legislator, generous patron of artists and philosopher the Empress Catherine II, the Great, was all these things, and more. Her reign, the longest in Russian Imperial history, lasted from 1762 until her death in 1796; during those years she built on the work begun by her most famous predecessor, Peter the Great, to establish Russia as a major European power and to transform its new capital, St Petersburg, into a city to rival Paris and London in the beauty of its architecture, the glittering splendor of its Court and the magnificence of its art collections. Yet the great Catherine was not even Russian by birth and had no legitimate claim to the Russian throne; she seized it and held on to it, through wars, rebellions and plagues, by the force of her personality, by her charm and determination, and by an unshakable belief in her own destiny. This is the story of Catherine the woman, whom power alone could never satisfy, for she also wanted love, affection, friendship and humor. She found these in letter-writing, in grandchildren, in gardens, architecture and greyhounds as well as in a succession of lovers which gave rise to salacious rumors throughout Europe. The real Catherine, however, was more interesting than any rumor. Using many of Catherine's own words from her voluminous correspondence and other documents, as well as contemporary accounts by courtiers, ambassadors and foreign visitors, Virginia Rounding penetrates the character of this most powerful, fascinating and surprisingly sympathetic of eighteenth-century women. From Publishers Weekly Starred . This lengthy biography of Russia's greatest female ruler is by no means as salacious as the subtitle suggests, but this sympathetic portrayal certainly focuses on Catherine's private life. British scholar Rounding (*Les Grandes Horizontales*) relies on memoirs, private letters and previous monographs as she details how, after dissolution of the unhappy marriage that brought Catherine (1729-1798) to Russia from Germany, the empress juggled her relationships with men as she attempted to thrust Russia into the modern era and make it a European power. Indeed, Rounding offers an intriguing (and partially convincing) thesis that Catherine was most effective as a ruler when she was satisfied in her private life. That life was never dull: Catherine's final lover was 40 years her junior, helping to give rise to wild but untrue rumors about her sexual appetite. Rounding's prose matches the excitement of its subject, with vivid portrayals of the late 18th-century Russian court and the machinations of Catherine and those around her. Readers looking for more scholarly and analytical treatments of Catherine's policies and Russia during this time might want to look at biographies by Isabel de Madariaga and John T. Alexander, but Rounding's work will appeal to Catherine-philes and those interested in women's history. 16 pages of color photos. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. *Pressestimmen* An engrossing bio . . . Is it possible Sofia Coppola picked the wrong historical heroine? ---Entertainment Weekly (Grade: A) The book is so readable because it brings Catherine alive, and not least in her relations with the men she drew to her side. ---Foreign Affairs An attractive account of the reign of a most remarkable woman . . . Strongly recommended. ---Library Journal A great thumping triumph of a book. ---London Telegraph (UK)