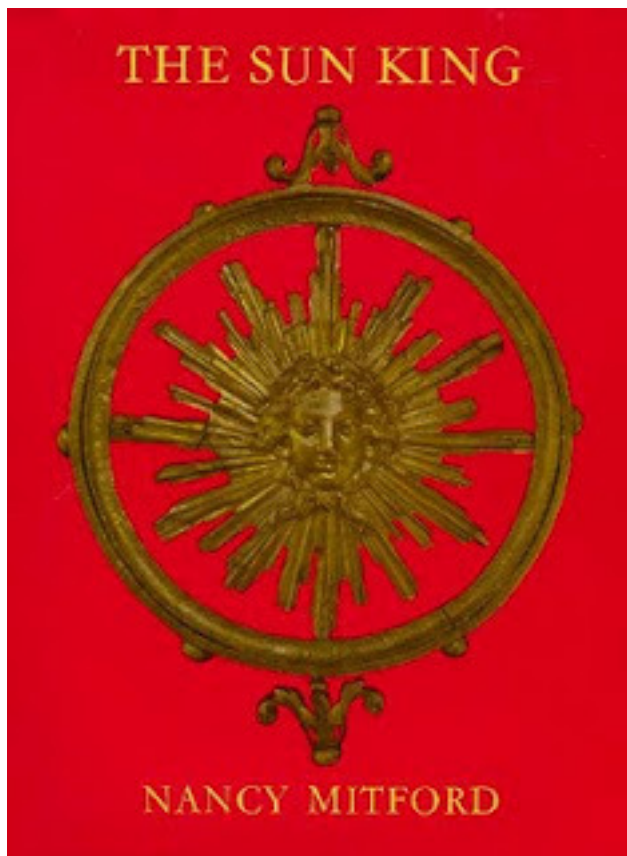

Nancy Mitford

The Sun King



Title: The Sun King

Author: Nancy Mitford

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Description

This deservedly famous book brings a glittering century to life, taking as its subject Louis XIV at Versailles – from the moment he decided to transform his father's hunting lodge into the greatest palace in Europe, to his death there 54 years later. Focusing on the daily life of the King, the Court and the government during the period of France's apogee of military power and artistic achievement, this lavishly illustrated book covers the course of Louis XIV's love affairs, culminating in his secret marriage to Madame de Maintenon, the affair of the poison, the creation of St. Cyr, Lord Portland's embassy and the marriage of the Duchess of Bourgogne.

Insightful reviews

Sketchbook: Nancy plays the Palace -- the greatest palace in the world. An SRO headliner, she encores the mischief, treachery, duplicity and debauchery in this blazing complex - surely the first of its kind - which the Sun King called "home" and where 15,000 residents bowed to His Majesty.

Hers isn't a bio. She focuses not on the King but on Versailles -- his most famous creation. Topping a huge cast, Louis 14th ambles through episodes of court life that interest Mitford : masked balls, tournaments, garden parties, theatricals, boudoir bouts. She sees boulevard farce when teasing wives find substitutes to impersonate them in bed and a freak show when dancing partners spread small pox.

Scribbler Saint-Simon lamented the smell that pervaded Versailles : there were no wc's until 1768. Mitford avoids this period detail, but catches the essence of everything else. She's best w the social history of what I define as a tres Hollywood Housing Project.

Grace: So far she has some interesting facts laced through the narrative, but a lot of antiquated assumptions (copyright 1966)that make my eyebrows go up. My biggest issue is the very non-linear structure of this book. Mitford is all over the place with the time line in chapters. It's nearly impossible to keep up with what events are taking place when with such a scattershot approach. If I wasn't already familiar with some of the history of Louis XIV and his morganatic wife, I'd be lost.

Updated - In the end, I enjoyed this book. Mitford has a sharp wit that comes through in her observations of history and beliefs for the period. I still found the non-linear composition of events off-putting, but that was minor when set against Mitford's tone, interesting anecdotes and the beautiful pictures of the stunning art of the day included in the book. I'm giving it 4 stars because I really liked the book and will probably read it again in the near future.

Patricia Spadaro: Read like a gossip fest about a group of people I hardly knew. Maybe a more

Eurocentric knowledge of history would have helped me sort the characters. This is probably the biggest problem I had and that that everove, including Louis, seemed like characters and not real people.

