



0. NICHOLAS OUT-OF-TOUCH - Story Preface

1. GIVE US BREAD

2. WORLDS APART

3. NICHOLAS OUT-OF-TOUCH

4. ENTER RASPUTIN

5. RASPUTIN THE HEALER... RASPUTIN THE DECEIVER

6. RASPUTIN'S MURDER

7. NICHOLAS LOSES THE THRONE

8. HOUSE ARREST

9. EXECUTION IN SIBERIA

10. THE DEATH SCENE

11. ANGUISH FOR THE GIRLS

12. WHERE WERE THE BODIES?

13. WHO REALLY DIED?

14. ARE THESE ROMANOV BONES?

15. EIGHTY YEARS LATER

16. THE ROMANOV FAMILY

Starting when he was born, the child who would become Tsar Nicholas II lived a very different life from other Russian children. Here we see him with his mother, Tsarevna Maria Fyodorovna (who was known as Princess Dagmar of Denmark before she married Alexander III of Russia). This photo was taken by Sergey Lvovich Levitsky (1819–1898), circa 1872, when “Niki” was about four years old (and was officially known as the “Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich”). Online via the Russian State Archives and Wikimedia Commons.

How did Nicholas lose the throne to which he and Alexandra had ascended in 1896? How did he get so out of touch with his people? The truth is Nicholas was never in touch with the common people. He never knew what it was like to worry where the next meal was coming from. He never had to.

When his people were in despair, some thought Nicholas was ignoring their plight (and grew resentful of the time he spent with his family). When his people needed him, some thought the Tsar of all the Russians preferred the isolation of the imperial cathedral and Alexander Palace, his church and home in Tsarskoe Selo (the tsar's village).

Yet, as revealed through their private correspondence (written in English and now available in A Lifelong Passion: Nicholas and Alexandra: Their Own Story), Nicholas was deeply affected by his people's sufferings and worked very hard to improve his country. Although some did not view it thus, the Tsar usually put Russia before his family.

Although Nicholas was out-of-touch with the common people and the intelligentsia, he had the support of the aristocracy for most of his reign. But there came a time when even that support eroded. There came a time when a wandering charismatic “monk” named Gregory Efimovich Novyk entered the life of the royal family.

Most folks called him “Rasputin.” Most historians today think his presence significantly contributed to the downfall of the Tsar.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/NICHOLAS-OUT-OF-TOUCH-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution)

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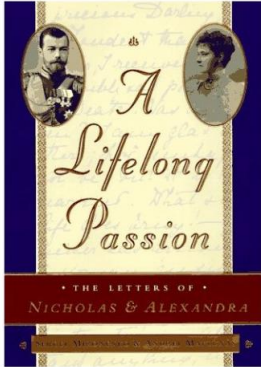
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Photo: Romanov Family

From the Romanov Collection, General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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A Lifelong Passion: Nicholas and Alexandra

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.com.

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Tsar Nicholas II - Coronation

Historic film footage of the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II, from the Russian State Archives. Online, courtesy ITN.

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