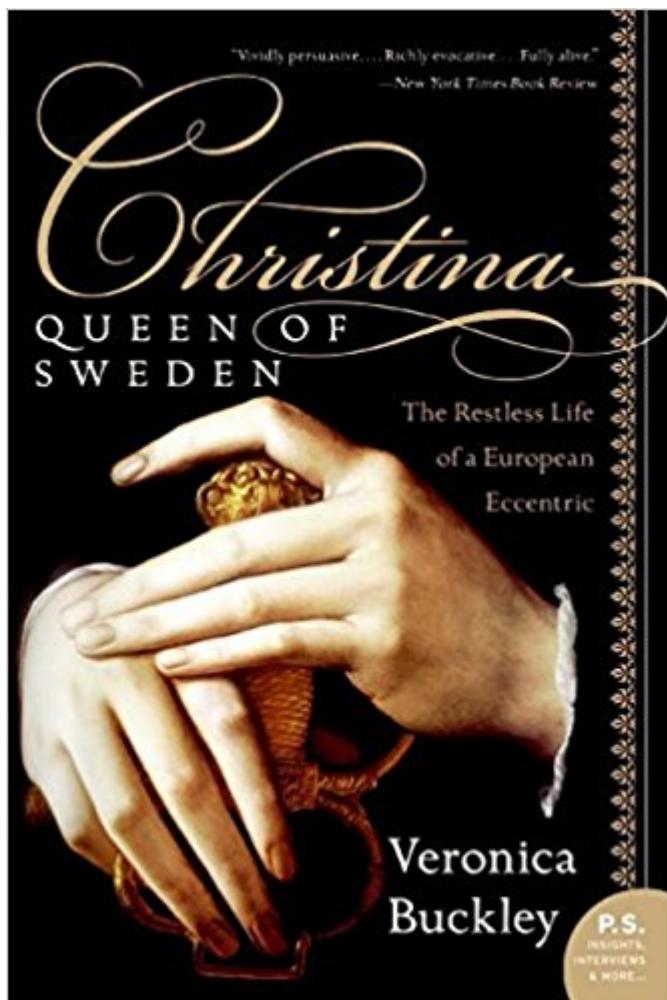


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Christina, Queen Of Sweden: The Restless Life Of A European Eccentric



Synopsis

Not unlike the elusive figure played by Greta Garbo, the real Queen Christina stood among the most flamboyant and controversial figures of the seventeenth century. All of Sweden could not contain her ambition or quench her thirst for adventure. Freed from her crown, she cut a breathtaking path across Europe -- spending madly, seeking out a more majestic throne, and stirring up trouble wherever she went. With a dazzling narrative voice and unerring sense of the period, Veronica Buckley goes beyond historical myth to breathe life into an extraordinary woman who set the world on fire and became an icon of her age -- a time of enormous change when Europe stood at the crossroads of religion and science, antiquity and modernity, war and peace. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial (September 27, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060736186

ISBN-13: 978-0060736187

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #522,400 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Sweden #900 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Royalty #3055 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe

Customer Reviews

'A stunning debut and an absorbing page-turner. Veronica Buckley writes with immense style, vitality and great humanity. As compelling as the most riveting of novels.' Alison Weir 'Her book is much less a debut than the highly polished work of a writer who has been thinking about and loving her subject for years, and her enjoyment in the writing of Queen Christina's life is wonderfully translated into our pleasure in reading it.' Stella Tillyard, Sunday Times 'Veronica Buckley has a flair for description and relates this extraordinary life with sympathy and engaging panache.' John Adamson, Sunday Telegraph 'This is a splendidly robust and colourful account of a remarkable woman and the turbulent age in which she lived. Astonishingly, this is Veronica Buckley's first book.'

May she write many more.' Philip Ziegler, Daily Telegraph --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Veronica Buckley was born in New Zealand. She studied in London and Oxford, where she did her postgraduate work on Christina Alexandra. She now lives in Paris with her husband, writer Philipp Blom. This is her first book.

