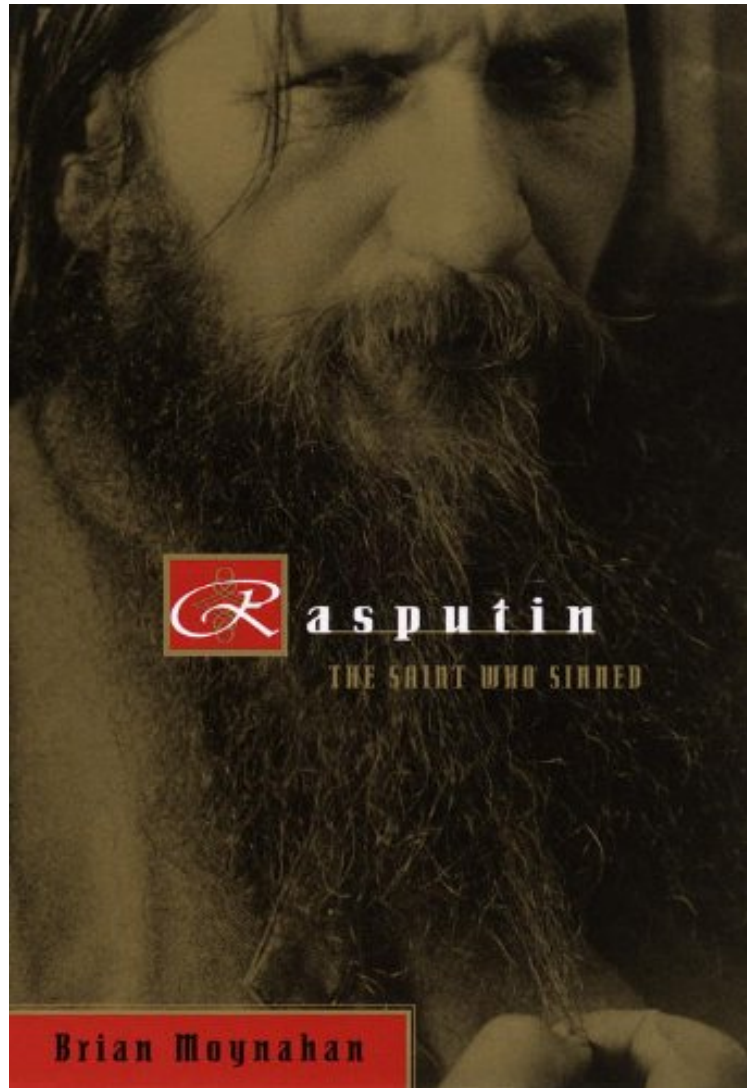


[Ebook pdf] Rasputin: The Saint Who Sinned

Rasputin: The Saint Who Sinned

Von Brian Moynahan

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Von Brian Moynahan : Rasputin: The Saint Who Sinned before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rasputin: The Saint Who Sinned:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What disagreeable traits?Von fishgutsucker@hotmail.comFirst of all, I'd like to know what was so bad about Rasputin's habits? According to his own philosophy, he did nothing wrong, and alot of good. If you're going to judge him by orthodox christianity's standards, I'm sure he would be the first to tell you to go toss off. Okay okay, the fall of the Russian Empire. Like I'm sure he did that on purpose. But if you judge him by human standards, I'm sure you'll find

that you're just jealous. So having said that, I'll go on to say that 'The Saint Who Sinned' was a pretty good read. But if you're really interested in the subject, I'd go back and read the books that were published at the time, i.e. 'The Holy Devil' and that hysterically childish one written by Yusupov, and perhaps some of the things written by Marie Rasputin, his daughter. The thing to keep in mind when reading about Rasputin is the fact that anybody who cares enough to actually write a book about him is going to be biased one way or the other, and whether they mean to or not, some of that is going to show in the work. So you've got to always always read between the opinions and don't take whether or not it's sensationalism so seriously. Rasputin never gave a damn what was said about him, and I wouldn't presume to.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Suggestive insights, provocative psycho-biography

