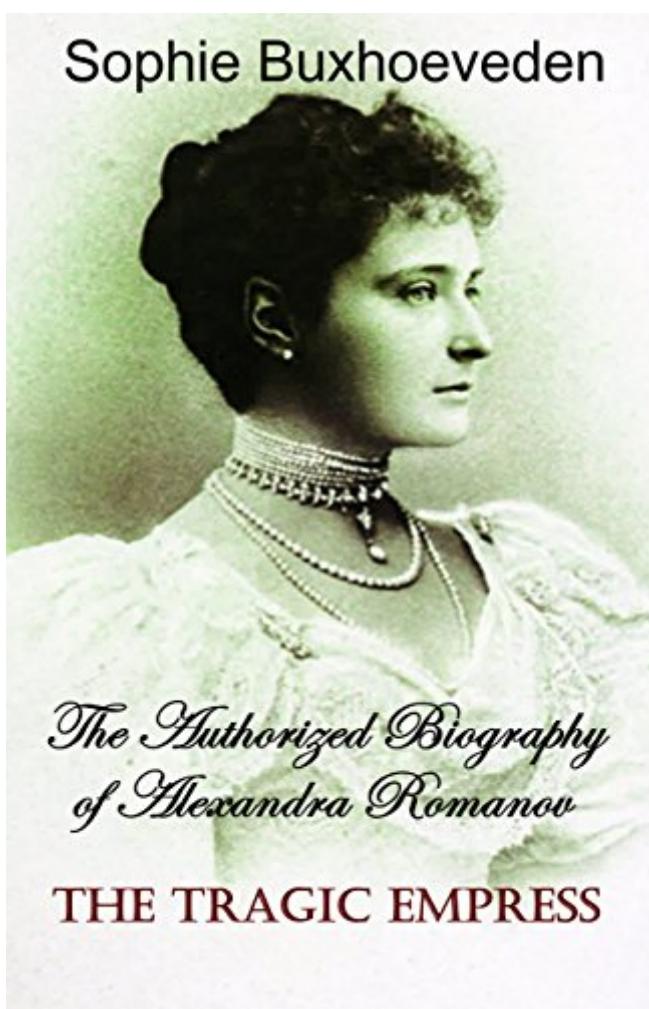


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The Tragic Empress: The Authorized Biography Of Alexandra Romanov



Synopsis

Empress Alexandra Romanov — the last empress of Russia, wife of Tsar Nicholas II, and now a saint of the Russian Orthodox Church — chose Countess Sophie Buxhoeveden, one of her ladies-in-waiting, to be her authorized biographer, opening up to her about her closest relationships and giving her access to copies of her private correspondence. Additionally, as a lady-in-waiting, Countess Buxhoeveden attended on the Empress for much of the reign of Tsar Nicholas II, only leaving her side when the Imperial Family was removed to Tobolsk after the Tsar's abdication in 1917. Thereafter, she followed the Empress to Tobolsk, and then to Ekaterinburg, where the entire Imperial Family, some of the Court suite and some of their servants met their deaths on July 17, 1918. The portrait the Countess paints of the Empress is of a warm, shy, kind and generous woman, devoted to Russia, her husband and her children, deeply charitable in word and deed, and a committed friend and mistress, but ill-starred, physically sick, maligned, misunderstood and much plotted against. The character descriptions in this book also include those for Tsar Nicholas, each of the children — OTMA and the Tsarevitch — Grand Duchess Ella (the Empress's sister), Ania Vyrubova (the Empress's most intimate friend), Rasputin and Kerensky (the Head of the Provisional Government that took power after the abdication of the Tsar and before the ascendancy of the Bolsheviks). The narrative also describes in detail the daily domestic life of the Imperial Family, and each of their trips to other parts of Russia and abroad in peace and war. It is rare for the author of any authorized biography to know her subject so familiarly and for so long, and to have been a first-hand witness to almost everything that happened for much of her life, and it is this that makes — *The Tragic Empress* — such an intriguing and compelling book.

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Customer Reviews

If you have read other books on the tsarina this would be a very good addition. If it is the only book, than I would have to say there are holes in trying to get the whole picture. I have read this after exhausting all other books on her and the tsar and found this to be an accurate and true portrait of a woman who is a saint in the Russian Orthodox church. It was quite refreshing to read a positive story from a woman who was very close to her and it is a blessing to get my hands on this rare book. I gave the review a 4 instead of a 5 for those admirers who choose this as the only reference to the great tsarina.

A thorough, personal contemporary account of her life from one who shared it with her. Very compelling.

This is a five star great story and deserves to be praised. Do not listen to commies who hate this and read it.

Overly positive portrait. Very little negative comments about Alexandra's character, her total lack of political savvy.

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