

# Nicholas And Alexandra Robert K Massie

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Romanov Family AlbumQueen Victoria and The  
RomanovsTsarPeter the GreatSix Years at the Russian  
CourtFor the Love of BooksThe Last of the Tsars:  
Nicholas II and the Russia RevolutionCatherine the  
GreatPeter the GreatA Lifelong PassionThe Family  
Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial  
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## The Fate of the Romanovs

On the centenary of the death of Rasputin comes a  
definitive biography that will dramatically change our  
understanding of this fascinating figure A hundred  
years after his murder, Rasputin continues to excite

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the popular imagination as the personification of evil. Numerous biographies, novels, and films recount his mysterious rise to power as Nicholas and Alexandra's confidant and the guardian of the sickly heir to the Russian throne. His debauchery and sinister political influence are the stuff of legend, and the downfall of the Romanov dynasty was laid at his feet. But as the prizewinning historian Douglas Smith shows, the true story of Rasputin's life and death has remained shrouded in myth. A major new work that combines probing scholarship and powerful storytelling, *Rasputin* separates fact from fiction to reveal the real life of one of history's most alluring figures. Drawing on a wealth of forgotten documents from archives in seven countries, Smith presents Rasputin in all his complexity--man of God, voice of peace, loyal subject, adulterer, drunkard. Rasputin is not just a definitive biography of an extraordinary and legendary man but a fascinating portrait of the twilight of imperial Russia as it lurched toward catastrophe.

### **The Last Empress**

"[A] superb history. In these thrilling, highly readable pages, we meet Rasputin, the shaggy, lecherous mystic; we visit the gilded ballrooms of the doomed aristocracy; and we pause in the sickroom of little Alexei, the hemophiliac heir who, with his parents and four sisters, would be murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918." —The Wall Street Journal Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs—at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its

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undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming (*Amelia Lost*; *The Lincolns*) deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards. "An exhilarating narrative history of a doomed and clueless family and empire." —Jim Murphy, author of Newbery Honor Books *An American Plague* and *The Great Fire* "For readers who regard history as dull, Fleming's extraordinary book is proof positive that, on the contrary, it is endlessly fascinating, absorbing as any novel, and the stuff of an altogether memorable reading experience." —Booklist, Starred "Marrying the intimate family portrait of Heiligman's *Charles and Emma* with the politics and intrigue of Sheinkin's *Bomb*, Fleming has outdone herself with this riveting work of narrative nonfiction that appeals to the imagination as much as the intellect." —The Horn Book, Starred Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Young Adult Literature Winner of the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction A Robert F. Sibert Honor Book A YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award Finalist Winner of the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction From the Hardcover edition.

### **The Romanov Family Album**

Reveals the story of Tsar Nicholas' wife, a major force in the destruction of the Russian Empire, and her involvement with the infamous Rasputin

## **Queen Victoria and The Romanovs**

Abundant, newly discovered sources shatter long-held beliefs The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 revealed, among many other things, a hidden wealth of archival documents relating to the imprisonment and eventual murder of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their children. Emanating from sources both within and close to the Imperial Family as well as from their captors and executioners, these often-controversial materials have enabled a new and comprehensive examination of one the pivotal events of the twentieth century and the many controversies that surround it. Based on a careful analysis of more than 500 of these previously unpublished documents, along with numerous newly discovered photos, *The Fate of the Romanovs* makes compelling revisions to many long-held beliefs about the Romanovs' final months and moments.

## **Tsar**

The recently declassified diary reveals the Empress's thoughts up until her execution

## **Peter the Great**

Margaret Eager (1863 — 1936), was the Irish nanny to the four daughters of Emperor and Empress Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia, the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia, from 1898 to 1904. This classic, written in 1906, contains the following chapters: 1. Concerning My Journey 2.

