

# The Reluctant Empress

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[The Mister](#) - E L James 2019-04-16

The #1 New York Times bestseller—a thrilling and seductive Cinderella love story from E L James, author of the phenomenal bestselling *Fifty Shades Trilogy*. Clasp her plait at the base of her neck, I tug lightly, bringing her lips up to mine. "Alessia," I breathe, and kiss her again, softly, slowly. She stills in my arms, then brings her hands up to clutch my biceps, closing her eyes as she accepts me. I deepen the kiss, my tongue teasing her lips, and she opens her mouth. She tastes of warmth and grace and sweet seduction. London, present day. Life has always been easy for Maxim Trevelyan, the "spare" to the earldom of Trevethick. With his good looks, aristocratic connections, and money, he's never had to work, and he's rarely slept alone. But all that changes when tragedy

strikes and Maxim inherits his family's title, wealth, and estates, and the responsibility that entails. It's a role he's not prepared for and one he struggles to face. But his biggest challenge is fighting his desire for an unexpected, enigmatic young woman who's recently joined his staff. Reticent, beautiful, and musically gifted, she's an alluring mystery, possessing little more than a dangerous and troublesome past. As Maxim's longing for her deepens into a passion he's never experienced and dares not name, he's left to wonder just who is Alessia Demachi? And can he protect her from the malevolence that threatens her? From the heart of London through wild, rural Cornwall to the bleak, forbidding beauty of the Albanian Balkans, *The Mister* combines the sensuality of a modern Regency romance with the danger, desire, and adventure of E L James's

captivating storytelling, leaving the reader breathless to the very last page.

**The Will of the Empress** - Tamora Pierce 2010-02-01

Sandry, Daja, Briar, and Tris, are older now and back together again, in an exciting and much-awaited, stand-alone novel by everyone's favorite mage, Tamora Pierce. For years the Empress of Namorn has pressed her young cousin, Lady Sandrilene fa Toren, to visit her vast lands within the Empire's borders. Sandry has avoided the invitation for as long as it was possible. Now Sandry has agreed to pay that overdue visit. Sandry's uncle promises guards to accompany her. But they're hardly a group of warriors! They're her old friends from Winding Circle: Daja, Tris, and Briar. Sandry hardly knows them now. They've grown up and grown apart. Sandry isn't sure they'll ever find their old connection again - or if she even wants them to. When they arrive at the pala

**Stealing Sisi's Star** - Jennifer Bowers Bahney 2015-07-23

While on honeymoon in Vienna in June of 1998, at the height of the tourist season, Gerald Daniel Blanchard, an accomplished thief, happened upon the greatest challenge of his life when he spotted the last remaining "Sisi Star" on display in Schönbrunn Palace. Named after its former owner, the Empress Elisabeth, the ten-pointed diamond and pearl star was originally one of 27 that the enigmatic Sisi wore in her extravagantly long hair. Despite the multi-layered security system protecting the priceless jewel,

Blanchard decided then and there to steal it. The star remained missing for nine years until a team of Canadian police investigators launched a joint task force to bring down a criminal organization that had robbed banks, stores and ordinary citizens on several continents. When their chief suspect offered to reveal the whereabouts of the Sisi Star, the investigators realized they were dealing with no ordinary thief. But no one involved in the case fully understood the history of the star, its ties to obsession, suicide and assassination.

**Franz Joseph and Elisabeth** - Karen Owens 2013-11-08

In 1848, an 18-year-old boy assumed the throne of Austria, one of the most powerful countries in Europe. He would be its last significant emperor, the only monarch to serve two countries, and the last cogent head of the prestigious Habsburg dynasty. Emperor Franz Joseph's reign was marked by revolutions, often fueled by rising liberalism and nationalism, and wars orchestrated by conquering architects such as Napoleon, Metternich, and Bismarck. This book gives attention to these political and cultural events, but it is moreover a biography of Emperor Franz Joseph and his enigmatic wife, Empress Elisabeth.

**The Last Empress** - Keith Laidler 2005-01-21

In 1851, a sixteen-year-old girl named Yehonala entered the Imperial Palace of China as a concubine third grade, leaving behind her family, the

love of her life, and nearly all contact with the outside world. She emerged as Tsu Hsi, Dowager Empress of China and one of the most powerful autocrats in history. A fascinating tale of love, betrayal, murder, intrigue, and survival, *The Last Empress* offers remarkable insight into life behind the closed doors of the forbidden city.

