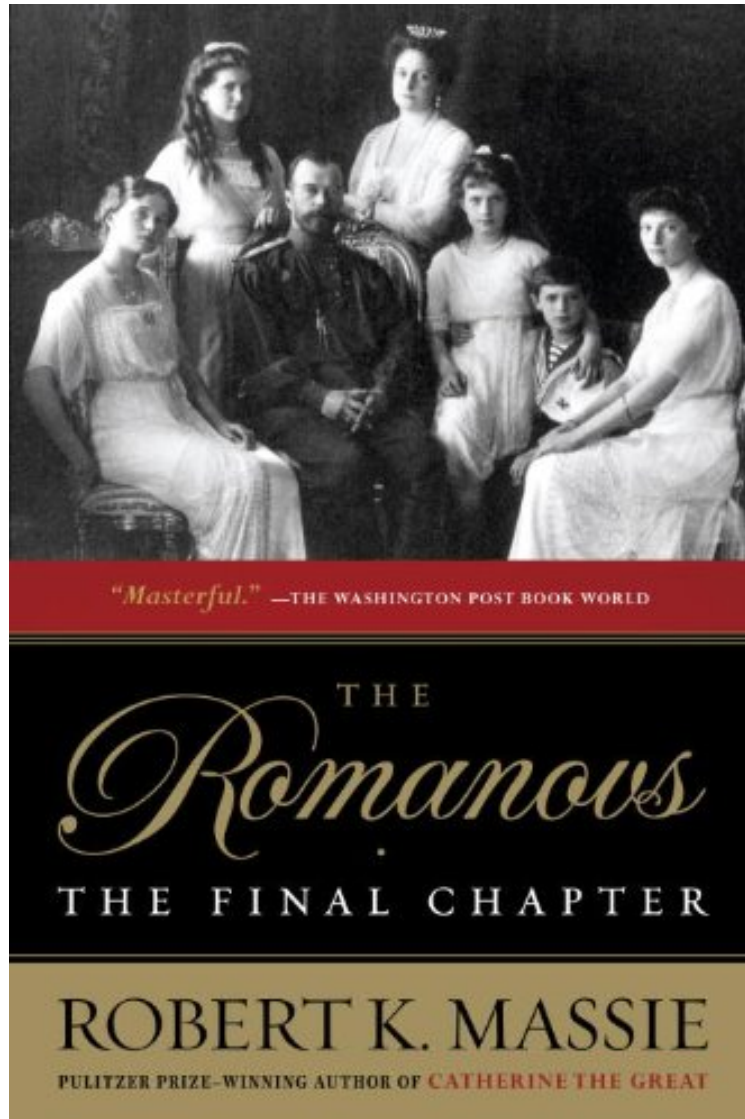


[Free] The Romanovs: The Final Chapter

The Romanovs: The Final Chapter

Von Robert K. Massie

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Von Robert K. Massie : The Romanovs: The Final Chapter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Romanovs: The Final Chapter:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Informative and thorough, but contentiousVon Ein KundeThis book has a lot going for it: the portrait of the Romanov family's last days is touching, and the account of their execution is factual and truly horrific. (As the author of "Nicholas and Alexandra," Massie clearly wears his heart on his sleeve, but the story is appalling enough on its own merits: Nicholas may have been arrogant, stubborn, and a political idiot, but his family certainly didn't deserve a brutal