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Concerning the Winter Palace 3. Concerning St. Petersburg 4. Concerning St. Petersburg 5. Concerning Easter 6. Concerning Peterhoff 7. Concerning Father John 8. A Glimpse of Poland 9. The Rough Life of the Russian Peasantry 10. Searching for the Magic Bloom 11. A Russian Christmas 12. Life in the Kremlin 13. In Belovege 14. The Young Officer and the Dolls 15. The Little Prison Opener 16. My First Meeting With the King 17. Lost in the Forest 18. Concerning the Children 19. Chersonese 20. The Priest 21. Princess Ella 22. The Outbreak of War 23. The Russian Soldiers 24. Attacks on the Czar's Life 25. Social Life in Russia 26. Post Office Vagaries in Russia 27. The True Story of Kishineff 28. The Russian Clergy 29. More About the Children 30. Education in Russia 31. The Birth of an Heir

### **Six Years at the Russian Court**

Every fairy tale contains the story of a prince, and once the prince meets his princess, they often live happily ever after. But for Nicholas II, tsar of all the Russias, and his wife, Princess Alexandra of Hesse, the ending would be different. At age fifty, brutally murdered by his subjects, Nicholass body was mutilated and thrown into an unmarked mass grave with eight other people in a swampy bog in the middle of a remote forest. The Romanovs Murder Case takes a detailed look at the infamous mass murder of this Russian imperial family, stripped of its claim to the throne before being executed in 1918 following the February Revolution. Author T. G. Bolen investigates the evidence from the site of the

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murders, the Ipatiev House, ultimately refuting investigator Nicholas Sokolov's report that locates the murders in the home's basement. Bolen also provides, for the first time, details of the United States intelligence officer, Homer Slaughter, who was in the Ipatiev House within twenty-four hours of the murders. This study shows that the Romanov murders may very well have occurred in different rooms in the house, and that there was no eleven-person massacre. And although this story will never end happily ever after, revealing new evidence to refute the prevailing story will shed new light on the truth.

### **For the Love of Books**

An album that chronicles both a tragic tale of failed leadership and an extraordinary love story compiles more than three hundred family photographs of the last czar, Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra Feodorovna, their hemophiliac son, and their four daughters.

### **The Last of the Tsars: Nicholas II and the Russia Revolution**

Taking advantage of material unavailable until the fall of the Soviet Union, Erickson portrays Alexandra's story as a closely observed, enthrallingly documented, progressive psychological retreat from reality. The lives of the Romanovs were full of color and drama, but the personal life of Alexandra has remained enigmatic. Under Erickson's masterful scrutiny the full dimensions of the Empresses' singular psychology are revealed: her childhood

bereavement, her long struggle to attain her romantic goal of marriage to Nicholas, the anguish of her pathological shyness, her struggles with her in-laws, her false pregnancy, her increasing eccentricities and loss of self as she became more preoccupied with matters of faith, and her increasing dependence on a series of occult mentors, the most notorious of whom was Rasputin. With meticulous care, long practiced skill, and generous imagination, Erickson crafts a character who lives and breathes.

## **Catherine the Great**

Filled with images from the life of the Romanov family, this document to the fallen Czars also includes anecdotes and quotations that contextualize the more than four hundred pictures and discuss the role of this family in the fall of their dynasty, and the rise of the Soviet Union.

## **Peter the Great**

A boy's efforts to create an icon to please the family's new maid helps him to make new friends and discover an artistic talent.

## **A Lifelong Passion**

Russian playwright and historian Radzinsky mines sources never before available to create a fascinating portrait of the monarch, and a minute-by-minute account of his terrifying last days.

## **The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia**

Reconstructs the final days and hours of the Romanovs, as recorded by the Englishman who was their tutor

### **Dreadnought**

Anna Alexandrovna Vyubova (1884 - 1964) was a Russian lady-in-waiting and close friend of Tsaritsa Alexandra Fyodorovna, Empress of Russia and wife of the last ruler of the Russian Empire, Nicholas II. Within this fascinating volume, she recounts her unique experiences of life at the Russian court and relationship with the Romanov family during the years leading up to the 1917 revolution. Offering extraordinary insights into the Romanovs and the political and social climate of the time, this volume constitutes a must-read for anyone with an interest in this significant episode of world history. Many vintage book such as this are increasingly scarce and expensive. It is with this in mind that we are republishing this volume now in an affordable, modern edition complete with the original text and artwork.

### **The House of Special Purpose**

With his son's safe return, Superintendent Lannes and his wife can, at last, have some joy amid the grim reality of Vichy France. Not that the unexplained murders seem to have stopped. This is the second

volume in a trilogy, following *Death in Bordeaux*.

