



2009

Anastasia's Secret

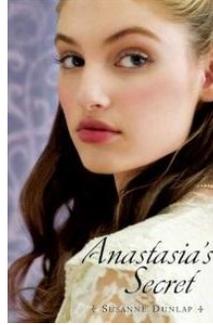
Laurien Clay

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Dunlap, Susanne. *Anastasia's Secret*. Bloomsbury, 2010. ISBN 9781599904207. \$16.99. 352 p.

Reviewer: Laurien Clay

Reading Level: Young Adult, All

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Anastasia Nikolaevna, Grand Duchess, daughter of Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia, 1901-1918--Juvenile fiction; Princesses--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

For Anastasia Romanova, life as the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia is not as easy as it seems. Tired of being ignorant about her surroundings, she befriends a young guard named Sasha. He not only opens her eyes to real life and the calamitous events of a revolution, but also to the possibility of love. When the monarchy falls and the Bolsheviks rise to power, not only is their relationship tested, but so is Anastasia's love and loyalty for her family.

With themes of disillusionment, love, loyalty, and regret, Dunlap reveals the coming-of-age story of one of history's most famous royals through the perspective of a struggling adolescent. Anastasia's life is portrayed in vivid yet concise prose that draws in and enthralls the reader. However, because this novel presents a love story, there are somewhat adult situations. Beyond this, *Anastasia's Secret* is as excellently written and well-researched piece of historical fiction, as is Dunlap's *The Musician's Daughter*.

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