Published in English as - Brigitte Hamann 1998

*Death by Fame* - Andrew Sinclair 2015-10-13

"A well-written, thoroughly researched story of a popular and beautiful empress, who, while self-indulgent, sought a life of privacy and peace, and showed sympathy and charity toward the poor." - Kirkus Reviews In 1898

Luigi Lucheni fatally stabbed Elisabeth, Empress of Austria, on Lake Geneva as she prepared to board a steamer from the Mont Blanc pier.

Her life had been one of both profound sadness and inspiring perseverance; and in its course she set the style for the royal rebels who would follow her, particularly the late Diana, Princess of Wales. While still a child, Elisabeth was married to the Hapsburg prince Franz Josef, heir to the Austrian Empire. She gave him three children; one of whom, Crown Prince Rudolf, would later commit suicide at Mayerling. Finding the atmosphere of the Austro-Hungarian court stifling, the increasingly erratic empress traveled incessantly. Abandoning her husband to the attentions of

the Viennese comic actress Katharina Schratt, Elisabeth went on errands of mercy to the docks and slums of London and Liverpool, Barcelona and Naples, Smyrna and Marseilles. She was the despair of local police, who could not protect her, even though she wore disguises. She supported independence movements in Ireland, where she hunted superbly alongside her close companion, the English cavalryman "Bay" Middleton; and also in Hungary, an integral part of her husband's deteriorating empire. When Lucheni assassinated the empress, he killed the most alluring royal figure of the Victorian age. But fame was her real executioner. Her celebrity had led to her death. Elisabeth had been driven into loneliness until she had lost all sense of reality, pursuing a desperate liberty that a confined marriage would never allow her.

*The Empress of Salt and Fortune* - Nghi Vo 2020-03-24

Winner of the 2020 Crawford Award! Winner of the 2021 Hugo Award! A Hugo Award-Winning Series! A 2021 Locus Award Finalist A 2021 Ignyte Award Finalist A Goodreads Choice Award Finalist "Dangerous, subtle, unexpected and familiar, angry and ferocious and hopeful... The Empress of Salt and Fortune is a remarkable accomplishment of storytelling."—NPR A 2020 ALA Booklist Top Ten SF/F Debut | A Book Riot Must-Read Fantasy of 2020 | A Paste Most Anticipated Novel of 2020 | A Library Journal Debut of the Month | A BuzzFeed Must-Read Fantasy Novel of

Spring 2020 | A Washington Post Best SF of the Year So Far Pick  
Named Book Riot's Best Book Cover of 2020 Named a Best of 2020 Pick  
for NPR | Library Journal | NYPL | Chicago Public Library | The Austen  
Chronicle | Autostraddle With the heart of an Atwood tale and the visuals  
of a classic Asian period drama, Nghi Vo's *The Empress of Salt and  
Fortune* is a tightly and lushly written narrative about empire, storytelling,  
and the anger of women. A young royal from the far north, is sent south  
for a political marriage in an empire reminiscent of imperial China. Her  
brothers are dead, her armies and their war mammoths long defeated and  
caged behind their borders. Alone and sometimes reviled, she must  
choose her allies carefully. Rabbit, a handmaiden, sold by her parents to  
the palace for the lack of five baskets of dye, befriends the emperor's  
lonely new wife and gets more than she bargained for. At once feminist  
high fantasy and an indictment of monarchy, this evocative debut follows  
the rise of the empress In-yo, who has few resources and fewer friends.  
She's a northern daughter in a mage-made summer exile, but she will  
bend history to her will and bring down her enemies, piece by piece. The  
*Singing Hills Cycle* *The Empress of Salt and Fortune* *When the Tiger  
Came Down the Mountain Into the Riverlands* The novellas of *The Singing  
Hills Cycle* are linked by the cleric Chih, but may be read in any order,  
with each story serving as an entrypoint. Praise for *The Empress of Salt*

and *Fortune* "An elegant gut-punch, a puzzle box that unwinds itself in its  
own way and in its own time. I cannot recommend it highly enough.  
Gorgeous. Cruel. Perfect. I didn't know I needed to read this until I  
did."—Seanan McGuire "A tale of rebellion and fealty that feels both  
classic and fresh, *The Empress of Salt and Fortune* is elegantly told,  
strongly felt, and brimming with rich detail. An epic in miniature, beautifully  
realised."—Zen Cho "Nghi Vo's gracefully told debut . . . resides in the  
intimate margins of its (beautifully imagined) world's history, portraying how  
the marginalized may yet shape those narratives and harness the power of  
stories."—Indrapramit Das At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold  
without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