## **The Last Diary of Tsaritsa Alexandra**

A riveting account of the last eighteen months of Tsar Nicholas II's life and reign from one of the finest Russian historians writing today. In March 1917, Nicholas II, the last Tsar of All the Russias, abdicated and the dynasty that had ruled an empire for three hundred years was forced from power by revolution. Now, on the hundredth anniversary of that revolution, Robert Service, the eminent historian of Russia, examines Nicholas's life and thought from the months before his momentous abdication to his death, with his family, in Ekaterinburg in July 1918. The story has been told many times, but Service's deep understanding of the period and his forensic examination of previously untapped sources, including the Tsar's diaries and recorded conversations, as well as the testimonies of the official inquiry, shed remarkable new light on his troubled reign, also revealing the kind of Russia that Nicholas wanted to emerge from the Great War. *The Last of the Tsars* is a masterful study of a man who was almost entirely out of his depth, perhaps even willfully so. It is also a compelling account of the social, economic and political ferment in Russia that followed the February Revolution, the Bolshevik seizure of power in October 1917 and the beginnings of Lenin's Soviet socialist republic.

## **Rasputin**

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The story behind the Romanov murders and the painstaking investigation to find their hidden bodies describes Lenin's cover-up and the roles played by such figures as James Baker, Boris Yeltsin, and Prince Philip. 125,000 first printing. Tour.

## **Foreign Mud**

This spectacular illustrated history tells the story of the last Romanovs - one of the great tragic love stories of all time - with unparalleled vividness & intimacy. The text, which follows Nicholas & Alexandria from their childhood's to the Siberian cellar where their lives ended, is complemented by rare images from the imperial family's private collections (locked away for decades in Soviet archives, & published here for the first time), as well as by contemporary full-color photographs of the places & palaces the Romanovs knew.

## **The Kitchen Madonna**

A gripping chronicle of the personal and national rivalries that led to the twentieth century's first great arms race, from Pulitzer Prize winner Robert K. Massie. With the biographer's rare genius for expressing the essence of extraordinary lives, Massie brings to life a crowd of glittery figures: the single-minded Admiral von Tirpitz; the young, ambitious Winston Churchill; the ruthless, sycophantic Chancellor Bernhard von Bülow; Britain's greatest twentieth-century foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey; and Jacky Fisher, the eccentric admiral who revolutionized the British navy

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and brought forth the first true battleship, the H.M.S. Dreadnought. Their story, and the story of the era, filled with misunderstandings, missed opportunities, and events leading to unintended conclusions, unfolds like a Greek tragedy in this powerful narrative. Intimately human and dramatic, Dreadnought is history at its most riveting. Praise for Dreadnought “Dreadnought is history in the grand manner, as most people prefer it: how people shaped, or were shaped by, events.”—Time “A classic [that] covers superbly a whole era . . . engrossing in its glittering gallery of characters.”—Chicago Sun-Times “[Told] on a grand scale . . . Massie [is] a master of historical portraiture and anecdotage.”—The Wall Street Journal “Brilliant on everything he writes about ships and the sea. It is Massie’s eye for detail that makes his nautical set pieces so marvelously evocative.”—Los Angeles Times

## **The Romanovs**

Presents a reconstruction of the eighteenth-century empress's life that covers her efforts to engage Russia in the cultural life of Europe, her creation of the Hermitage, and her numerous scandal-free romantic affairs.

## **The Fall of the Romanovs**

Contains primary source material.

## **Nicholas and Alexandra**

## **Alexandra**

A biography of the notorious Russian ruler that details the armed conflicts during his reign and scrutinizes his transformation of medieval Russia into modern Russia.

## **Memories of the Russian Court**

"The acclaimed author of *Young Stalin* and *Jerusalem* gives readers an accessible, lively account--based in part on new archival material--of the extraordinary men and women who ruled Russia for three centuries."--NoveList.

