



Napoleon: His Wives and Women

By Christopher Hibbert

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As a soldier and an emperor, Napoleon was ruthless and determined; as a lover, he showed the same single-minded ferocity.

Christopher Hibbert introduces us to the many intriguing women behind Napoleon—from his strong-willed mother and three sisters to his varied wives and mistresses. This lively historical account reveals Napoleon's often neglected private life and passionate relationships, in which he wildly worshiped certain women as often as he disdained others. Vividly evoking the political and social upheavals of post-Revolutionary France, Hibbert captures the vibrant characters who made history, not only on the battlefield but also in the bedroom, including Josephine, the charming Creole from Martinique; the plain and pliant Marie-Louise of Austria; and Marie Walewska, the sumptuous young Polish countess who, despite initial reluctance, was persuaded by her elderly husband to fall in love with Napoleon. Praised by A. N. Wilson as an "outstanding popular historian," Hibbert dramatically brings to life the most intimate influences on Napoleon's turbulent career and character. 16 pages four-color, 8 pages black-and-white illustrations.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hibbert is both eclectic and prolific, and his energies are hardly flagging; in the last few years, he has produced well-regarded biographies of Wellington, Queen Victoria and George III. Hibbert has a talent for visiting old ground with a fresh eye, and as he crosses the Channel, he does not disappoint. The Napoleon who emerges is not the victor, the emperor nor even the hero brought low, but the man as revealed in his relations with the numerous women in his life: his wives, his mistresses, his sisters and his mother. It is, on the whole, not a pretty sight. Napoleon was often crude, rude, insulting and even violent toward women, some of whom unaccountably found him irresistible. Marie Walewska, the teenaged wife of a Polish count offered to Napoleon to avert the destruction of Poland, fainted at their first private encounter and was raped while unconscious. Still, she appears to have fallen in love with him, and bore his child. Poland, however, was not saved. Napoleon demanded that he be first in the heart of any woman close to him and was ruthless when he detected divided loyalties. He upbraided his stepdaughter, Hortense, for mourning the death of her little boy excessively, and saw to it that Mme. R, camier's banker husband was ruined and she herself banished because she virtuously preferred her husband to him. Through all of this, Hibbert remains studiously nonjudgmental, allowing readers to form their own conclusions about the character of the great man. 16 pages color, 8 pages b&w illus. not seen by PW.

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From [Booklist](#)

Despite the various romantic legends ("Not tonight, Josephine"), Napoleon was generally awkward and insecure in his relationships with women. He did, however, manage to attract a wide variety of desirable women through a combination of dogged determination and the aphrodisiac of power. Hibbert is the author of numerous widely praised historical narratives and biographies, and in this survey of Napoleon's wives and lovers he displays his usual gift for integrating personal stories with broader historical context. Hibbert (to his credit) does not claim that any of these women were powers behind the throne, but this is still an involving look at some interesting women and their relationships with a historical giant. While some--such as Josephine and Marie Louise of Austria--are well known, it is the more obscure objects of Napoleon's desire that are particularly interesting. All subjects seem to have approached their relationships in a manipulative, almost predatory, manner. While we don't learn anything new here about the affairs of state, Napoleon's state of affairs provides good, clean fun. *Jay Freeman*
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Review

Scholarly, moving, even funny....pulls back the curtain to reveal the hidden side of France's greatest leader. -
- *Amanda Foreman, author of Georgiana*

Very enjoyable, and a cracking good read. Hibbert brings to vivid life one of the most enigmatic characters in history. -- *Mary S. Lovell, author of The Sisters*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Archie Moriarty:

The reserve with title Napoleon: His Wives and Women possesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you throughout new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Terry Carr:

Typically the book Napoleon: His Wives and Women has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research ahead of write this book. That book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

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