*Sisi* - Katrin Unterreiner 2015

*Empress* - Miles Taylor 2018-10-02

An entirely original account of Victoria's relationship with the Raj, which  
shows how India was central to the Victorian monarchy from as early as  
1837 In this engaging and controversial book, Miles Taylor shows how  
both Victoria and Albert were spellbound by India, and argues that the  
Queen was humanely, intelligently, and passionately involved with the  
country throughout her reign and not just in the last decades. Taylor also  
reveals the way in which Victoria's influence as empress contributed

significantly to India's modernization, both political and economic. This is, in a number of respects, a fresh account of imperial rule in India, suggesting that it was one of Victoria's successes.

**The Reluctant Empress** - Teresa Howard 2018-07-08

Ninallia is young, young and desperate. She decides to sell the only thing she owns to save her family: her body. Believing family stories that she descends from royal blood, she agrees to become a surrogate for an infertile couple. The lucrative agreement will provide for her family for several years. Ninallia's world is turned upside down when the Emperor and Empress are assassinated, and she discovers that the child she is carrying is the heir. Her life and that of her unborn child are in grave danger. Disguised as a boy, Ninallia flees. If she is to survive the power hungry lord hunting for her, she has to seek help. She finds two allies, a League Soldier and a Sister of the Order. Together they must keep Ninallia alive until her son is born and his blood tested to prove that he is the Imperial Heir. With everyone searching for them, will they live long enough?

**Sissi's World** - Maura E. Hametz 2018-07-12

Sissi's World offers a transdisciplinary approach to the study of the Habsburg Empress Elisabeth of Austria. It investigates the myths, legends, and representations across literature, art, film, and other media of one of

the most popular, revered, and misunderstood female figures in European cultural history. Sissi's World explores the cultural foundations for the endurance of the Sissi legends and the continuing fascination with the beautiful empress: a Bavarian duchess born in 1837, the longest-serving Austrian empress, and the queen of Hungary who died in 1898 at the hands of a crazed anarchist. Despite the continuing fascination with "the beloved Sissi," the Habsburg empress, her impact, and legacy have received scant attention from scholars. This collection will go beyond the popular biographical accounts, recountings of her mythic beauty, and scattered studies of her well-known eccentricities to offer transdisciplinary cultural perspectives across art, film, fashion, history, literature, and media.

**Josephine** - Eleanor P. Delorme 2002-10-01

An anecdotal, illustrated biography of Napoleon Bonaparte's exotic empress discusses Napoleon's dependence on her sense of style to set the tone of his empire, her patronage of the arts, and significant events in her life.

**Iron Widow** - Xiran Jay Zhao 2021-10-07

Instant New York Times No.1 Bestseller Science fiction and East Asian myth combine in this dazzling retelling of the rise of Wu Zetian, the only female emperor in Chinese history. 'This is the historical-inspired, futuristic sci-fi mash-up of my wildest dreams.' Chloe Gong 'Raging against the

patriarchy in spectacular style.’ Observer, best books of the year ‘Think The Handmaid’s Tale meets Pacific Rim and buckle up.’ Shelley Parker-Chan ‘Like its ferocious heroine, Iron Widow is brutal, bloodthirsty and full of rage.’ Julie C. Dao I have no faith in love. Love cannot save me. I choose vengeance. The boys of Huaxia dream of pairing up with girls to pilot Chrysalises – giant transforming robots that battle aliens beyond the Great Wall. It doesn’t matter that their female co-pilots are expected to serve as concubines and often die from the mental strain. When 18-year-old Zetian offers herself up as a concubine-pilot, her plan is to assassinate the ace male pilot responsible for her sister’s death. But after miraculously surviving her first battle, Zetian sets her sights on a mightier goal. The time has come to stop more girls from being sacrificed.

**Empress** - Shan Sa 2009-10-06

Such is the voice of Shan Sa's unforgettable heroine in her latest literary masterpiece, *Empress*. Empress Wu, one of China's most controversial figures, was its first and only female emperor, who emerged in the seventh century during the great Tang Dynasty and ushered in a golden age. Throughout history, her name has been defamed and her story distorted by those taking vengeance on a woman who dared to become emperor. But now, for the first time in thirteen centuries, *Empress Wu* (or *Heavenlight*, as we come to know her) flings open the gates of the

Forbidden City and tells her own astonishing tale—revealing a fascinating, complex figure who in many ways remains modern to this day. Writing with epic assurance, poetry, and vivid historic detail, Shan Sa plumbs the psychological and philosophical depths of what it means to be a striving mortal in a tumultuous, power-hungry world. *Empress* is a great literary feat and a revelation for the ages.

