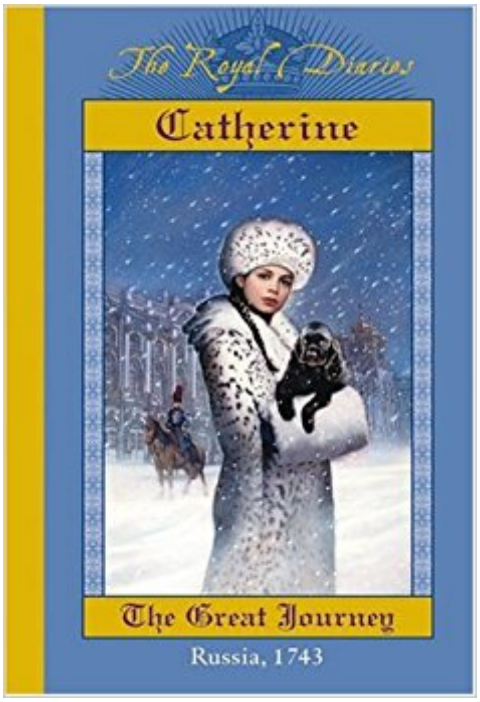
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# The Royal Diary: Catherine, The Great Journey Russia, 1743




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## Synopsis

Fourteen-year-old Prussian princess Sophia finds herself entangled in her mother's efforts to arrange a marriage between Sophia and Charles-Peter, a young German duke and nephew of the Russian empress Elizabeth. As Sophia's mother moves to make the match, she and Sophia must travel from their humble home in Zerbst, Prussia, to Russia--the kingdom of Elizabeth. There, Sophia is renamed Catherine and married to Charles-Peter, but she watches helplessly as her family is torn from her, her own mother is involved in a spying ring against the empress, and all that is familiar to her disappears.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7 This novel is written from the viewpoint of Princess Sophie Augusta Fredericka of Anhalt-Zerbst, who later became Catherine the Great. The diary opens with an entry dated August 7, 1743, when Sophie is 14. Her mother obsesses over marrying her into a prestigious family. When the studious and rather plain-looking teen has an opportunity to marry Peter, Grand Duke of Russia, she must face the scrutiny of critical Empress Elizabeth. In her diary, Sophie talks about her home situation and recounts the hardships of travel to Russia, her efforts to please the empress, and her engagement. Gregory's strong characterizations bring the historically grounded figures to life. Events convey the difficulties of Russian life during 1743-1745. At first slow moving, the plot picks up speed when Sophie meets the empress. The diary concludes with her impending wedding. Supplementary materials include a family tree, black-and-white reprints of painted portraits of Catherine and family, a map of Prussia and Russia from 1744, and the author's commentary on her

use of primary sources. Lynn K. Vanca, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Richfield, OH
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I ordered this book from Big Hearted Books. It arrived on time and was great quality. I was very satisfied.Also, I greatly enjoye reading the book. I only have three complaints: 1) it was very detailed through the first 3/4 of the book. After that, the entries become more sparse and far less detailed. It makes the ending somewhat ambiguous and disappointing; 2) the majority of the entries are not dated, which makes determining the time that has elapsed, and keeping up with the actu historical record, difficult; 3) the afterword with the information about Catherine the Great and her life is extremely basic, giving really no other information about her that the other books in the series normally give. Overall, 5/5 stars for order from the company; 3.5/5 stars for the actual book. However, I definitely recommend it, as Catherine the Great is a wonderful and very intriguing woman. :-)

Catherine, Great Journey / 0-439-25385-3Here is another wonderful Royal Diary addition. Catherine the Great is of interest to me, having read Henri Troyat's superb rendition of her life and reign. This novel, fictionally 'written' by Catherine, follows Troyat's own work closely and is remarkably consistent with the facts of Catherine's early life, and with the tone of Catherine's personality and style.This book would be highly approachable for children and adults of all ages. The historical accuracy is superb and provides a valuable insight into the early life of Catherine, while being rich and personal enough to compel more than a historical interest from the reader. The author, Gregory, touches on the most salient points of Catherine's journey into Russia to meet the Empress and to become betrothed to the crown prince. Catherine touches on the bitter cold and the hardships of travel, and describes her own serious illness which endeared her so strikingly to the Russian people - it was widely believed that her illness was caused by her ceaseless studies to learn the language and customs of her chosen people.While I usually list the potential concerns a parent may have with the Royal Diary in question, there is not too much here to be concerned about - no wars, violence, or wounded in these pages. The crown prince's cruelty and madness which surfaced later in life is suppressed here, probably for the best. Catherine's mother, however, is remarkably cruel and harsh to her daughter, which might disturb very young readers. Also, the Empress' odd custom of enforcing cross-dressing balls (where the men dress in ladies' clothes and the women dress in mens' clothes) is noted briefly here - historically accurate, but potentially confusing for a very young reader. The incident is dealt with quickly and carefully, however, and

should not be a deterrent to an older reader.~ Ana Mardoll

I bought this book for my daughter, but read it myself first- it draws you in- very good to learn about Russian history...

I loved this series of books as a kid. Any girl who dreams of being a princess will enjoy it. There are a dozen other books in the series although they are written by other authors. The target age group is upper elementary school. These also allow children to build reading stamina. They are around 200 pages but because of the diary format kids can read them quickly.

I loved it. I recommend it to anyone who likes learning about royalty. The book is quite dramatic, but I still love it.

These books do not grab the attention as the Girls of Many Lands series. They’re okay but children lost interest easily where with the other series, they were anxious to have the next reading session to find out what happened next.

Young readers need to understand the dire circumstances the world has gone through without the finer details that tend to drag down the story. Catherine, The Great journey, Russia offers this opportunity. Girls especially should read this account of one of the greatest women in history, her life, her destiny, and her accomplishments.

This is at he of my favright books I own the whole searies

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