death.) The author's exposition of how the bones were found and identified is thorough and clear, if a bit dry, and his explanation of "Anna Anderson" and her history is authoritative and convincing. He's also very good at explaining how DNA typing works. On the other hand, when he describes the disputes over who was entitled to examine the bones and do the DNA work on them, the author becomes partisan. I felt that his attack on DNA expert Mary-Claire King was highly unfair: it's evident that she realized that the situation was turning into Dueling DNA Analysts and didn't want her employees wasting their time on it, so accusing her of failing to keep promises she never made is petty and mean-spirited. The author's spitefulness in this section mars what is otherwise a balanced, objective account of the discovery and identification of the bones. With this reservation, I'd recommend the book as a thorough and convincing description of how the Romanov bones were found and identified, and essential reading for anyone who is curious about the issues raised by their recent burial. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The perfect companion to *Nicholas and Alexandra* Von Charlene Vickers The recovery of the Romanovs' remains was bedeviled by political infighting on every level. Churches, governments, and scientists turned what should have been a solemn homecoming into a backdrop for petty internecine fights. Massie cuts through all this petty bickering and provides the reader with a clear, concise account of the recovery of the bones and their eventual interment. Those who enjoyed *Nicholas and Alexandra* will find this book the perfect companion, but I recommend this book to anyone interested in Russian history, politics, or religion. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting, informative and very complete. Von Ein Kunde There are no other historical figures that have captured my attention as the last Tsar and Tsarina of Russia have. To me, they are really tragic figures as both were thrown into a political office they were not prepared for and did not even enjoy. Yet in the midst of this, their family values and the love between Nicholas and Alexandra and their children has really been made evident. My heart breaks for the family and I have a really great admiration for them. While I was already aware of the details of the family's death, Massie's book really shed some light as to the developments that occurred once their bodies were found. It is an interesting and informative piece of work that obviously had a lot of research invested in it. It was interesting to learn about the whole process of testing the bones for authenticity and to learn of all the different parties and political twists involved. What I have found a little bit tedious, however, was the chapters detailing the court case on the release of Anna Anderson's tissues. However, I guess in order to give a full picture, all the information was needed. It is definitely a book anyone with even the slightest interest in the Romanovs or even the mystery surrounding their murders should read. By Tamara Williams, umwilli4@cc.umanitoba.ca

Kurzbeschreibung In July 1991, nine skeletons were exhumed from a shallow mass grave near Ekaterinburg, Siberia, a few miles from the infamous cellar room where the last tsar and his family had been murdered seventy-three years before. But were these the bones of the Romanovs? And if these were their remains, where were the bones of the two younger Romanovs supposedly murdered with the rest of the family? Was Anna Anderson, celebrated for more than sixty years in newspapers, books, and film, really Grand Duchess Anastasia? *The Romanovs* provides the answers, describing in suspenseful detail the dramatic efforts to discover the truth. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert K. Massie presents a colorful panorama of contemporary characters, illuminating the major scientific dispute between Russian experts and a team of Americans, whose findings, along with those of DNA scientists from Russia, America, and Great Britain, all contributed to solving one of the great mysteries of the twentieth century. From Booklist When Robert Massie wrote *Nicholas and Alexandra* in 1967, he could never have dreamt that, in his lifetime, there would be answers to the many questions surrounding the deaths of the Romanovs. But with the fall of the Soviet government and the help of modern medical technology, such as DNA matching, that final chapter is now able to be written. Unfortunately, as with so many things, the mystery of the unresolved questions holds more fascination than the reality of the definitive answers. Not that there isn't plenty of new news here. Massie answers several big questions: how the Romanovs died and how their bodies were eventually identified; whether the woman known as Anna Anderson was in fact the grand duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of the czar; and who, among several pretenders, would inherit the throne if the Russian people decide to restore the monarchy. The discussion of this last topic is particularly arcane, full of the knotted strings of Romanovs that only the most dedicated royalist or an editor at *Burke's Peerage* would want to untangle. More interesting is the trail of bones unearthed at Ekaterinburg and how, using blood samples from Prince Philip of England (a cousin of the Romanovs) and others, identifications were finally made. Similar DNA tests were used to prove that Anna Anderson was not Anastasia but was in fact a Polish peasant. How she managed to pull off such a successful charade for so many years is one mystery that remains unsolved. Despite the book's regrettable dryness, the inquiring minds of royalty watchers will ensure demand. Ilene Cooper From Library Journal The fall of Soviet communism has sparked a renewed interest in detailing the real history of Russia. Recently opened archives and the decreasing likelihood of personal punishment have allowed historians unparalleled access to information hidden since World War I. Steinberg (history, Yale) and Khurstalev, a Russian historian-archivist, recount the arrest and life under guard of the Romanovs, with reproductions of many letters between Nicholas and Alexandra and

documents of primary research. This work is scholarly, well written, and suitable for academic and public libraries. Pulitzer Prize winner Massie (*Peter the Great*, LJ 9/15/80) takes up where Steinberg leaves off. Massie's work chronicles the events from the death of the Romanovs at the hands of the Bolsheviks until the discovery and recent identification of their remains. Massie does a good job of exposing Romanov imposters, including Anna Anderson, but DNA research does not lend itself to readability. The short chapters make the book more accessible, but this work does not compare favorably with the best of Massie's works. Together, these books bring to completion the lives of Nicholas and Alexandra. Communist revisionism has been replaced by academic research. [Massie's book was previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 6/1/95.]?Harry Willems, Kansas Lib. System, Iola.-?Harry Willems, Kansas Lib. System, IolaCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.