**Empress Dowager Cixi** - Jung Chang 2013-10-29

A New York Times Notable Book *Empress Dowager Cixi* (1835–1908) is the most important woman in Chinese history. She ruled China for decades and brought a medieval empire into the modern age. At the age of sixteen, in a nationwide selection for royal consorts, Cixi was chosen as one of the emperor’s numerous concubines. When he died in 1861, their five-year-old son succeeded to the throne. Cixi at once launched a palace coup against the regents appointed by her husband and made herself the real ruler of China—behind the throne, literally, with a silk screen separating her from her officials who were all male. In this groundbreaking biography, Jung Chang vividly describes how Cixi fought against monumental obstacles to change China. Under her the ancient country attained virtually all the attributes of a modern state: industries, railways, electricity, the telegraph and an army and navy with up-to-date weaponry. It was she who abolished gruesome punishments like “death by a

thousand cuts” and put an end to foot-binding. She inaugurated women’s liberation and embarked on the path to introduce parliamentary elections to China. Chang comprehensively overturns the conventional view of Cixi as a diehard conservative and cruel despot. Cixi reigned during extraordinary times and had to deal with a host of major national crises: the Taiping and Boxer rebellions, wars with France and Japan—and an invasion by eight allied powers including Britain, Germany, Russia and the United States. Jung Chang not only records the Empress Dowager’s conduct of domestic and foreign affairs, but also takes the reader into the depths of her splendid Summer Palace and the harem of Beijing’s Forbidden City, where she lived surrounded by eunuchs—one of whom she fell in love, with tragic consequences. The world Chang describes here, in fascinating detail, seems almost unbelievable in its extraordinary mixture of the very old and the very new. Based on newly available, mostly Chinese, historical documents such as court records, official and private correspondence, diaries and eyewitness accounts, this biography will revolutionize historical thinking about a crucial period in China’s—and the world’s—history. Packed with drama, fast paced and gripping, it is both a panoramic depiction of the birth of modern China and an intimate portrait of a woman: as the concubine to a monarch, as the absolute ruler of a third of the world’s population, and as a unique stateswoman.

[The Reluctant Empress](#) - Teresa Howard 2020-02-09

Ninallia is young, young and desperate. She decides to sell the only thing she owns to save her family: her body. Believing family stories that she descends from royal blood, she agrees to become a surrogate for an infertile couple. The lucrative agreement will provide for her family for several years. Ninallia's world is turned upside down when the Emperor and Empress are assassinated, and she discovers that the child she is carrying is the heir. Her life and that of her unborn child are in grave danger. Disguised as a boy, Ninallia flees. If she is to survive the power hungry lord hunting for her, she has to seek help. She finds two allies, a League Soldier and a Sister of the Order. Together they must keep Ninallia alive until her son is born and his blood tested to prove that he is the Imperial Heir. With everyone searching for them, can they live long enough?

[Memoirs of the Empress Josephine](#) - Claire Élisabeth Jeanne Gravier de Vergennes comtesse de Rémusat 1910

[Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix](#) - Julie C. Dao 2019-09-17

This fairy tale retelling lives in a mystical world inspired by the Far East, where the Dragon Lord and the Serpent God battle for control of the earthly realm; it is here that the flawed heroine of Forest of a Thousand

Lanterns finally meets her match. An epic fantasy finale to that breathtaking and dazzling story. Princess Jade has grown up in exile, hidden away in a monastery while her stepmother, the ruthless Xifeng, rules as Empress of Feng Lu. But the empire is in distress and its people are sinking into poverty and despair. Even though Jade doesn't want the crown, she knows she is the only one who can dethrone the Empress and set the world right. Ready to reclaim her place as rightful heir, Jade embarks on a quest to raise the Dragon Lords and defeat Xifeng and the Serpent God once and for all. But will the same darkness that took Xifeng take Jade, too? Or will she find the strength within to save herself, her friends, and her empire? Set in an East Asian-inspired fantasy world filled with breathtaking pain and beauty, Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix is filled with dazzling magic, powerful prose, and characters readers won't soon forget. Fans of Stealing Snow, Red Queen, and The Wrath and the Dawn will hungrily devour this page-turning read. Praise for Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix: "There aren't many authors who could so precisely undo their first book with their second, but it is this clever unweaving that shows Dao's brilliance and skill. With heart-stopping action and wonderful new characters, this is not a sequel to be missed." —EK Johnston, #1 New York Times bestselling author "A lush, enchanting tale of magic, myth, and absolute courage. At once gorgeously woven and deliciously gruesome,

Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix is a thrilling end to a series that feels like a classic in its own right." —Natalie Mae, author of The Kinder Poison "Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix is the stunning counterpoint to Forest of a Thousand Lanterns. A refreshing take on the classic heroine, and an adventure of stories nestled within stories, this is a book fairytale lovers will tuck among their most beloved treasures." —Emily X.R. Pan, New York Times bestselling author of The Astonishing Color of After "Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix broke my heart and filled it, all at once. In the process, Julie C. Dao has turned a well-worn tale into something thrilling and new. Ornate, tender, and magical. I could not put this book down." —Tochi Onyebuchi, author of Beasts Made of Night and Crown of Thunder "Beautifully written and masterfully told, Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix feels at once timeless and entirely new . . . I loved it with my whole heart." —Margaret Rogerson, New York Times bestselling author of An Enchantment of Ravens "Utterly brilliant in every way, Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix is the perfect follow-up to Julie C. Dao's debut. This is the dark fantasy I've been waiting for, and I can't get enough!" —Beth Revis, New York Times bestselling author of Give the Dark My Love "A grand adventure for fans of fairy tales, fables, and legends coupled with the vibrant history of Chinese dynasties."—Kirkus Reviews \* "A top purchase for most fantasy collections." --School Library Journal, starred review



*The Phoenix Empress* - K Arsenault Rivera 2018-10-09

K Arsenault Rivera's second novel, *The Tiger's Daughter*, the continuation of a new epic fantasy trilogy "Rich, expansive, and grounded in human truth...simply exquisite." –V. E. Schwab, New York Times bestselling author of the *Shades of Magic* series Once they were the heirs to a prophecy that predicted two women would save an empire. Now Shefali is dying—and her wife is unaware of the coming tragedy. Shizuka is too busy trying to reunite a fractured empire and right the wrongs of her ancestors. As the Imperial Army gathers against a demonic invasion, Shizuka must do all she can with an empire on the brink of civil war. Ascendant #1 *The Tiger's Daughter* #2 *The Phoenix Empress* #3 *The Warrior Moon* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

*Golden Fleece* - Bertita Harding 2017-04-07

First published in 1937, this is German-born American author Bertita Harding's biography of Franz Joseph I (1830-1916), Austria's longest-reigning Emperor and King of Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia (1848-1916), and his wife Elisabeth of Austria (1837-1898). Illustrated with superb photographs, many of them previously never seen. "Here is one of the great dramas and romances and tragedies of history. [...]Tremendously vital and human and a warmer picture of Franz Joseph than previously

encountered..."—Kirkus Review

*Empress of the East* - Leslie Peirce 2017-09-19

The "fascinating . . . lively" story of the Russian slave girl Roxelana, who rose from concubine to become the only queen of the Ottoman empire (New York Times). In *Empress of the East*, historian Leslie Peirce tells the remarkable story of a Christian slave girl, Roxelana, who was abducted by slave traders from her Ruthenian homeland and brought to the harem of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent in Istanbul. Suleyman became besotted with her and foreswore all other concubines. Then, in an unprecedented step, he freed her and married her. The bold and canny Roxelana soon became a shrewd diplomat and philanthropist, who helped Suleyman keep pace with a changing world in which women, from Isabella of Hungary to Catherine de Medici, increasingly held the reins of power. Until now Roxelana has been seen as a seductress who brought ruin to the empire, but in *Empress of the East*, Peirce reveals the true history of an elusive figure who transformed the Ottoman harem into an institution of imperial rule.

*Empress* - Karen Miller 2008-04-01

In a family torn apart by poverty and violence, Hekat is no more than an unwanted mouth to feed, worth only a few coins from a passing slave trader. But Hekat was not born to be a slave. For her, a different path has

been chosen. It is a path that will take her from stinking back alleys to the house of her God, from blood-drenched battlefields to the glittering palaces of Mijak. This is the story of Hekat, precious and beautiful. A new fantasy trilogy of power and politics, treason and betrayal, and the rise and fall of Empires ...

