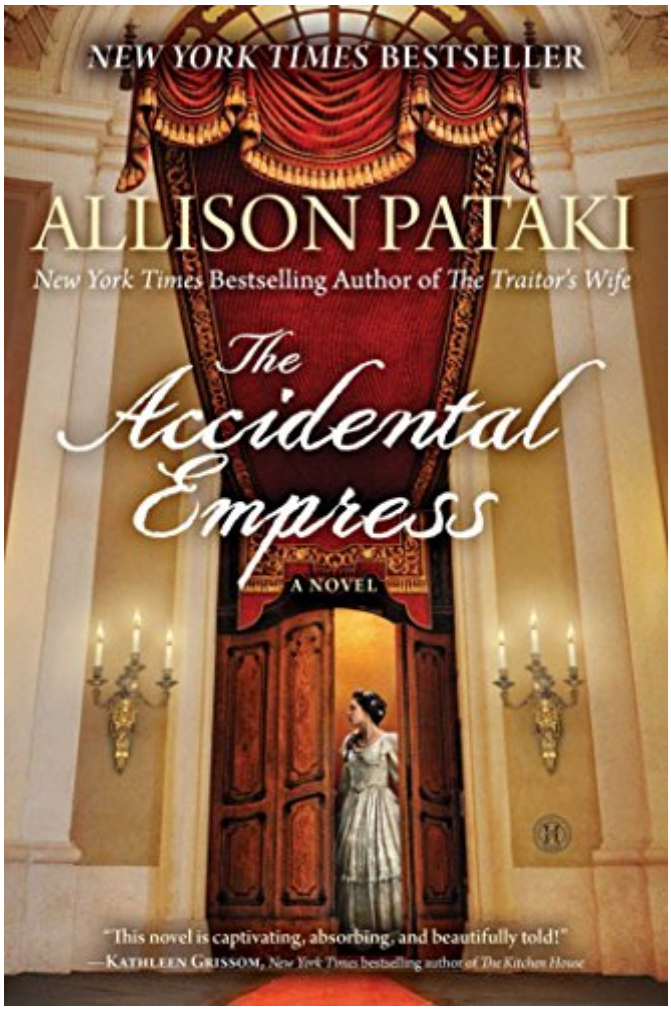
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The Accidental Empress: A Novel



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Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller, The Accidental Empress is the Ã¢â ¬Å“captivating, absorbing, and beautifully toldÃ¢â ¬Â• (Kathleen Grissom).love story of Ã¢â ¬Å“SisiÃ¢â ¬Â• the Austro-Hungarian empress and wife of Emperor Franz Joseph.The year is 1853, and the Habsburgs are EuropeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most powerful ruling family. With his empire stretching from Austria to Russia, from Germany to Italy, Emperor Franz Joseph is young, rich, and ready to marry. Fifteen-year-old Elisabeth, Ã¢â ¬Å“Sisi,Ã¢â ¬Â• Duchess of Bavaria, travels to the Habsburg Court with her older sister, who is betrothed to the young emperor. But shortly after her arrival at court, Sisi finds herself in an unexpected dilemma: she has inadvertently fallen for and won the heart of her sisterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s groom. Franz Joseph reneges on his earlier proposal and declares his intention to marry Sisi instead. Thrust onto the throne of EuropeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most treacherous imperial court, Sisi upsets political and familial loyalties in her quest to win, and keep, the love of her emperor, her people, and of the world. With PatakiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rich period detail and cast of complex, bewitching characters, The Accidental Empress offers Ã¢â ¬Å“another absolutely compelling storyÃ¢â ¬Â• (Mary Higgins Clark) with this glimpse into one of historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most intriguing royal families, shedding new light on the glittering Hapsburg Empire and its most mesmerizing, most beloved Ã¢â ¬Å“Fairy Queen.Ã¢â ¬Â•

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Customer Reviews

I must say I was surprised that a major publisher would publish this book when so many better written historical fiction books are self-published, at least at first. I was also surprised by the 14 dollar price, especially after completing the book.If you are a lover of historical fiction, you will fill ripped off after reading the book. This book reads like a romance at the beginning, and then, SURPRISE, there’s no happy ending and the couple ends up miserable for the rest of the book. The characters are flat, and apparently, the author thought that the readers were too dumb to read the "boring parts" about politics, wars and history, so she simply eliminated almost all mention of them. Also, unlike a romance, the heroine is supposed to find real love in the arms of her adulterous lover. So, neither the historical fiction lover nor the romance lover is going to find any satisfaction in this book.I am giving this book two stars because I managed to finish it and because it made me aware of a fascinating woman in history I want to read more about. Apparently, there are some good biographies of Elisabeth out there.I am sad to say this book reads like a poor young adult book with some sex thrown in. It’s not worth 14 dollars. But, again, the heroine is noteworthy.

