

[Free] Royal Blue

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Christina Oxenberg

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#5396694 in Books Oxenberg Christina 2014-03-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .50 x 6.00l, .66 #File Name: 1497452201218 pagesRoyal Blue | File size: 32.Mb

Christina Oxenberg : Royal Blue before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Royal Blue:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ROYAL BLEWBy Lauren LawrenceThe narrative tenor of Christina Oxenberg's semi-autobiographical ROYAL BLUE is so deft and refined that it does not grab or handle--it taps lightly on a communal spine that tingles. This coming-of-age novel draws collective winces that are inarguably proof of our profound camaraderie with the heroine. Even if we have not all been there before, it is as if we have.0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Castles and cold white legs
By Jeffrey Hunter
Trying to vividly recall late childhood is a nearly impossible task - let alone getting the mood and emotions down in print. Royal Blue does it wonderfully. The main character is in turns the wandering, homeless waif and then, convincingly, the object of desire. A must read for anyone who enjoys an honest, sharply observing voice. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Crafted to Perfection
By Jeffrey Michaud
What a thoroughly entertaining peek into a world only few get to experience. I'm not much of a "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" type of person, but through the eyes of young, confused, and dejected Maria that strange world of the privileged vividly comes to life in a funny, moving, and personal way that all of us can relate to. I'm not even slightly exaggerating by saying that every sentence in this book is crafted to perfection. I've rarely enjoyed the experience of reading as much as I did with Royal Blue.

'Darkly Funny' according to The Chicago Tribune. Royal Blue (Simon Schuster 1998) is a memoir of half fact half fiction chronicling the early years of Christina Oxenberg's hectic life.

From Kirkus s
Lovers of romantic intrigue among the royals be warned: This flighty tale of one simple-minded child of privileged descent--by the daughter of Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia, sister of Dynasty star Catherine Oxenberg, and author of an equally frivolous collection of anecdotes, Taxi (1986)--is highly unlikely to spur fantasies of life in a more gracious universe. Maria Moses--18, attractive, the daughter of dispossessed (Yugoslavian) royalty on her mother's side and East Hampton wealth on her father's--might seem in a position to take New York by storm as she moves to that city from London, where she was raised. Sadly, though, she has only a small allowance from her father and finds that with no ability to type, spell, or even converse intelligently it's hard to pay her rent. But Maria's appalling ignorance is hardly her own fault: Her beautiful mother's lifelong obsession with romantic escapades, New Age nonsense, and alien visitations left little room for the proper care of her daughter. When little Maria dared grieve over the death of her best friend, she was thrown into a home for emotionally ill children. Tortured at the home by a vicious fellow student, left uneducated and vaguely traumatized, Maria, who's actually forced to squat in the Park Avenue guest rooms of increasingly resentful wealthy friends, is an easy target for the first con man who happens along. He appears in the form of her parents' archenemy--the married, middle-aged Tino Brooks, who deftly seduces Maria, then manipulates her into helping him transfer a valuable Scottish castle of her mother's over to him. Maria's actions destroy not only her mother's only chance at financial solvency, but--Maria realizes belatedly--her own as well. Oxenberg's heroine is so thick-headed, and her social set so unpleasant, that even the author's lightly ironic tone can't salvage this debut. Readers will drift off early, grateful for lives lived far from the haunts of the rich and famous. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.
From the Back Cover
Maria Moses has always felt like an outsider in her family. Her mother, a princess from a deposed royal European family, is absorbed in herself and her social life. Her older sister, Miranda, busy with the seduction of older men and the trappings of luxury, alternately ignores and despises her. And her well-intentioned father is too busy playing tennis to notice his younger daughter's growing dislocation. Maria is further removed from her family when a childhood friend dies in an accident and she is sent to a boarding school for emotionally disturbed children. There, she is the victim of a terrible crime that threatens to scar her permanently. Searching for validation, she finds Tino, a worldly older married man, who promises to elevate her above her family. But finding a life with him may cost Maria all she has left. Torn by the contradictions in her life, she must face up to her past and her family's legacy of lies and illegitimacy.
About the Author
Christina Oxenberg was born, and briefly raised, in New York City. This was followed by prolonged stays in London, then Madrid, then back to New York before returning to London, and so on, until after fourteen schools and a multitudinous array of stepparents and their tribes of offspring, a precedent for adventure was set. Bypassing University, Oxenberg plunged into a whirlpool of random employment, everything from researcher to party organizer to art dealer to burger flipper. Oxenberg's single true love is writing and she published her first book, TAXI, a collection of anecdotes, in 1986. Despite the lousy pay, Oxenberg published articles in Allure Magazine, The London Sunday Times Magazine, Tattler, Salon.com, Penthouse and anyone else who would have her. In 2000 Oxenberg was seduced by the offer of a regular paycheck and she fell down the rabbit-hole world of fine fibers. In the blink of an eye a decade vanished into an unwieldy wool business. With relief she returns to the relative calm of writing fiction. Between excursions, she lives in Key West, Florida.