The Accidental Empress - Allison Pataki 2015-02-17

The New York Times best-selling author of *The Traitor's Wife* fictionalizes the little-known and tumultuous love story of "Sisi," the 19th-century Austro-Hungarian empress and captivating wife of Emperor Franz Joseph.

American Empress - Nancy Rubin 2004-01-04

*American Empress* is a sweeping history of the dramatic life of heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, daughter of breakfast-cereal magnate C. W. Post. As a young girl growing up in the Midwest, Marjorie Post helped glue cereal boxes in her father's barn, later became a board member of his company, wed a diplomat and by late middle age was widely acknowledged as the unofficial "Queen of Washington, D.C." The glamorous and warm-hearted Mrs. Post was also mother to actress Dina Merrill. Throughout her life, she gave generously to hundreds of civic, artistic and philanthropic causes, among which were the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Ballet and the Kennedy Center. By virtue of her brains, beauty and great wealth, Mrs. Post was a woman well

ahead of her era, whose natural business acumen created the frozen foods industry and transformed the Postum Cereal Company into the General Foods Corporation.

Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan - Ruby Lal 2018-07-03

A Finalist for the 2018 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History Four centuries ago, a Muslim woman ruled an empire. When it came to hunting, she was a master shot. As a dress designer, few could compare. An ingenious architect, she innovated the use of marble in her parents' mausoleum on the banks of the Yamuna River that inspired her stepson's Taj Mahal. And she was both celebrated and reviled for her political acumen and diplomatic skill, which rivaled those of her female counterparts in Europe and beyond. In 1611, thirty-four-year-old Nur Jahan, daughter of a Persian noble and widow of a subversive official, became the twentieth and most cherished wife of the Emperor Jahangir. While other wives were secluded behind walls, Nur ruled the vast Mughal Empire alongside her husband, and governed in his stead as his health failed and his attentions wandered from matters of state. An astute politician and devoted partner, Nur led troops into battle to free Jahangir when he was imprisoned by one of his own officers. She signed and issued imperial orders, and coins of the realm bore her name. Acclaimed historian Ruby Lal uncovers the rich life and world of Nur Jahan, rescuing

this dazzling figure from patriarchal and Orientalist clichés of romance and intrigue, and giving new insight into the lives of women and girls in the Mughal Empire, even where scholars claim there are no sources. Nur's confident assertion of authority and talent is revelatory. In *Empress*, she finally receives her due in a deeply researched and evocative biography that awakens us to a fascinating history.

[The Reluctant Empress](#) - Brigitte Hamann 2012-04-05

Empress Elisabeth of Austria, known to her family as 'Sisi', belongs to a famous love story of European royalty. In 1853 the Emperor Franz Josef, the most eligible bachelor in Europe, fell in love with her at first sight when she was 15. They were married the next year. On the surface, it was a fairy-tale marriage, all the more poignant, with hindsight, because her tragic death augured the twilight years of the Habsburg Empire. First published in 1988, Brigitte Hamann's definitive biography tells Elisabeth's story from her birth into Bavarian nobility to her assassination at the hands of an Italian anarchist. In her lifetime she was idolised solely for her grace and beauty; but Hamann shows us a stronger character, bitter at her marriage, seeking independence, and struggling against the powerful influence of her mother-in-law, the Archduchess Sophie.

**Sissi. The Tragic Empress.** - Ludwig Merkle 1998-05

**The Swan Gondola** - Timothy Schaffert 2014-02-06

A lush and thrilling romantic fable about two lovers set against the scandalous burlesques, midnight séances, and aerial ballets of the 1898 Omaha World's Fair. On the eve of the 1898 Omaha World's Fair, Ferret Skerritt, ventriloquist by trade, con man by birth, isn't quite sure how it will change him or his city. Omaha still has the marks of a filthy Wild West town, even as it attempts to achieve the grandeur and respectability of nearby Chicago. But when he crosses paths with the beautiful and enigmatic Cecily, his whole purpose shifts and the fair becomes the backdrop to their love affair. One of a traveling troupe of actors that has descended on the city, Cecily works in the Midway's Chamber of Horrors, where she loses her head hourly on a guillotine playing Marie Antoinette. And after closing, she rushes off, clinging protectively to a mysterious carpetbag, never giving Ferret a second glance. But a moonlit ride on the swan gondola, a boat on the lagoon of the New White City, changes everything, and the fair's magic begins to take its effect. From the critically acclaimed author of *The Coffins of Little Hope*, *The Swan Gondola* is a transporting read, reminiscent of *Water for Elephants* or *The Night Circus*.

