

0. RASPUTIN THE HEALER... RASPUTIN THE DECEIVER -  
Story Preface

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Empress Alexandra, of Russia, believed that Gregori Rasputin had unusual healing powers. In particular, he was able to help her son—Alexei, the Tsarevich—who had hemophilia. In this 1908 image—from GARF (the State Archive of the Russian Federation) via The Hermitage Museum—we see Alexandra Feodorovna with Rasputin, her children and their governess Maria Vishnyakova (seated in front of the Empress). Click on the image for a better view.

A mystic, Rasputin seemed to have strange healing powers. When no one else could help Alexei's bleeding disorder, Rasputin made the bleeding stop. When the family thought Alexei would die, Rasputin helped him get well. Alexandra, obsessed with guilt for passing the dreaded disease to her son, began to depend on Rasputin for everything.

Years later, people realized Rasputin most likely hypnotized the tsarevitch. At the end of the 20th century, doctors knew that such a procedure sometimes helps hemophiliacs. But at the beginning of the century, Rasputin's powers seemed almost magical—especially to the Empress.

Because the Imperial Family had kept Alexei's hemophilia a secret, no one knew why Alexandra was so protective of Rasputin. Many people believed Rasputin, a well-known womanizer, was having an affair with the Empress.

Despite his slovenly appearance and bad habits, Rasputin had access to the royal family. (Follow the link to view rare film footage of them.) This shocked even the aristocracy. Contemporary newspapers contained caricatures depicting Rasputin's hold over Nicholas and Alexandra.

Members of the extended royal family began to believe Rasputin was a *de facto* member of government. Because Nicholas II often followed the advice of his wife, and because Rasputin was advising Alexandra on affairs of state, the royal family took matters into their own hands.

Rasputin had to go.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/RASPUTIN-THE-HEALER...-RASPUTIN-THE-DECEIVER-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/RASPUTIN-THE-HEALER...-RASPUTIN-THE-DECEIVER-De>

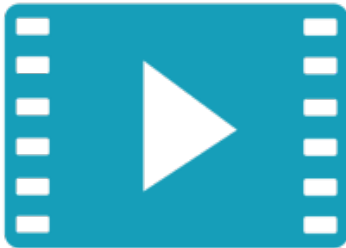
## Media Stream



### Caricature of Rasputin

Image online, courtesy the University of Texas at Austin website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Caricature-of-Rasputin>

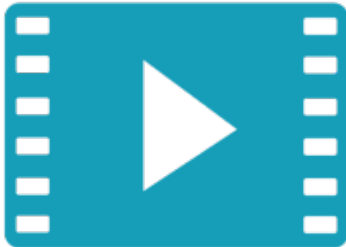


### Tsarevitch Alexei Romanov - Hemophilia Victim

Clip from *Mystery of the Romanovs*, online courtesy National Geographic. Copyright, National Geographic, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the production.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tsarevitch-Alexei-Romanov-Hemophilia-Victim>



### Romanov Family - Historic Video Footage

Historical footage (without music), from the Russian State Archives. Online, courtesy Alexander Palace Time Machine.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romanov-Family-Historic-Video-Footage>

## Rasputin - Mysterious Healer

Clip from "[Rasputin: Dark Servant of Destiny](#)" (1996) - award-winning film for television. Copyright, HBO, all rights reserved. Clip provided as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the production.

### **Director**

Uli Edel

### **Writer**

Peter Pruce

### **Studio**

HBO

### **Starring**

Tamas Toth (Young Rasputin)  
Alan Rickman  
Greta Scacchi  
Ian McKellen  
David Warner  
John Wood

**Run Time:** 104 minutes

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rasputin-Mysterious-Healer>

## Rasputin - Influences Alexandra

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## Rasputin - Bad Manners

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**Run Time:** 104 minutes

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rasputin-Bad-Manners>

## Rasputin - Dismissed and Returned

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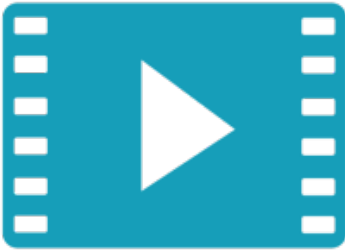
David Warner

John Wood

**Run Time:** 104 minutes

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## Rasputin - Did He Use Hypnosis?

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## Rasputin - Warnings

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rasputin-Warnings>



## Rasputin - Gives WWI Advice

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