## **Four Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Romanov Grand Duchesses**

## **The Romanovs**

In a work of extraordinary narrative power, filled with brilliant personalities and vivid scenes of dramatic action, Robert K. Massie, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *Dreadnought*, elevates to its proper historical importance the role of sea power in the winning of the Great War. The predominant image of this first world war is of mud and trenches, barbed wire, machine guns, poison gas, and slaughter. A generation of European manhood was massacred, and a wound was inflicted on European civilization that required the remainder of the twentieth century to heal. But with

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all its sacrifice, trench warfare did not win the war for one side or lose it for the other. Over the course of four years, the lines on the Western Front moved scarcely at all; attempts to break through led only to the lengthening of the already unbearably long casualty lists. For the true story of military upheaval, we must look to the sea. On the eve of the war in August 1914, Great Britain and Germany possessed the two greatest navies the world had ever seen. When war came, these two fleets of dreadnoughts—gigantic floating castles of steel able to hurl massive shells at an enemy miles away—were ready to test their terrible power against each other. Their struggles took place in the North Sea and the Pacific, at the Falkland Islands and the Dardanelles. They reached their climax when Germany, suffocated by an implacable naval blockade, decided to strike against the British ring of steel. The result was Jutland, a titanic clash of fifty-eight dreadnoughts, each the home of a thousand men. When the German High Seas Fleet retreated, the kaiser unleashed unrestricted U-boat warfare, which, in its indiscriminate violence, brought a reluctant America into the war. In this way, the German effort to “seize the trident” by defeating the British navy led to the fall of the German empire. Ultimately, the distinguishing feature of *Castles of Steel* is the author himself. The knowledge, understanding, and literary power Massie brings to this story are unparalleled. His portrayals of Winston Churchill, the British admirals Fisher, Jellicoe, and Beatty, and the Germans Scheer, Hipper, and Tirpitz are stunning in their veracity and artistry. *Castles of Steel* is about war at sea, leadership and command, courage, genius, and folly.

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All these elements are given magnificent scope by Robert K. Massie's special and widely hailed literary mastery. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Robert K. Massie's Catherine the Great.

### **The Three Emperors**

Alexander III called Victoria 'a pampered, sentimental, selfish old woman,' while to her he was a sovereign whom she could not regard as a gentleman. But the Queen's son and two of her granddaughters married Romanovs.

### **The Last Days of the Romanovs**

The story of the love that ended an empire In this commanding book, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert K. Massie sweeps readers back to the extraordinary world of Imperial Russia to tell the story of the Romanovs' lives: Nicholas's political naïveté, Alexandra's obsession with the corrupt mystic Rasputin, and little Alexis's brave struggle with hemophilia. Against a lavish backdrop of luxury and intrigue, Massie unfolds a powerful drama of passion and history—the story of a doomed empire and the death-marked royals who watched it crumble. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Robert K. Massie's Catherine the Great. Praise for Nicholas and Alexandra "A larger-than-life drama."—Saturday Review "A moving, rich book . . . [This] revealing, densely documented account of the last Romanovs focuses not on the great events . . . but on the royal family and their evil nemesis. . . . The tale is so

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bizarre, no melodrama is equal to it.”—Newsweek “A wonderfully rich tapestry, the colors fresh and clear, every strand sewn in with a sure hand. Mr. Massie describes those strange and terrible years with sympathy and understanding. . . . They come vividly before our eyes.”—The New York Times “An all-too-human picture . . . Both Nicholas and Alexandra with all their failings come truly alive, as does their almost storybook romance.”—Newsday “A magnificent and intimate picture . . . Not only the main characters but a whole era become alive and comprehensible.”—Harper’s

### **Castles of Steel**

A moment-by-moment account of the last thirteen days of the Russian Imperial family's lives examines their imprisonment, the political maneuverings of those out to save or destroy them, and their brutal assassinations.

### **Nicholas and Alexandra**

In the darkest days of the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, when all talk of the Romanovs was punishable at the very least by banishment to Serbia, a group of archivists were exempt. They sorted and filed the thousands of letters and photographs of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, his wife, Alexandra (a granddaughter of Queen Victoria), and their five children. In all, some 13,000 letters have survived. Those between 1889 and 1914 have never before been published. They run the gamut from matters of

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state to intimate expressions of love and longing. In addition there are the letters of their four daughters and their only son, the haemophiliac Alexis, whose health was to introduce the crucial and some say malign influence of Rasputin. The editors also draw on Nicholas's diaries, letters to his mother, and the diaries and memoirs of their close contemporaries. It includes first hand accounts of the murder of Rasputin in 1916 and the assassination of the Romanovs at Ekaterinburg in 1918.

