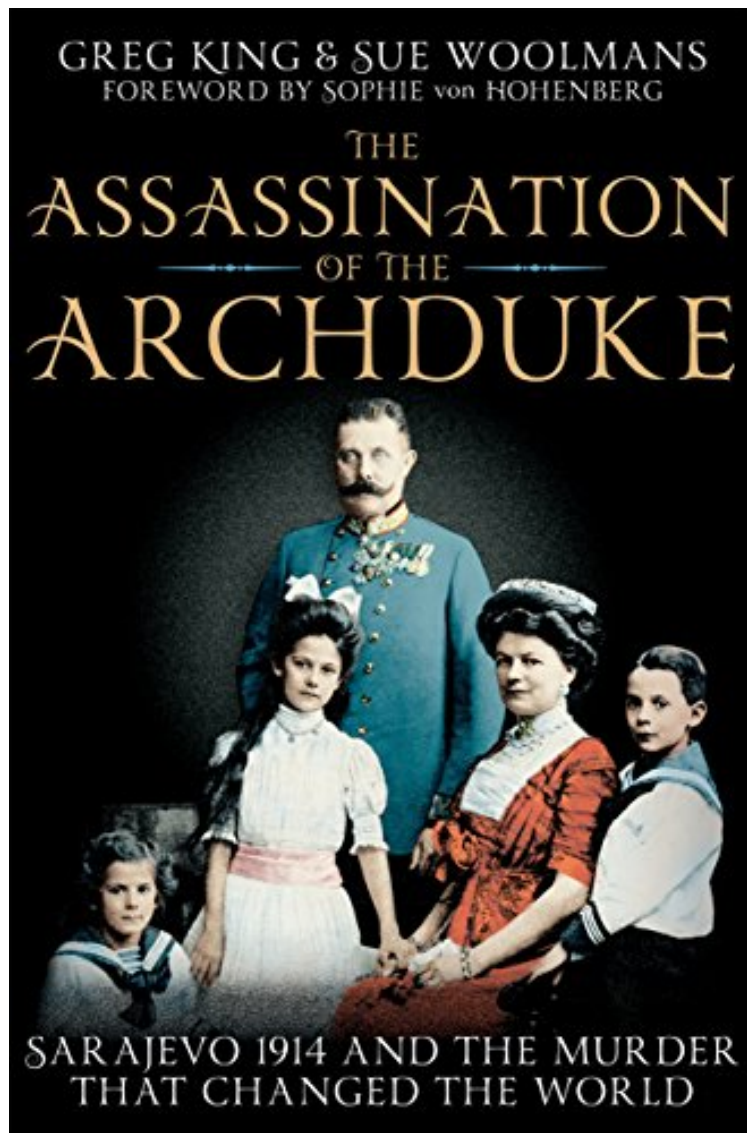


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## The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Murder that Changed the World (English Edition)

