

[Free pdf] Pavlovsk: The Life of a Russian Palace

## Pavlovsk: The Life of a Russian Palace

*Suzanne Massie*

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**Suzanne Massie : Pavlovsk: The Life of a Russian Palace** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pavlovsk: The Life of a Russian Palace:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Writing for the history buff, not the academicBy Alan IndianaWhoever heard of historical writing being a great read? Anyone who's read either Susanne or Robert Massie's books about the culture and politics of Russia, that's who.Suzanne Massie's Pavlovsk is a wondrous book about what might be the most beautiful palace (she says it is; I haven't seen it, so I can't say) in Russia, a land of magnificent baroque and neo-classical palaces. But this book is more than that--while Massie's clear, always fascinating description of the birth and death and rebirth of the palace makes it and its inhabitants come vibrantly alive, she uses the palace as a lens through which to view the cultural and political history of Russia from the late 18th to the mid-20th century, without stinting on the palace or the history. What an achievement! Makes me want to get on a plane to St. Petersburg this afternoon.Couple Massie's prose with the beautiful illustrations, and you have what is probably the best introduction to the subject of Russian culture and architecture available in English today.So why only 4 stars? Because someone was asleep at the switch when it came to proofing the text, and the first edition (were there others?) of 1990 is riddled with misprints. Some are confusing (saying October and meaning September; then saying September for the same event), and all are just plain annoying and sloppy.But except for that, the book is a treasure.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for history buffsBy Tia KarenThis is a very interesting book. It tells Russian history through the lens of a particular palace, Pavlosk, just outside of St. Petersburg. (Pavlosk was built by the somewhat crazy son of Catherine the Great.) First, the reader relishes in the grandeur of tsarist

lifestyle -- music (including a Strauss residency at the palace), art, international travel, palace intrigues, and more. Then the glamour dims to the horrors of WWII and the destruction of the palace. And just like the firebird (a symbol of Russia), the palace rises again to its former glory through the efforts of some very, very dedicated people. The details Massey provides are numerous, such that the reader feels he or she is there. Who knew that children from the ballet school could use their dainty toes to root out landmines around the palace? Read this book and you'll know this detail and lots more. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written and excellent documentation in a historical and cultural gem. Personal interview bring the love and determination of the Russian restoration staff to life. Brings back personal memories of my own visits to Pavlovak.

Suzanne Massie uses the history of this magnificent palace as a lens to look deeply into the soul of successive periods revealing the heights of hope and the depths of horror in the larger than life story to be found only in Russia.

From Library Journal  
The Pavlovsk Palace, near Leningrad, has been a silent witness to the best and the worst fortunes of imperial Russia and the Soviet Union. Begun in 1777 by Emperor Paul III and his wife Maria Fedorovna near their capital, the palace was a residence of the imperial family until 1915. Preserved and protected during the Revolution of 1917, it was looted and nearly destroyed by the Germans during the World War II siege of Leningrad. Almost immediately after the siege was lifted (January 1944), plans were drawn up to rebuild and restore the palace to its former glory. Massie, author of *Land of the Firebird* (LJ 9/15/80), writes with great affection for the 18th-century builders and admiration for the contemporary artisans who have spent 40 years restoring the palace. A valuable addition for any travel or history collection dealing with the Soviet Union. - Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York  
Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "In this book, which reads like a gripping novel, exciting as a spy thriller, Massie spans over three centuries of Russia's turbulent history....using the palace as a pivotal focus, Massie paints a canvas of cultural and political life. A riveting story of passion and people." -- St. Petersburg Times, February 27, 1998  
From the Publisher  
Winner of the 1998 Ansiferov Prize for Best Foreign Book about St. Petersburg. Russian Language Edition also available through .com.