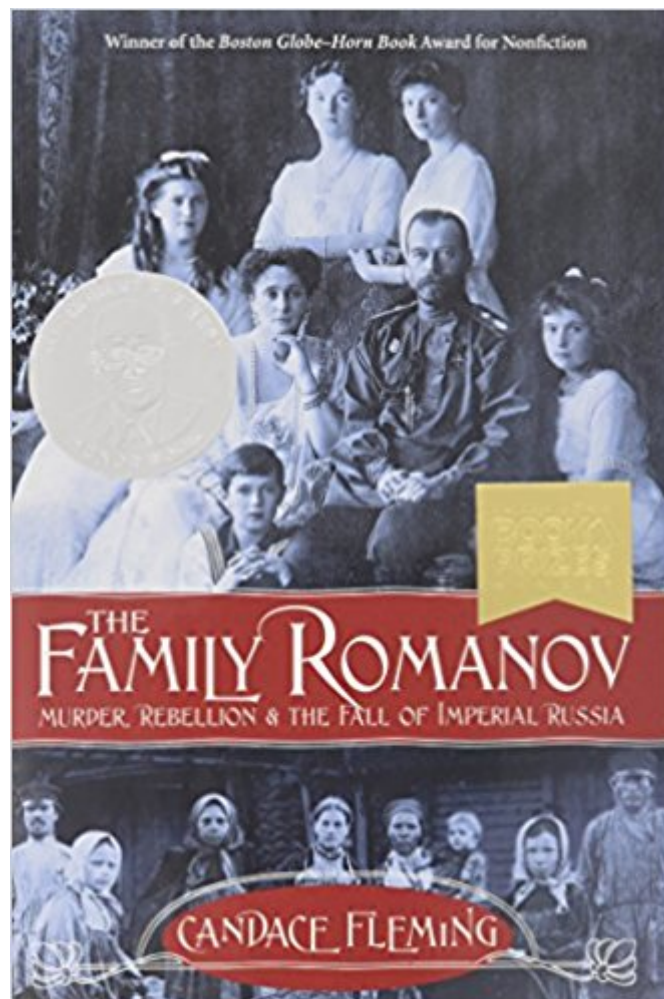




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# The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, And The Fall Of Imperial Russia (Orbis Pictus Award For Outstanding Nonfiction For Children (Awards))





## Synopsis

“[A] superb history.... In these thrilling, highly readable pages, we meet Rasputin, the shaggy, lecherous mystic...; we visit the gilded ballrooms of the doomed aristocracy; and we pause in the sickroom of little Alexei, the hemophiliac heir who, with his parents and four sisters, would be murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918.” —*The Wall Street Journal* Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs — at once an intimate portrait of Russia’s last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming (*Amelia Lost*; *The Lincolns*) deftly maneuvers between the imperial family’s extravagant lives and the plight of Russia’s poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards. “An exhilarating narrative history of a doomed and clueless family and empire.” —*Jim Murphy*, author of *Newbery Honor Books An American Plague* and *The Great Fire* “For readers who regard history as dull, Fleming’s extraordinary book is proof positive that, on the contrary, it is endlessly fascinating, absorbing as any novel, and the stuff of an altogether memorable reading experience.” —*Booklist*, Starred “Marrying the intimate family portrait of Heiligman’s *Charles and Emma* with the politics and intrigue of *Sheinkin’s Bomb*, Fleming has outdone herself with this riveting work of narrative nonfiction that appeals to the imagination as much as the intellect.” —*The Horn Book*, Starred Winner of the *Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Young Adult Literature* Winner of the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction* A *Robert F. Sibert Honor Book* A *YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award* Finalist Winner of the *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—•The tragic Romanovs, last imperial family of Russia, have long held tremendous fascination. The interest generated by this family is intense, from debates about Duchess Anastasia and her survival to the discovery of their pathetic mass graves. A significant number of post-Glasnost Russian citizens consider the Romanovs holy to the extent that the Russian Orthodox Church has canonized them. This well-researched and well-annotated book provides information not only on the history of these famous figures but also on the Russian people living at the time and on the social conditions that contributed to the family's demise. The narrative alternates between a straightforward recounting of the Romanovs' lives and primary source narratives of peasants' lives. The contrast is compelling and enhances understanding of how the divide between the extremely rich and the very poor can lead directly to violent and dramatic political change. While the description and snippets on the serfs and factory workers are workmanlike, the pictures painted of the reclusive and insular Romanovs is striking. Unsited to the positions in which they found themselves, Nicholas and Alexandra raised their children in a bubble, inadequately educating them and providing them only slight exposure to society. The informative text illuminates their inability to understand the social conditions in Russia and the impact it might have had on them. This is both a sobering work, and the account of the discovery of their bones and the aftermath is at once fascinating and distressing. A solid resource and good recreational reading for high school students.—Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA

**\*Starred Review\*** History comes to vivid life in Fleming's sweeping story of the dramatic decline and fall of the House of Romanov. Her account provides not only intimate portraits of Tsar Nicholas; his wife, Alexandra; and the five Romanov children, but it also offers a beautifully realized examination of the context of their lives—Russia in a state of increasing social unrest and turmoil. The latter aspect is shown in part through generous excerpts from letters, diaries, memoirs, and more that are seamlessly interspersed throughout the narrative. All underscore the incredible disparity between the glittering lives of the Romanovs and the desperately impoverished ones of the peasant population. Instead of attempting to reform this, Nicholas simply refused to acknowledge its presence, rousing himself only long enough to order savage repression of the occasional uprising.

Fleming shows that the hapless tsar was ill equipped to discharge his duties, increasingly relying on Alexandra for guidance; unfortunately, at the same time, she was increasingly reliant on the counsel of the evil monk Rasputin. The end, when it came, was swift and terrible for the Romanovs, who were brutally murdered – terrible. Compulsively readable, Fleming's artful work of narrative history is splendidly researched and documented. For readers who regard history as dull, Fleming's extraordinary book is proof positive that, on the contrary, it is endlessly fascinating, absorbing as any novel, and the stuff of an altogether memorable reading experience.

Grades 9-12. --Michael Cart

This is a really interesting compilation of stories and occurrences that makes the Romanov family's history more understandable

Loved every page of this very informative book! Great job researching content!

This book is a wonderful narrative account, not only of the Romanov family, but also captures the political climate of the times.

Love the Russian culture great book

Enjoyable read. Fascinating subject. Couldn't put it down! Good for the beginner in Russian history because it sums up the era without getting bogged down in too many details.

Great book about history of romanov family. Not sure I would recommend it to children due to graphic descriptions of their death, but very interesting to understand the history of the time.

I loved how informative this book was without the monotony of date-to-date facts. Kept my interest the whole way through.

It is very interesting my face wanted to become one with the book it had a lot of parts that kept my attention

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