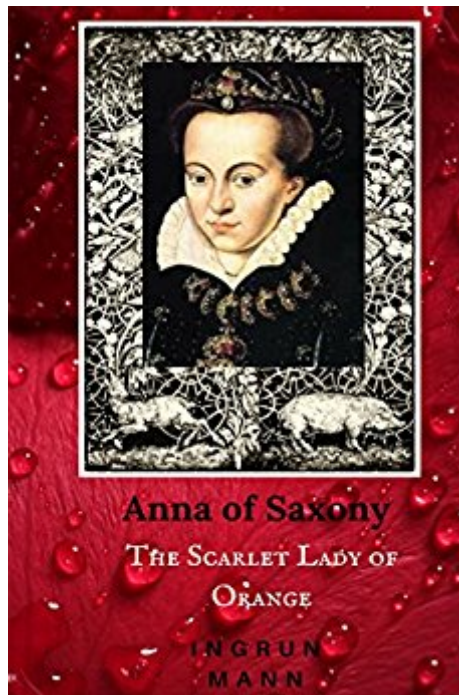


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Anna Of Saxony: The Scarlet Lady Of Orange



Synopsis

Since her early youth at the glittering court of Dresden, Anna had been known as a difficult child and troublemaker. Servants complained about her violent outbursts, while courtiers bemoaned her general disregard for aristocratic female etiquette. Upon reaching her teenage years, the princess's guardians decided that Saxony's infant terrible should leave home as quickly as possible by marrying a foreign suitor in a preferably far-away land. Enter William of Orange: handsome, charming, and heir to one of the Netherlands' largest estates. The fact that he was also a profligate partier and lover of women was conveniently overlooked. Anna immediately fell for the Dutch bon vivant despite warnings from a few well-meaning relatives. For one, William was a Catholic, while Anna adhered to the Protestant teachings of Martin Luther, critical voices cautioned, correctly predicting future trouble for the princess in the Catholic Netherlands. Furthermore, the prince's liege lord, the fanatical Philip II of Spain, very much disapproved of a match between his premier vassal and a "Lutheran heretic." There was also the issue of plain Anna's growing obsession with the roguish William; an obsession that was not reciprocated. In the end, the impetuous princess threw caution to the wind. No other than William would do for a husband, she insisted, while publicly announcing that "every vein in my body heartily loves him."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you enjoy Philippa Gregory's books, you'll love this book, and it's historically accurate. Ms. Mann did a terrific job in pulling the reader in and the book still reading like an engrossing novel. I was very moved by the insight Ms. Mann provided into the lives around Anna of Saxony. This was a women of the faith who wanted above all to see as a person. She walks such an excellent, fine line between state of mind: just when the reader is convinced Anna is completely insane, Ms. Mann shows a sudden, deliberate self-awareness in her "madness", leaving us to thank God, we did not grow up during Anna's time and sympathizing with her behavior to maximum effect. Well done!!!

The author tutors our kids in German and I'm a history major so was super excited when I heard that Ingrun had written a book on a German royal. Even though we are super impressed with Ingrun (the author), Anna of Saxony exceeded my expectations because it is a fascinating look at the life of a European royal in what I perceive to be a lesser known time in European history, the 1500's, and from the lesser known viewpoint of a woman and a special woman at that. I also can say that I don't believe that I've ever read a book as well researched as this one and find myself constantly wondering how there was so much available information on an obscure German princess from 450 years ago and how interesting her life and times truly were. You really see how Anna of Saxony, one person, lived and loved in this era and you also have an illuminating view of the politics and intrigues of the time so you're getting both a biography and a revealing lesson in European history. I know it's a select group of people interested in this detail and era of European history, but if you're one of them, I HIGHLY recommend you purchase this book.

I primarily read fiction; however, after I heard about the story of Anna of Saxony, I decided I would give this nonfiction book a try. I picked up the book expecting to find plenty of factual data but not necessarily a captivating story. To say the least, I was pleasantly surprised to actually find myself eager to read paragraph after paragraph because the book read like a historical fiction novel. I was quite entertained with the author's story-telling skills regarding Anna's life as well as her ability to surround this account with relevant and interesting historical information.

I will write a review later but for the time being I recommend this book.

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