Anna of Byzantium: The Extraordinary Life of an Empress and Saint

Anna of Byzantium was an extraordinary woman who lived an extraordinary life. She was a princess, an empress, a saint, and a writer. Her story is one of love, loss, intrigue, and faith.

Early Life

Anna was born in the year 963 AD to Emperor Romanos II and Empress Theophano. She was the eldest of five children, and her siblings included Basil II, Constantine VIII, and Zoe. Anna was a bright and intelligent child, and she received a classical education that included the study of literature, philosophy, and history.



Anna of Byzantium (Laurel-Leaf Books) by Tracy Barrett

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 654 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 226 pages



Marriage and Reign

In 976, Anna married Prince Vladimir of Kiev. The marriage was arranged by her father in an attempt to strengthen ties between the Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus'. Vladimir was a pagan, but he converted to

Christianity shortly after the marriage. Anna and Vladimir had five children, including Yaroslav the Wise, who would later become Grand Prince of Kiev.

In 989, Anna's father died and her brother Basil II became emperor. Anna and Vladimir returned to Constantinople, where she played an active role in the imperial court. She was a close advisor to her brother, and she often represented the Byzantine Empire in diplomatic negotiations.

In 1014, Basil II died childless, and Anna became empress. She was the first woman to rule the Byzantine Empire in her own right. Anna was a just and capable ruler, and she presided over a period of peace and prosperity. She also sponsored the construction of several churches and monasteries, and she was a patron of the arts.

Later Life and Legacy

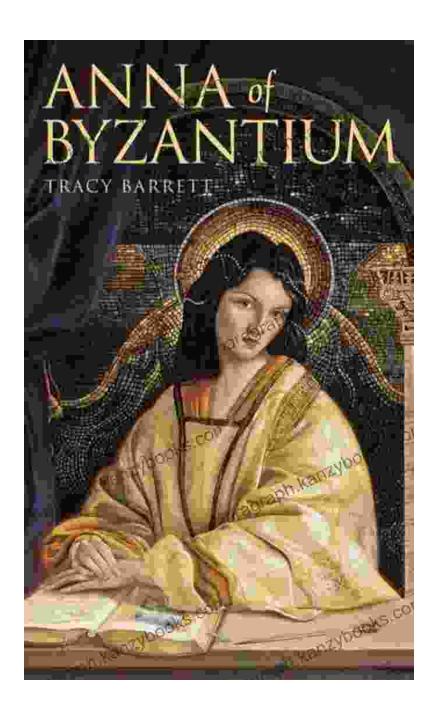
Anna abdicated the throne in 1055 and retired to a monastery. She spent the rest of her life in prayer and contemplation. Anna died in 1075, and she was canonized as a saint by the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Anna of Byzantium was a remarkable woman who left a lasting legacy. She was a powerful ruler, a devoted Christian, and a prolific writer. Her story is an inspiration to women everywhere, and it is a reminder that even in the most difficult of circumstances, it is possible to achieve great things.

The Book

The book "Anna of Byzantium" tells the story of this extraordinary woman in vivid detail. The book is written by bestselling author Judith Herrin, and it is based on extensive research. The book is a must-read for anyone

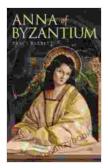
interested in Byzantine history, women's history, or the history of Christianity.



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