Adam Ford: this isn't a background of France throughout the reign of Louis XIV, the solar King. it's a heritage of the daily lifetime of the King and his courtroom at Versailles. that's interesting. yet not likely what i used to be taking a look for. It did not feed my wish to comprehend history. while you're trying to comprehend the entire complicated political maneuvering one of the courtiers in France throughout the past due 1600s and early 1700s--this is your book. i'm going to proportion with you the 2 top (most attention-grabbing to me) antidotes from the book. 1. The hard work and supply of Louis XIV's grandson, Le Petit Dauphin (who died ahead of his grandfather, leaving his son, the solar King's great-grandson, to develop into Louis XV King of France--more on that below). So Maria Anna Victoria of Bavaria (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_An...) married the sunlight King's son and turn into subsequent in line to be Queen of France. She used to be gruesome (odd brown splotches on her face and a tremendous hooked nose) and sickly and uninteresting and didn't slot in a the grand courtroom at Versailles at all. "She used to be definitely very gruesome and this used to be undesirable good fortune on her in a court docket the place approximately all of the girls have been beauties." (Remember this e-book was once written via a woman.) But she did her accountability and have become pregnant at age 22. Her hard work and supply is without doubt one of the so much notable issues i've got ever read. Maria had formerly had miscarriages so a physician was once current to carry the newborn rather than a midwife. while she went into hard work within the early morning hours, a festive occasion sprung up within the palace. The courtyard was once illuminated and messages stood on the able to take observe during the kingdom. The room full of all of the most vital humans to monitor the delivery and extra crowded the corridor as shut as they can get. It was once August and a grilling warmth wave used to be in progress. The hard work was once tough and stepped forward slowly. At approximately lunchtime the relics (body parts) of the lengthy lifeless St. Margaret have been introduced and proven to bad Maria laboring alongside as most sensible she could. This used to be presupposed to aid velocity issues along, I guess. The King got here and went, feeding Maria through his personal hand meals and wine at one point. ultimately he went to a country dinner. a different mattress used to be introduced in with hand-holds and foot pegs and Maria was once transferred over. all of the Ambassadors from all of the countries in Europe have been ushered into the room--it used to be vital they can file first hand in regards to the start of a male inheritor to the throne should still the boy each take the Crown, there will be absolute confidence of his legitimacy. The German-born Maria endured to hard work with dozens of odd male eyes on her. The solar King got here again and stayed together with her all night. The others got here and went, in and out. Maria felt that she was once approximately to die and thanked the King for his kindness to her, that she was once sorry to go away him. All felt that she used to be fading fast, the exertions too long. in order that they bled her. Twice. whereas she used to be carrying on with to hard work hard. The King acknowledged that he could also be happy to determine the child be born a woman if Maria may perhaps dwell and the pain end. This astounded all these present, women have been so little valued, being barred from the throne because of Salic legislations (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salic_La...). All evening lengthy the exertions continued, no sleep got here for Maria. The bleedings persevered periodically all evening long. At sunrise all have been depressing and drained and Maria were going for over 24 hours. She used to be

on death's doorstep and a clergyman used to be known as to offer her final rites. nonetheless no baby. Then it came. a child boy. And inheritor (then moment in line after his father, the solar King's son). Crowds went wild. Shouts and cheers and church bells. an incredible bon-fire within the courtyard was once kindled with even furnishings piled on for wood. The solar King allow them to go, announcing in simple terms "I desire they do not burn the home down". He used to be so satisfied and full of joy. Le Grand Dauphin, son of Louis XIV, father of the baby, left straightway for a hunt and was once noticeable not more that day. Maria, the Dauphine of France, had served her goal and lay nonetheless anguish in her bed, doubtless forgotten by way of the sunlight King and her husband. The general practitioner saved his head and had simply the healing for her (thankfully no more bleedings). He had a wide sheep introduced into the room and had it flayed alive correct within the start room and wrapped Maria up within the bloody-fresh skin. "Naturally this cured her at once," says the writer sarcastically. She merely desired to visit sleep, however the health professional suggestion this harmful and compelled her to stick unsleeping for an additional 3-4 hours. Then her room was once hermetically sealed up and Maria was once compelled to stick in bed, with the sheep pores and skin round her, with no even the sunshine of a candle, in that bad August warmth wave, for an additional 9 days. and also you idea your delivery adventure used to be hard. Wow. Maria lived one other eight years, giving delivery to 2 different children, demise at age 30 from unknown illnesses (she used to be continually ill apparently). 2. on the finish of his life, The solar King was once demise slowly as a truly previous man. He had ascended to the throne on the age of five in 1643 and governed France for seventy two years and one hundred ten days--the list for longest reign of all of the monarchs in all of eu history. As he was once loss of life in 1715, his five-year-old great-grandson was once introduced in to him and sat upon his lap at the bed. there has been the outdated King dying. the single King that any one alive in France may well remember. and due to the dying of the le Grand Dauphin (the solar King's son) and le Petit Dauphin (the Grandson of the beginning tale above), there has been the subsequent King, so young, with an unknown and hard destiny prior to him. they 2 stared into each one other's eyes and the outdated King needed the kid well. A poignant scene for sure. a couple of hours later, the little boy grew to become Louis XV, Louis The a lot Beloved. He could rule for till 1774, one other fifty nine years. jointly these males on that bed, on the diverse ends of life, governed on of the main strong countries in the world for 131 consecutive years. Amazing. they did not care adequate concerning the negative and downtrodden electorate of France and set a customary for top dwelling that fostered resentment. finally the home of Bourbon may fall in a revolution of the people, largely to their mistakes. yet they governed for a century and a 3rd among the 2 of them, crossing paths basically in brief there at Versailles. The gentle assembly may were relatively a sight to behold.

Gina: Louis IV was once one busy guy: fought wars each summer, outfitted Versailles, stored a watch on all people at Court, and saved a number of girls busy: his Queen, who regrettably for her was once in love with him all her life; i finished attempting to continue tune of the way many different squeezes he had(at least four or 5, might be more); and if he went to go to a mistress and she or he stored him waiting, he'd burst off in a nook with considered one of her maids. He had at the very least kids every one way: Queen, mistress, and lady-in-waiting. Then as soon as the youngsters grew up he intermarried them(?) I think; so demanding to maintain music of who is who.

Brian Berrett: i am no nice historian yet I do love history. I wasn't overly accustomed to Louis XIV so i discovered this e-book fresh. I loved studying approximately his existence and the development of Versailles. Mitford did a pleasant task telling the tale and combining in her opinion. occasionally her opinion is blatant and occasionally subtle. i discovered to top benefit from the book, I needed to learn it and focus or i would leave out many of the subtleties. At any rate, a enjoyable and fascinating publication approximately Louis XIV's life.

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