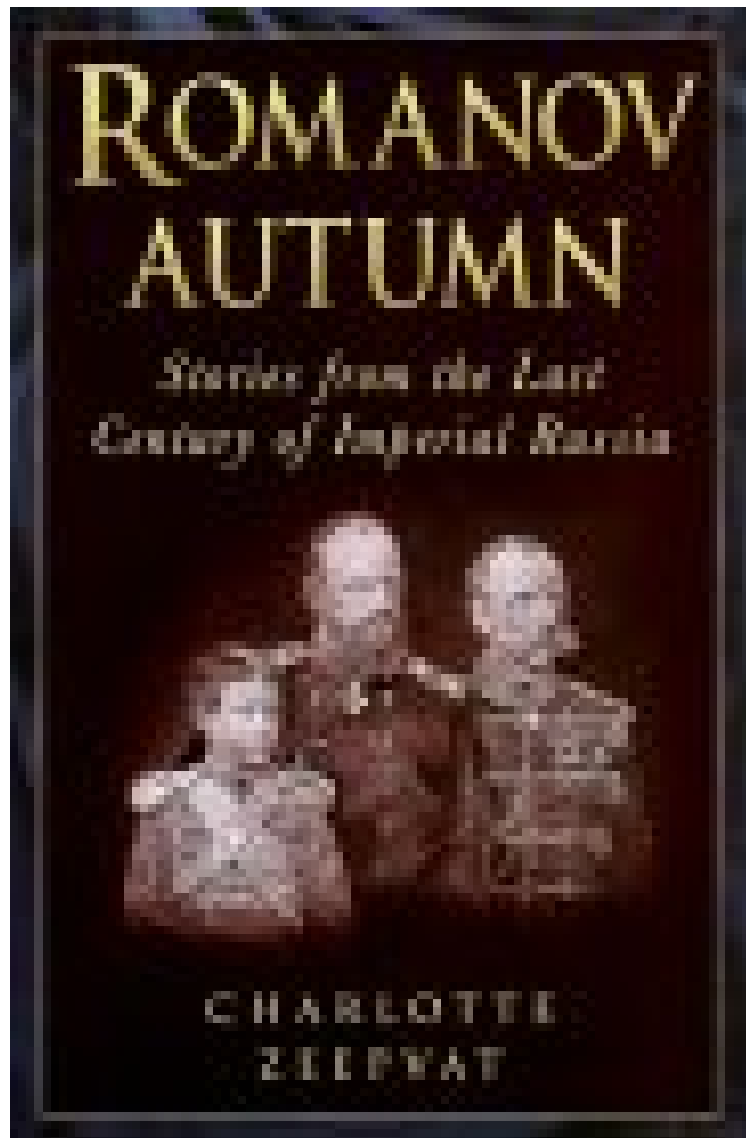


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## Romanov Autumn

*Charlotte Zeepvat*

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**Charlotte Zeepvat : Romanov Autumn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Romanov Autumn:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Romanov AutumnBy Gigi YoungRomanov Autumn is my favorite book on the Romanovs. This book explores the Romanov's lives starting in 1817 when the first Nicholas and Alexandra were married in the Winter Palace. As the chapters unfold we see the last three Tsars; Alexander II, Alexander III, and Nicholas II each trying to steer his own course helped or hindered by the brothers, sister, wives,

mistresses and children whose stories are told in vivid detail. The author, Charlotte Zeepvat's detailed knowledge of the imperial palaces, (Gatchina, Peterhof, the Alexander Palace and others), as they were and as they are today, helps to bring their stories to life. Charlotte's own drawings of the different family members are exquisite. I recently purchased my second copy of this book simply because I wore the first copy out. If you love reading about Nicholas II and Alexandra you will love learning about all the Romanov family members. I highly recommend this book.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good coverage of some overlooked royals  
By John D. Cofield  
Most books about the Romanovs concentrate on the last Tsar and his family. Nicholas II was an interesting figure, but he was the head of a large and fascinating family, most of whom are little known today. "Romanov Autumn" gives some detail to the lives of these now obscure people. One thing rather disconcerting is Zeepvat's use of unusual titles, like "Tsesarevitch" or "Grand Prince". Although she explains in her introduction that these are more accurate translations of the Russian titles, most people who read about the Romanovs are so used to "Tsarevitch" or "Grand Duke" that the new forms are jarring. Nevertheless, a Romanov fan should not be without this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Rebecca McIntyre  
Interesting story

There is a continuing fascination with the Romanov dynasty that ruled Russia for over 300 years. Charlotte Zeepvat seeks to widen the picture by looking at the lives of members of the family during the last century of imperial rule, a time of contrasts and a period in which the Tsars reached the peak of their wealth, prestige and power, yet also faced the growth of forces which would destroy them. Zeepvat's subjects are the first Nicholas and Alexandra who ruled 100 years before the Revolution; Alexander II; Alexander III; and on to the last Tsar, Nicholas II. The book also looks at the lives of their sisters and brothers, revealing the detail of their daily lives in the palaces which were their homes including Gatchina, Ilinskoie and Alexander Palace, all visited by the author in her role as a tour-leader. Illustrated with her own drawings and photographs, the text provides a wealth of information for anyone interested in the tragic history of the Russian Imperial family.

From Booklist  
Zeepvat has written extensively on various royal figures, and she is a historical consultant for Royalty Digest. In examining the last century of the Romanov dynasty, she has not provided a conventional narrative history. Rather, by concentrating on the lives of selected members of the imperial family and the elaborate homes in which they lived, Zeepvat shines light on the quirks, attitudes, and fatal weaknesses of a doomed ruling class. Many of her subjects hardly seem worthy of the attention, but some of the more obscure subjects are revealed as individuals of great substance and courage. The illustrations highlight the lush life of royalty amidst the grinding poverty that oppressed most Russians. Zeepvat tends to treat the Romanovs as though they were functioning on a plane isolated from the rest of society, and perhaps they were. While serious historians will find little of value here, royalty junkies can have a field day.

Jay Freeman  
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