[The Secret of an Empress](#) - Karoline Franziska M Co Zanardi Landi  
2018-10-14

This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and

is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

*The Reluctant Empress* - Brigitte Hamann 1986

Extremely interesting biography of Empress Elisabeth of Austria, the beautiful and mysterious Queen who was the Romantic idol of 19th-century Europe and was assassinated in 1898.

*Manchu Princess, Japanese Spy* - Phyllis Birnbaum 2015-04-07

Aisin Gioro Xianyu (1907–1948) was the fourteenth daughter of a Manchu prince and a legendary figure in China's bloody struggle with Japan. After the fall of the Manchu dynasty in 1912, Xianyu's father gave his daughter to a Japanese friend who was sympathetic to his efforts to reclaim power. This man raised Xianyu, now known as Kawashima Yoshiko, to restore the

Manchus to their former glory. Her fearsome dedication to this cause ultimately got her killed. Yoshiko had a fiery personality and loved the limelight. She shocked Japanese society by dressing in men's clothes and rose to prominence as Commander Jin, touted in Japan's media as a new Joan of Arc. Boasting a short, handsome haircut and a genuine military uniform, Commander Jin was credited with many daring exploits, among them riding horseback as leader of her own army during the Japanese occupation of China. While trying to promote the Manchus, Yoshiko supported the puppet Manchu state established by the Japanese in 1932—one reason she was executed for treason after Japan's 1945 defeat. The truth of Yoshiko's life is still a source of contention between China and Japan: some believe she was exploited by powerful men, others claim she relished her role as political provocateur. China holds her responsible for unspeakable crimes, while Japan has forgiven her transgressions. This biography presents the richest and most accurate portrait to date of the controversial princess spy, recognizing her truly novel role in conflicts that transformed East Asia.

*Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything* - Lenore Look 2008-06-23

When Ruby's cousin Flying Duck emigrates from China to live with her, Ruby decides the best thing about Flying Duck is that she is a great new friend. BUT the worst thing about Flying Duck is that now, no one speaks

English at home. Plus, there's strange food on the table every night and only chopsticks to eat it with. And Flying Duck is deaf, and Ruby doesn't know any Chinese Sign Language. As if that weren't enough, this summer proves to be even more perilous as Ruby faces the dangers of swimming lessons, the joys of summer school, the difficulty of staying with a twelve-step program, the miracle needed to keep a beautiful stray dog that wanders into her life, and much more. Is it all too much for anyone -- even the Empress of Everything -- to handle?

Twilight of the Habsburgs - Alan Palmer 1997-02

Presents a biography of the emperor of Austria as well as a history of Europe during his reign.

**The Traitor's Wife** - Allison Pataki 2014-02-11

A riveting historical novel about Peggy Shippen Arnold, the cunning wife of Benedict Arnold and mastermind behind America's most infamous act of treason... Everyone knows Benedict Arnold—the Revolutionary War general who betrayed America and fled to the British—as history's most notorious turncoat. Many know Arnold's co-conspirator, Major John André, who was apprehended with Arnold's documents in his boots and hanged at the orders of General George Washington. But few know of the integral third character in the plot: a charming young woman who not only contributed to the betrayal but orchestrated it. Socialite Peggy Shippen is half Benedict

Arnold's age when she seduces the war hero during his stint as military commander of Philadelphia. Blinded by his young bride's beauty and wit, Arnold does not realize that she harbors a secret: loyalty to the British. Nor does he know that she hides a past romance with the handsome British spy John André. Peggy watches as her husband, crippled from battle wounds and in debt from years of service to the colonies, grows ever more disillusioned with his hero, Washington, and the American cause. Together with her former love and her disaffected husband, Peggy hatches the plot to deliver West Point to the British and, in exchange, win fame and fortune for herself and Arnold. Told from the perspective of Peggy's maid, whose faith in the new nation inspires her to intervene in her mistress's affairs even when it could cost her everything, *The Traitor's Wife* brings these infamous figures to life, illuminating the sordid details and the love triangle that nearly destroyed the American fight for freedom.

