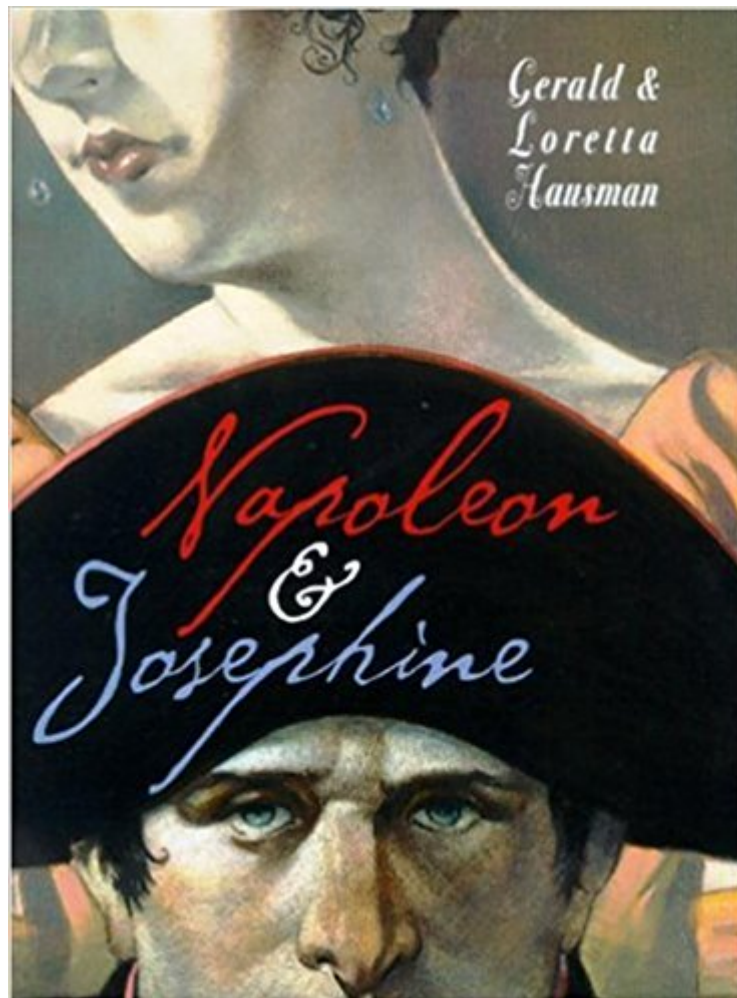




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Napoleon & Josephine: The Sword And The Hummingbird



Synopsis

Acclaimed authors Gerald and Loretta Hausman weave together the stories of Napoleon and Josephine and their turbulent love affair in this lavish and beautifully written novel. As Josephine grows up on the tropical island of Martinique, she dreams of moving to Paris to live a life of glamour. An arranged marriage to a French nobleman brings her to Paris, but not to the lifestyle she dreamt of. After a divorce and a terrible time during the French Revolution, she holds a party that Napoleon, the general who has grown famous after a series of military victories, attends. A tumultuous relationship develops that is filled with separations and fights and the most passionate declarations of love ever uttered.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Series: Napoleon & Josephine

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up
This fictional treatment is sanitized and sentimental. The focus is on Josephine; events told from Napoleon's point of view seem awkward and out of place. The episodic chapters are frequently incomplete and lack continuity, providing only fleeting glimpses of these fascinating individuals and their motivations. There are major errors and omissions (such as the unhappy marriage of Josephine's daughter to Napoleon's brother) and problems with chronology. Dialogue is often stilted and silly. Although a few of Napoleon's affairs are mentioned, nothing is said of Josephine's romances or her shady business dealings. The final 13 momentous years of Josephine's life are hastily covered in four chapters; the authors depict her after the divorce as a

recluse receiving occasional visits from dignitaries, but in reality she traveled and entertained extensively (and most of those royal guests arrived in the last month of her life, following Napoleon's abdication). Not enough background information is provided, and there are numerous, untranslated French terms and phrases. Napoleon and Josephine deserve better. And why, in this era of celebrating women, is there no young-adult biography of the influential, intriguing Josephine? Ann W. Moore, Schenectady County Public Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

completely satisfied So far so good no problems Came in ontime and product is new and perfect. I saw the following evaluation, everybody says this is a good product and receive it after use, I think they said is right, I am very happy. Simple design and very reasonably priced equals ! Great value and looks great

This is the story of the relationship between Napoleon Bonaparte and Josephine Beauharnais. After Josephine's original husband is killed in the French revolution by the guillotine, she seeks a new husband and finds one in Napoleon. He quickly falls in love with Josephine and creates what seems at times a one sided love. Napoleon must balance being a conquerer and being a husband. Yet Josephine, on the other hand, appeared to have more trouble in the relationship even though it did not seem she had many distractions. When I read the description of Napoleon and Josephine, I thought that there would be inappropriate content for children which made me very reluctant to read it. Fortunately, there was nothing of the sort. I found the story very interesting and informative, not only about Napoleon and Josephine, but also about the French Revolution. There were many twists and turns that made the book faster reading than your regular love story. Reviewed by Flamingnet Book Reviews, [...]

I have never had the slightest interest in Napoleon and Josephine, so for the authors to write a story with these people as the subject that I found interesting and enjoyable to read was quite a feat. The Hausmans pulled it off by tracing Josephine's life from childhood on, so that when she meets the ponderous, egomaniacal goof Napoleon, even he seems real and one is able to engage with interest in their topsy turvy relationship. The authors' use of interior monologue, quotations from Napoleon's letters, plus an intimate understanding of the period, makes for a great blend. I would be very surprised if this book doesn't do well for a very long period of time. -David Kherdian

I was very excited to read this book because I love historical fiction, but I was not at all satisfied. I found Napoleon the most annoying character I've ever had in a book. He is self centered and arrogant. All he does is think about himself. Josephine isn't much better. She always lets Napoleon have his way. The only reason I finished this book was just for the sake of it. I would definitely not recommend this book. It's a waste of time.

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