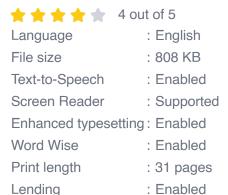
# The Last Queen of France Before the French Revolution

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## Marie Antoinette: The Last Queen of France before the French Revolution by Kian Guan Lim





Marie Antoinette was the last queen of France before the French Revolution. She was born in Austria and married Louis XVI in 1770. Marie Antoinette was a controversial figure, and her lavish lifestyle and foreign birth made her unpopular with the French people. She was executed in 1793, along with her husband and children.

#### **Early Life**

Marie Antoinette was born in Vienna, Austria, on November 2, 1755. She was the youngest daughter of Emperor Francis I and Empress Maria Theresa. Marie Antoinette had a happy childhood and was educated in the arts and sciences. She was also a skilled dancer and musician.

#### **Marriage to Louis XVI**

In 1770, Marie Antoinette married Louis XVI, the Dauphin of France. The marriage was arranged by their parents, and Marie Antoinette was only 14 years old at the time. The couple did not know each other well, and their marriage was not a happy one.

#### **Queen of France**

Louis XVI became king of France in 1774, and Marie Antoinette became queen. She was unpopular with the French people from the start. Her lavish lifestyle and foreign birth made her seem out of touch with the needs of the people. Marie Antoinette was also accused of having an affair with the Swedish count, Axel von Fersen.

#### The French Revolution

In 1789, the French Revolution began. The people of France were angry with the monarchy and the aristocracy. They stormed the Bastille prison and demanded the king's abdication. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were forced to flee from Paris, but they were captured and brought back to the city.

#### Execution

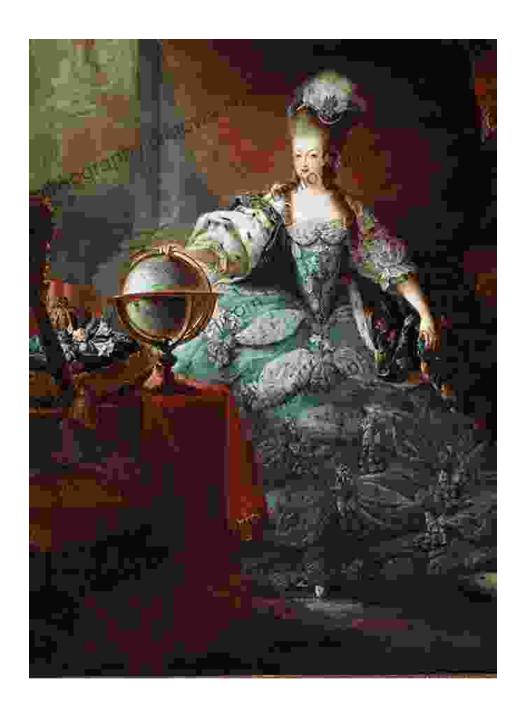
Louis XVI was executed in January 1793. Marie Antoinette was executed in October 1793. She was 37 years old.

#### Legacy

Marie Antoinette is a controversial figure in French history. She is often seen as a symbol of the excesses of the monarchy and the aristocracy. However, she was also a victim of the French Revolution. She was a young

woman who was thrust into a difficult situation and who made some mistakes. She was also a loving mother and wife who was devoted to her family.

#### **Image of Marie Antoinette**



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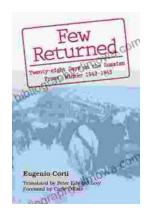
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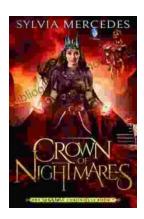


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