### **The Last Tsar**

Another enduring work by the brilliant historian Maurice Collis. First published in 1946 and long out of print, *Foreign Mud* is a marvelous historical reconstruction of the events surrounding the illegal trade of opium in Canton during the 1830s and the Opium Wars between Britain and China that followed. Based largely on voluminous documents written by British doctors, missionaries, merchants, and government officials, Collis's tale, far from being a dry assemblage of dates and facts, is a fascinating example of twentieth-century Orientalist literature: "you must picture the broad river puckered with little waves, the green sweep of the rice, on the horizon blue hills; you must conjure the many sorts of passing craft, the Mandarin house-boats, dainty and lacquered, the streamers and lanterns of passenger boats, the high tilted junks with demon-painted sterns; and you must plunge these images into a light more intense than we know in these countries, into a warmer wind and an air, purer and more scented than

we can sniff except in dreams." Collis describes, in all its complexities, a moment in time when China is forced, after more than two thousand years of self-contained sufficiency, to open its doors to the culture, commerce, and evangelization of the West—the casus belli, foreign mud: the opium the British grew and shipped from India. Interspersed with various maps, plans, and illustrations, *Foreign Mud* is a historical narrative the reader will find more entertaining than any Spielberg film.

## **The Romanovs' Murder Case**

To support the broadening spectrum of project delivery approaches, PMI is offering *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) – Sixth Edition* as a bundle with its latest, the *Agile Practice Guide*. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* now contains detailed information about agile; while the *Agile Practice Guide*, created in partnership with *Agile Alliance®*, serves as a bridge to connect waterfall and agile. Together they are a powerful tool for project managers. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* – PMI's flagship publication has been updated to reflect the latest good practices in project management. New to the Sixth Edition, each knowledge area will contain a section entitled *Approaches for Agile, Iterative and Adaptive Environments*, describing how these practices integrate in project settings. It will also contain more emphasis on strategic and business knowledge—including discussion of project management business documents—and information

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on the PMI Talent Triangle™ and the essential skills for success in today's market. Agile Practice Guide has been developed as a resource to understand, evaluate, and use agile and hybrid agile approaches. This practice guide provides guidance on when, where, and how to apply agile approaches and provides practical tools for practitioners and organizations wanting to increase agility. This practice guide is aligned with other PMI standards, including A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) – Sixth Edition, and was developed as the result of collaboration between the Project Management Institute and the Agile Alliance.

## **Nicholas and Alexandra**

A study of the marriage of the last Russian tsar and tsarina offers psychological insights into their relationship and covers the Empress's ill health, their relationship with confidante Ania Vyubova, and their reliance on the infamous Rasputin.

## **Alix and Nicky**

This biography of the notorious Russian ruler examines his background and accomplishments, detailing the armed conflicts during his reign and scrutinizing his transformation of medieval Russia into modern Russia

## **The Camera and the Tsars**

In the State Hermitage Museum an extraordinary

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collection of state and personal possessions has been preserved from which National Museums of Scotland curators were allowed to select for bring to Edinburgh for the summer exhibition at the Royal Museum - Nicholas and Alexandra The Last Tsar and Tsarina. Nicholas and Alexandra, the book, is not only a catalogue of the wonderful objects on display but also a history of the public and private lives of the ill-fated Russian Royal Family. Lavishly produced, with over 200 pictures and photographs, the book - an object of beauty in itself - does full justice to this unique exhibition.

### **Journey**

A celebration of the meaning and comfort printed books bring to our homes and lives, from the curation and design experts at Juniper Books. Explore the significance of the home library, embellished with alluring photography and illustrations, in a keepsake worthy of any bibliophile's collection. For the Love of Books shares the vision of Juniper Books, a business that embraces the roles that books fulfill in our lives and their staying power. It recounts the history of books and private libraries, and champions the resilience of books in the digital era. Dive into the nuances that define books for reading, books for decoration, and books for inspiration. Instructive chapters provide useful details for creating and curating one's own home library, whether it be a single shelf or multiple rooms each with their own collection. You will never look at your bookshelves the same way again. For the Love of Books is about