**Forest of a Thousand Lanterns** - Julie C. Dao 2017-10-10

The Wrath and the Dawn meets Snow White and the Huntsman in this dark and mystical East Asian fantasy reimagining of The Evil Queen legend about one peasant girl's quest to become Empress. "A richly developed fantasy world . . . Julie C. Dao is a talent to watch."—Marie Lu, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Young Elites* Eighteen-year-old Xifeng is beautiful. The stars say she is destined for greatness, that

she is meant to be Empress of Feng Lu. But only if she embraces the darkness within her. Growing up as a peasant in a forgotten village on the edge of the map, Xifeng longs to fulfill the destiny promised to her by her cruel aunt, the witch Guma, who has read the cards and seen glimmers of Xifeng's majestic future. But is the price of the throne too high? Because in order to achieve greatness, she must spurn the young man who loves her and exploit the callous magic that runs through her veins--sorcery fueled by eating the hearts of the recently killed. For the god who has sent her on this journey will not be satisfied until his power is absolute. Set in an East Asian-inspired fantasy world filled with both breathtaking pain and beauty, *Forest of a Thousand Lanterns* possesses all the hallmarks of masterful fantasy: dazzling magic, heartbreaking romance, and a world that hangs in the balance. Fans of *Heartless*, *Stealing Snow*, and *Red Queen* will devour this stunning debut. Praise for *Forest of a Thousand Lanterns* A Junior Library Guild Selection "A richly developed fantasy world coupled with an ambitious anti-heroine of complex agency, this story shines and surprises at every turn. Julie C. Dao is a talent to watch."—Marie Lu, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Young Elites* □ "A masterful reimagining of the early life of Snow White's Evil Queen."—Booklist, starred review □ "Lushly written . . . tantalizing reading."—Publishers Weekly, starred review "Rich in detail and full of gore

and blood, this dark novel will satisfy 'Game of Thrones' fans."—School Library Journal "A stunning reimagining of the Evil Queen. Filled with treacherous courtesans, dark magic, terrible choices, and bloody hearts, Julie Dao's exquisite take on this classic villain rises far above the average retelling."—Stephanie Garber, New York Times bestselling author of *Caraval* "Magnetic, seductive, and alluring, Dao's *Forest of a Thousand Lanterns* is a lush, captivating read about desire and the lengths to which we will go to find our true destiny."—S. Jae-Jones, New York Times bestselling author of *Wintersong*

**Empress Alexandra** - Melanie Clegg 2020-11-23

This intimate look at the bond between Queen Victoria and her granddaughter is "full of details regarding many European royals . . . thoroughly engrossing" (Kathryn J. Atwood, author of *Women Heroes of World War II*). When Queen Victoria's second daughter Princess Alice married the Prince Louis of Hesse and Rhine in 1862, even her own mother described the ceremony as "more of a funeral than a wedding," thanks to the fact that it took place shortly after the death of Alice's beloved father, Prince Albert. Sadly, the young princess's misfortunes didn't end there and when she also died prematurely, her four motherless daughters were taken under the wing of their formidable grandmother, Victoria. Alix, the youngest of Alice's daughters and allegedly one of the

most beautiful princesses in Europe, was a special favorite of the elderly queen, who hoped that she would marry her cousin Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and one day reign beside him. However, the spirited and stubborn Alix had other ideas...

[The Empress Of Scarred Secrets](#) - Andrea Corbin 2022-02

Long ago, war ravaged the lands of Estrana, until an agreement was set. A tentative peace is now on the verge of collapse from centuries-old prejudices. Verena never sought to conquer, nor rule, but betrayal forced her hand. To protect the forsaken, she must attend the quarter century meeting. And assume her place at the demon High Lord's table, just as her parents before. The blood in Verena's veins determined her path, but other's secrets will decide her fate. A lineage she has always denounced now weighs heavy upon her shoulders. The power of an Empress was

never a weapon she wanted to wield, but for her people, she will take what is hers, by battle and blood. High Lady she was born, but an Empress she was destined to become.

[Empress of a Thousand Skies](#) - Rhoda Belleza 2017

Two fugitives, a princess-in-exile and her accused killer, cross the galaxy as they fight to reclaim her family dynasty and save the universe from a deadly threat.

*My Last Empress* - Da Chen 2012

A sweeping story of passion and obsession, set against the upheavals of 19th-century imperial China. Samuel Pickens, a blue blood from Connecticut's Gold Coast, narrates this tale of obsession, lust, and lost love from his home within the walls of the Forbidden City.