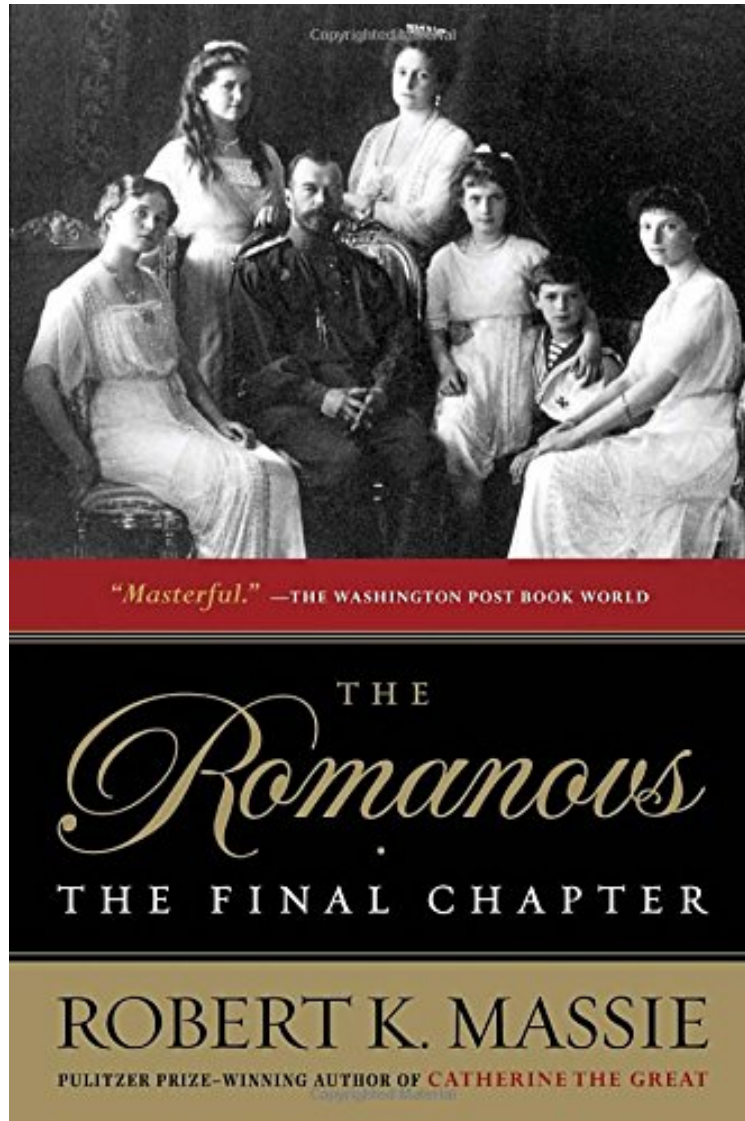


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The Romanovs: the Final Chapter

Robert K. Massie

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Robert K. Massie : The Romanovs: the Final Chapter before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Romanovs: the Final Chapter:

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detailed book shows, they were a fascinating family with often almost unbelievable stories. It's a long read but that is in this case a positive; the book keeps on giving throughout and I highly recommend it! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is a must if you are into Russian ...By CustomerThis book is a must if you are into Russian history - it tells the story of the Romanovs, since the first one to the fall of the dynasty. It is definitely some heavy reading in some parts - you have to think that you cannot understand Russia without, at the same time, knowing something of what was happening in Europe and the Middle East. But in general, the prose is fluid, full of details yet not overwhelmingly technical or for the scholar.

In July 1991, nine skeletons were exhumed from a shallow mass grave near Ekaterinburg, Siberia, a few miles from the infamous cellar room where the last tsar and his family had been murdered seventy-three years before. But were these the bones of the Romanovs? And if these were their remains, where were the bones of the two younger Romanovs supposedly murdered with the rest of the family? Was Anna Anderson, celebrated for more than sixty years in newspapers, books, and film, really Grand Duchess Anastasia? *The Romanovs* provides the answers, describing in suspenseful detail the dramatic efforts to discover the truth. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert K. Massie presents a colorful panorama of contemporary characters, illuminating the major scientific dispute between Russian experts and a team of Americans, whose findings, along with those of DNA scientists from Russia, America, and Great Britain, all contributed to solving one of the great mysteries of the twentieth century.

From Publishers WeeklyA recounting of recent controversies in Russia over the burial of the remains of the last imperial family, killed during the Communist revolution. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalThe fall of Soviet communism has sparked a renewed interest in detailing the real history of Russia. Recently opened archives and the decreasing likelihood of personal punishment have allowed historians unparalleled access to information hidden since World War I. Steinberg (history, Yale) and Khrustalev, a Russian historian-archivist, recount the arrest and life under guard of the Romanovs, with reproductions of many letters between Nicholas and Alexandra and documents of primary research. This work is scholarly, well written, and suitable for academic and public libraries. Pulitzer Prize winner Massie (*Peter the Great*, LJ 9/15/80) takes up where Steinberg leaves off. Massie's work chronicles the events from the death of the Romanovs at the hands of the Bolsheviks until the discovery and recent identification of their remains. Massie does a good job of exposing Romanov imposters, including Anna Anderson, but DNA research does not lend itself to readability. The short chapters make the book more accessible, but this work does not compare favorably with the best of Massie's works. Together, these books bring to completion the lives of Nicholas and Alexandra. Communist revisionism has been replaced by academic research. [Massie's book was previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/1/95.]?Harry Willems, Kansas Lib. System, Iola.?Harry Willems, Kansas Lib. System, IolaCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistWhen Robert Massie wrote *Nicholas and Alexandra* in 1967, he could never have dreamt that, in his lifetime, there would be answers to the many questions surrounding the deaths of the Romanovs. But with the fall of the Soviet government and the help of modern medical technology, such as DNA matching, that final chapter is now able to be written. Unfortunately, as with so many things, the mystery of the unresolved questions holds more fascination than the reality of the definitive answers. Not that there isn't plenty of new news here. Massie answers several big questions: how the Romanovs died and how their bodies were eventually identified; whether the woman known as Anna Anderson was in fact the grand duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of the czar; and who, among several pretenders, would inherit the throne if the Russian people decide to restore the monarchy. The discussion of this last topic is particularly arcane, full of the knotted strings of Romanovs that only the most dedicated royalist or an editor at *Burke's Peerage* would want to untangle. More interesting is the trail of bones unearthed at Ekaterinburg and how, using blood samples from Prince Philip of England (a cousin of the Romanovs) and others, identifications were finally made. Similar DNA tests were used to prove that Anna Anderson was not Anastasia but was in fact a Polish peasant. How she managed to pull off such a successful charade for so many years is one mystery that remains unsolved. Despite the book's regrettable dryness, the inquiring minds of royalty watchers will ensure demand. Ilene Cooper