Interesting enough story which could have used some beefing up with additional historical details. Read more like a romance novel than historical fiction----the term bodice-ripper comes to mind, even though there was not much of that going on with Sisi due to her preoccupied husband and his rather tyrannical mother. Still, reader is compelled to find out just what happens to this high-spirited young woman trapped at the Hapsburg court.

Overall I enjoyed the book. It turned out to be a great beach read...easy, fast, interesting. This was a book club selection, so I was surprised that it came across more like a romance novel rather than historical fiction. It felt a bit young and light considering the genre, particularly the first half. It did pique my interest in these figures of history. To learn more about them, I researched online to find out more about what was true, not true and how their lives turned out.

Definitely not a fairytale, but a depiction of life as a royal. While "The Accidental Empress"is a fictional work, it is true to the historical account of the Hapsburg family. More than anything the

reader, like a fly on the wall, is a spectator to the married life of Emperor Franz-Josef and his wife "Sisi", Empress Elisabeth. While not the choice chosen for him by his mother Archduchess Sophie, he falls in love with Sisi, his intended's (Helene) sister. Raised in Bavaria, as a young child Sisi enjoyed a childhood with much freedom, quite the opposite of what her life was to be in court. Overwhelmed by the protocol of a royal household, the rules and expectations, the spies and the gossip, there was much to overcome. Added to that, her meddlesome, overbearing mother-in-law sets the stage for what becomes a life not to be envied, but rather to be pitied. And yet, Ms. Pataki takes us back in history with a novel so well written, you cannot help but be captivated. From the first page to the last, this book held my attention. It left me wanting more, with the hope that there will be a sequel as there is more to Sisi's life than this story tells. For those of you who enjoy historical fiction, this book is one not to miss!

I love history, and reading about the various twists in turns that change history. Sisi is one such twist that was unexpected. If this was a fictional move that was not based on a real historical figure, I might say that Sisi story seems unreal, too far fetched, Sisi is too naÃƒÆ'Â Â ve, too obsessed with her figure, too much a victim of her mother in law, but Pataki has done her research. The Sisi she presents is authentic to the wild, eccentric woman she was, Princess, of Bavaria, Empress of the vast Austria Hungarian Empire, Queen of Her beloved Hungary. I enjoy this romp through history and have already started reading her next Novel on Sisi.

The book had me entranced from the start as Emperor Franz was first entranced by Sisi. This is my first book from Allison Pataki, the author of *The Accidental Empress*. If I was not reading the book, I was thinking about the book and wondering what I would learn about Empress Elizabeth at each turn of the page. When the book ended, I yelled out *Is this all?* I wanted to keep reading more, and more, only to be left off at her coronation in Hungary and her freedom. I read through the *Conversation with Allison Pataki* and I was happy to learn that this may not be the end of this enchanting Empress. I await for the follow-up novel.Thank you Allison Pataki for writing such a wonderful, well written book. I loved every word, quotes from Goethe, and relaying that life in royalty is not as royal as one thinks, especially for Sisi. I look forward to more books, you have become one of my favorite authors.

I am planning a trip first to Budapest and then a river cruise up the Danube to Austria and Poland. I have to confess a less than stellar understanding of this area of Europe. I knew it was the

assignation of the Arch Duke that ignited World War I, but little else. I was delighted to find an Empress so enigmatic and so much like contemporary Lady Di of our times. I gained a better depth of the Empire which was the remnants of Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire. I also loved looking up the portraits and photos of the Habsburg's and Sisi. Andrassy was gorgeous. My own heart skipped a few beats imagining a torrid romance, but with me;-). If I did not know it was based on an actual historical event I would have thought it entirely made up. I would have liked to have some of the photos included in this book. Enjoy!

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