Von Ein Kunde

This is a fabulous read if you are fairly well versed in, and tired of, readily available recitations of events. Are you still wondering how a Siberian peasant could become the confidante of an empress, the marvel of society, the object of multiple homicide attempts, and the hated scourge of a proud church? Get ready to think. Moynahan's work restores the "why" and even some of the "how" to the story. Rasputin became what he was because Russian society needed him. (Every turning point of Russian monarchical history is marked by the emergence of false czars and powerful archimandrites. Russia, like other countries historical susceptible to invasion, is peculiarly sensitive to power vacuums.) In many respects Russia's historical moment at the time of Rasputin's power resembles the French ancien regime's uppermost social structure. Stifled by the queen's nature, paralyzed by the king's ineptitude, whipsawed by economic swings, Russia was dry tinder for the matches struck by the French philosophes in the 18th century. It may be that the fall of a capable economic minister (France's Necker, Russia's Stolypin) was the key to the chain of events that followed. A creation of the times and the culture, Rasputin's individual contribution to history is revealed best by the author's willingness to entertain an Augustinian paradox: that saints, then and now, struggle desperately to resolve the problem of sin. It's easy to name Rasputin devilish. Exploring how he may have gotten that way is a useful exercise. Moynahan's work would have been greatly strengthened by a similar resolve to maintain the saint/sinner paradox. Helpful background to get the most from this book: some background about political issues within Queen Victoria's family and the issues of Hesse-Darmstadt; the possible stage-setting influence of Catherine the Great's friendship with Voltaire; a reading of "The Russian Syndrome," a review of the role of political murder throughout Russian history.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A sensationalised read

Von Cybamuse

The book started out mimicking the marvelous book by Massie, Nicholas and Alexandra, with Moynahan creating the atmosphere that Rasputin walked into. Right off the bat, it became clear that this book was based on the sources that include a more sensationalised account of Rasputin's life, and having read Edvard Radzinsky's book first, that made some things in this book a bit contradictory for me. I think what threw me was in the middle of this book, Moynahan suddenly turned absolutely vitriolic and was shockingly scathing about Rasputin - and I really felt the obscenities were a bit over the top. There is no doubt Rasputin was just a wee bit manipulating and destructive in the actions he took to preserve his position as the Tsarina's right hand man, but I felt Moynahan drifted a bit there! A beautiful narration is one thing, obscenities are another and all rather lacked the nice professional tone that the book opened with. However, towards the end of the book, Moynahan settled down again and got somewhere more polite about the whole tragic death. For all Rasputin did, he was just a focus of the frustration the people felt at the hardships being imposed upon them by a Tsar who seemed to be disconnected from his people. Moynahan did convey rather well that the prevailing atmosphere in which Rasputin was assassinated was one where you could tell it wasn't going to make any difference to the Russian Empire. It's up to you whether you read this book - if you believe Radzinsky's sources for his book, then possibly his book is more accurate, however for a largely well-written book about Rasputin based on what the world knew for 70-odd years, this is a pretty good book (apart from the bit in the middle!)

Kurzbeschreibung Grigory Efimovich Rasputin came to St. Petersburg from his Siberian cabin in 1903 like a projectile from the medieval past, tattered, black-clad, muttering. By the time he was murdered thirteen years later, the peasant was the "beloved" friend of Tsar Nicholas and Empress Alexandra and the sponsor of the most powerful officials in Russia. He had become, a society lady wrote, "a dusk enveloping all our world, eclipsing the sun. How could so pitiful a wretch throw so vast a shadow? It was inexplicable, maddening, almost incredible. "Rasputin's name has become synonymous with evil, but his legend has obscured the facts of his life. In this evocative biography, Brian Moynahan presents us with a flesh-and-blood Rasputin, more fascinating than the myth--a man in whom debauchery coexisted beside a real (if erratic) spiritual sense, a man whose coarseness hid a savvy awareness of human psychology. Drawing on confidential police reports, cabinet meeting memos, and other documents, some available only since the fall of the Soviet Union, Moynahan sheds new light on Rasputin's life and disputes some of the widely held details of his death. The young Rasputin was a drinker, thief, and womanizer. He claimed to have religious visions and became a wandering holy man, preaching that exposure to sin could drive out sin. He stormed the fashionable salons of St. Petersburg, and in 1905 he met Nicholas and Alexandra, who, increasingly despised by the sophisticated, found in

Rasputin reassurance that the "real Russia, the simple and pious peasantry, loved them. Rasputin's mysterious ability to stop the bleeding attacks of their hemophiliac only son, Alexis, sealed the approval of the domineering Alexandra. With royal patronage, Rasputin became increasingly reckless, partying with prostitutes, peddling influence, plotting the disgrace of those who crossed him. Ever contradictory, he was also a devoted family man, a defender of the poor, and a figure of immense charisma. As Germany battered Russia during World War I, as Nicholas's ineptitude as a leader became ever more rampant and the masses went hungry, Rasputin seemed to monarchists to be the cause, and not just the symptom, of corrupt government. A group of conspirators gathered--among them a grand duke and a scion of the richest family in Russia--and one of the most famous murders in history was planned. Set against the vivid backdrop of prerevolutionary Russia, Rasputin is a portrait of an age as well as of a man. NOTE: This edition does not include photographs.

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