Von Greg King, Sue Woolmans  
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Von Greg King, Sue Woolmans : The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Murder that Changed the World (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Murder that Changed the World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The First Family Tragedy of World War IVon James GallenIn school we all (or at least most of us) learned that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the spark that exploded into World War I, but did we ever wonder who Franz Ferdinand was and what role he played in the life of Austria-Hungary? If you ever asked yourself those questions "The Assassination of the Archduke" is the place to look for answers. It turns out that Franz Ferdinand was the heir presumptive to the throne occupied by his uncle, Emperor Franz Joseph. Sophie was his morganatic wife, one of unequal rank whose children would not inherit their father's titles. Together they raised a loving family constrained and, ultimately destroyed, but the world in which they lived. This book tells two stories. The first is the disparaging treatment of the family by the members of the Habsburg Court. Being of inferior rank, Sophie was not permitted to enter events with her husband or even sit next to him. The emperor even declined permission for the couple to share a box in a theatre in which there was no royal box. At official dinners Franz Ferdinand would be among the first to enter and would sit near the head of the table. Sophie, if she was even invited, would usually be the last to enter and would be seated at the end of the table. One incident was mentioned in which the couple was very excited because someone of lower social standing enabled Sophie to be the second last to enter the room. Even in death, Franz's casket was larger and higher than Sophie's. Their children were not permitted to attend the funeral Mass for the royals, only being allowed to visit their parents' coffins after the invited guests had left the chapel. The second story is that of the assassination itself. The readers become acquainted with Franz Ferdinand's reluctance to visit Sarajevo and Sophie's insistence on accompanying him. The saga then winds through the plotters' preparations, the alleged involvement of the Serbian government and couple's itinerary, culminating in the fatal shooting by Gavrilo Princip. The last chapters of this work deal with the chain of events set off by the assassination that set the world on fire. The Austrian ultimatums, the Serbian responses, the signals sent by allies in Berlin and St. Petersburg and the motivations of the players are all analyzed. Did Franz Joseph insist on the trip to rid himself and his empire of an embarrassing marriage in the Royal Family and an heir who was seen as too liberal, too willing to change the structure that held the Realm together? Did the Serbian government encourage the assassins in the hopes of creating a disturbance that could lead to Serbian advantage? We know the rest of the story for Europe, but what happened to the orphans of the featured couple? That is the subject of the epilogue. Their status would vary with the changing winds of politics. They got no benefits from being Habsburgs, but their property was confiscated along with that of the Imperial family. The sons, Maximilian and Ernst would long support the restoration of the monarchy, a position that would get them confined in Nazi concentration camps. After release they would die at fairly young ages while their sister, Sophie, would live as the defender of her parents until her death in 1990. The fates of the conspirators are described. Time would change how the events of Sarajevo would be remembered. The principals involved would alternate on top and bottom as wrestlers in a match. Princip would mutate from hero to villain while Franz and Sophie would change from oppressors to honored heroes. The dramatis personae are introduced and developed. Franz Ferdinand is depicted as a man of his rarified world who has the vision to look outside it and pluck its sweetest rose while preparing for the day when he could adapt the realm to the world of the then new 20th century. The accounts of his hunting records are amazing. Sophie is seen as intelligent woman who knew the place for herself and her children while quietly working to improve it. I am impressed by how they both knew how far to press and when to stop. Emperor Franz Joseph is depicted as an elderly monarch constrained by the blinders of tradition and devoid of compassion for those around him. Archduke Karl, who would come to idolize Franz Joseph and succeed as the last Austrian Emperor, is shown as a somewhat enlightened character who tragically comes to power as that power was slipping away. There are villains also. The Prince of Montenuovo as master of the court left no stone unturned in making life miserable for Franz Ferdinand and his family. Prince Rudolph, Franz Joseph's son and heir is recorded as having murdered his mistress before committing suicide, as scandal among the Habsburg defenders of the Church. Authors Greg King and Sue Wollmans do an excellent job at weaving a personal story into historic events. The writing style never dampens the readers' interest. I felt that I got less about the lead up to the war than I expected but much more about the personalities involved so I am glad that I read it. It is the first of millions of family tragedies associated with World War I. The one thing that gives me some reservation about this book is the authors' association with the descendants of Franz Ferdinand and Sophie. One wonders whether this resulting narrative too defensive and places them in an overly favorable light. Even with this in mind "The Assassination of the Archduke" is an important addition to what I am sure will become a flood of World War I books as we approach its Centennial.

KurzbeschreibungIn *The Assassination of the Archduke*, Greg King and Sue Woolmans offer readers a vivid account of the lives - and cruel deaths - of Franz Ferdinand and his beloved Sophie. Combining royal biography, romance, and political assassination, the story unfolds against a backdrop of glittering privilege and an Imperial Court consumed with hatred, taking readers from Bohemian castles to the horrors of Nazi concentration camps in a compelling, fascinating human drama. As moving as the fabled romance of Nicholas and Alexandra, as dramatic as *Mayerling*,

Sarajevo resonates with love and loss, triumph and tragedy in a vibrant and powerful narrative. It lays bare the lethal circumstances surrounding that fateful Sunday morning in 1914, examining not only the Serbian conspiracy that killed Franz and Sophie and sparked the First World War but also insinuations about the hidden powers in Vienna that may well have sent them to their deaths. With a Foreword from the Archduke's great-granddaughter, Princess Sophie von Hohenberg, and drawing on a wide variety of unpublished sources and with unique access to previously restricted Hungarian and Czech archives, including Sophie's diaries and family papers, King and Woolmans have written the most comprehensive account of this momentous event available in English. In doing so, they offer readers an intriguing and startlingly revisionist look at this most famous of Archdukes, his family, and their momentous collision with destiny in 1914. *Pressestimmen* "Covers the subject so thoroughly and so honestly that this is almost certainly the last book that needs to be written." --Robert K. Massie, author of "Nicholas and Alexandra" on "The Resurrection of the Romanovs" "Wonderfully vivid...a worthy companion to Edvard Radzinsky's "The Last Tsar"." --"Publishers Weekly" on "The Last Empress" *Werbetext* The tragic story behind 'the shot that rang around the world' - the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and his beloved wife in Sarajevo in June 1914 The tragic story behind the shot that rang round the world the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and his beloved wife in Sarajevo in June 1914