A first book for this author. I give it a 2 star - fair rating. It was difficult to get into reading this story. I kept putting the book down. It's dry. Many of the sentences run on and on. No one speaks like this in normal conversation. Also, it seemed like a Thesaurus was used to make things sound more impressive, but all that did was make the story's flow all choppy. Before purchasing the book, download a sample. This way you will know for yourself if you will be able to get through the book. This book is suited for research or for someone who just wants to know everything about Queen Christina. It's not suited for casual reading. Here are a couple of extracts: "The Princess, a young lady of generous circumference but, it seems, no great perspicacity, failed to recognize her prospective suitor. She mistook his interested approach for impertinence, declaring to her sister, in imperious French, 'What intrusive people these Swedes are!' Alas, among the eleven languages understood by the clever King, French was not the least." "It prevented her, too, from building up her collections in any systematic way. Though she did request specific books, to match her developing intellectual interests, her agents scouting for antiquities and works of art bought more or less at their own discretion, often sending back things that were not to Christina's taste; ten paintings by Gerrit Dou, for instance, bought at considerable cost by her agent Silfvercrona in Holland, were soon passed on to Silfvercrona's family. The Prague cornucopia did not change her approach to the northern schools of painting, though it contained many eloquent examples of it, but it did provide a concrete elaboration of the Renaissance ideas which had framed the minds of her own teachers. It was largely within that tradition that Christina was now forming her own view of the world."

Wow, a superb and scholarly biography. Contrary to current styles of biography the author disdains to preface her work with an exculpatory psychological assessment of Christina that would soften our judgement of her. Christina appears to be a deficient personality profoundly lacking in self-esteem but deluded as to her weak nature due to her royal status. She liked to think of herself as being a worldclass dissembler and manipulator. But more often than not she was blind and self-deluded. In my opinion, her lesbianism, rejection by her mother and her probable genital deformity--all things

that would cause excruciating humiliation and self-loathing (at that epoch) contributed to her blithe self-deception and admiration for dissemblers. As more than one person wrote-(I paraphrase)- the queen was very blustery but was in truth a timorous person. Her vanity was insatiable. She flattered herself that her's was a naturally queenly and magnificent nature. But it most certainly was not. The grotesque incident in the salon aux Cerfs tells us all about her and taints her for all eternity (although she would argue otherwise). The author is merciless! Uncomfortably, I couldn't help but see my pretentious younger self in Christina which made the book a little more involving for me. I've read other books on Christina years ago but don't remember finding her so pathetic so you should read other books on Christina for a more balanced view. The book is really well written and left me wanting more. I highly recommend this book and will look for any other works by this author. I bought this book on kindle but then purchased a hardcover version to add to my collection.

Well-written and full of intimate details, this biography brings to life a queen like no other. Convinced of her own destiny and rightful power, Christina, even after abdication claimed her rightful place among the constellations of royalty. Buckley, relying upon a wealth of first-hand materials, captured the feeling of the day--women, performing the same acts of men of the time, are often bludgeoned in the annals of history because of their gender. One wonders if Christina's acts were all the more eccentric, self-serving, and even bitterly cruel because she was a strong, intelligent, and well-spoken woman.

I really struggled to get through the first 50 pages. It picked up a bit after that. The book is dry and really misses the chance to bring her to life. The facts are interesting, but the voice of the author is tedious. Disappointing!

I do not know much about the 1600s and even less about Sweden but this book brings both to life.

Good book on a little discussed queen who broke the social norms of her day.

Ms Buckley has researched the Queen and portrays her in her conflicted state. As a genetic progeny of the Hapsburg dynasty, Christina demonstrates mental and personality confusion. Ascending the throne of Sweden at age 6, she needed the "old men" that her Father had put into place to govern until she was of age. Christina turned her hate and narcissism towards her Father's friend and governor, Axel Oxenstierna. Christina's erratic behavior destroyed herself in her

abdication and religious conversion, and cost Sweden a great deal. Christina hated being a woman and encouraged rumors of Hermaphroditism and lesbian behavior to avoid marriage. In adulthood, the Queen, in extravagance and without a throne, finally found a deep and companionate love with a Cardinal, close to the Pope. At last she desired to be a woman but refused the submissive sexuality of a woman. At the end she is to be hated for irresponsible and narcissistic behavior, but pitied as a fragile, unloved child of a mentally unstable Queen Eleonora of Hapsburg, and the grand Vasa King, Gustaf Adolph, with whom she only imagined equality.

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