storytelling beyond the pages of our favorite books. Our books—the ones we choose to keep—tell the story of who we are. They remind us who we once were and who we aspire to be. Thatcher Wine founded Juniper Books in 2001. The company creates custom libraries and has perfected the art of turning books inside out to allow for books to tell stories not just to us, but about us. Working with booklovers, homeowners, and designers, Juniper Books has provided the world with a fresh new approach to the printed book. Thatcher grew up in New York City where his parents owned and operated The Quilted Giraffe, one of the most innovative restaurants in America. Thatcher graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in history and art history and lives in Boulder, Colorado. Elizabeth Lane is the founder of Quarterlane, a quarterly subscription book service which merged with Juniper Books in 2018. She is also the book buyer for her local independent bookstore, Partners Village Store and Kitchen in Westport, Massachusetts. Prior to working in books, Elizabeth worked in contemporary visual art—in galleries, nonprofit initiatives and museums in New York, Austin, and Chicago. Elizabeth graduated from Davidson College with a degree in art history and received her masters degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

## **The Secret River**

An account of the life and work of the renowned contemporary poet charts his experiences before and after winning the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature while

discussing the artistic and ethical challenges he faced during the years of the Ulster Troubles.

## **Dark Summer in Bordeaux**

On 17 July 1918, four young women walked down twenty-three steps into the cellar of a house in Ekaterinburg. The eldest was twenty-two, the youngest only seventeen. Together with their parents and their thirteen-year-old brother, they were all brutally murdered. Their crime: to be the daughters of the last Tsar and Tsaritsa of All the Russias. In *Four Sisters* acclaimed biographer Helen Rappaport offers readers the most authoritative account yet of the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia. Drawing on their own letters and diaries, she paints a vivid picture of their lives in the dying days of the Romanov dynasty. We see, almost for the first time, their journey from a childhood of enormous privilege, throughout which they led a very sheltered and largely simple life, to young womanhood - their first romantic crushes, their hopes and dreams, the difficulty of coping with a mother who was a chronic invalid and a haemophilic brother, and, latterly, the trauma of the revolution and its terrible consequences. Compellingly readable, meticulously researched and deeply moving, *Four Sisters* gives these young women a voice, and allows their story to resonate for readers almost a century after their death.

## **A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK(R) Guide-Sixth**

## **Edition / Agile Practice Guide Bundle (HINDI)**

IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR, the great European powers, Britain, Germany and Russia, were ruled by three cousins- George V, King-Emperor of England, the British Empire and India; Wilhelm II, the last Kaiser; and Nicholas II, the last Tsar. Together, they presided over the last years of dynastic Europe and the outbreak of the most destructive war the world had ever seen, a war which set twentieth century Europe on course to be the most violent continent in the history. Miranda Carter uses the cousins' correspondence and a host of historical sources to tell the tragicomic story of a tiny, glittering, solipsistic world that was often preposterously out of kilter with its times, struggling to stay in command of politics and world events as history overtook it. The Three Emperors is a brilliant and sometimes hilarious portrait of three men - damaged, egotistical Wilhelm, quiet, stubborn Nicholas and anxious, dutiful George - and their lives, foibles and obsessions, from tantrums to uniforms to stamp collecting. It is also alive with fresh, subtle portraits of other familiar figures- Queen Victoria - grandmother to two of them, grandmother-in-law to the third - whose conservatism and bullying obsession with family left a dangerous legacy; and of Edward VII, the playboy 'arch-vulgarian' who turned out to have a remarkable gift for international relations and the theatrics of mass politics. At the same time it weaves through their stories a riveting account of the events that led to World War One, showing how the

personal and the political interacted, sometimes to devastating effect. For all three men the war would be a disaster which destroyed for ever the illusion of their close family relationships, with any sense of peace and harmony shattered in a final coda of murder, betrayal and abdication.

## **Stepping Stones**

'Winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize and Australian Book Industry Awards, Book of the Year. After a childhood of poverty and petty crime in the slums of London, William Thornhill is transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. With his wife Sal and children in tow, he arrives in a harsh land that feels at first like a death sentence. But among the convicts there is a whisper that freedom can be bought, an opportunity to start afresh. As Thornhill stakes his claim on a patch of ground by the Hawkesbury River, the battle lines between the old and new inhabitants are drawn. Inspired by research into her own family history, Kate Grenville vividly creates the reality of settler life, its longings, dangers and dilemmas. The Secret River is a groundbreaking story about identity, belonging and ownership. There is no doubt Grenville is one of our greatest writers. A book everyone should read. It is evocative, gracefully written, terrible and confronting. And it has resonance for ever'.

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