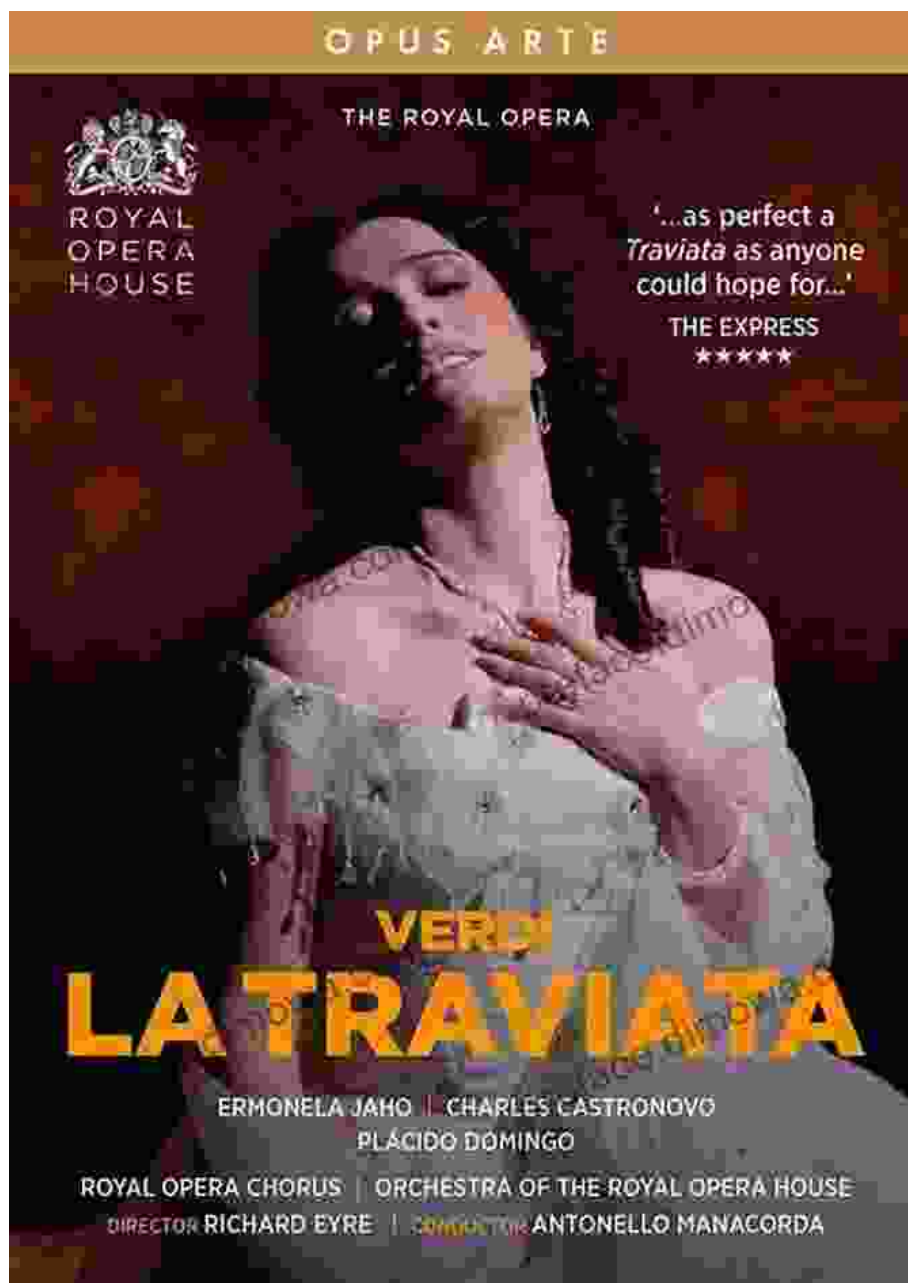
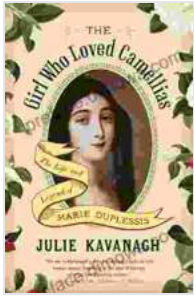


The Life and Legend of Marie Duplessis: The Real-Life Tragic Romance Behind Verdi's La Traviata



The Girl Who Loved Camellias: The Life and Legend of Marie Duplessis by Julie Kavanagh

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 7640 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 378 pages



The world of opera is filled with unforgettable characters, from the tragic Violetta Valéry in Verdi's *La Traviata* to the vengeful Aida in his eponymous masterpiece. But behind these iconic roles lie real-life stories that are often just as compelling as the operas themselves.

One of the most fascinating of these true stories is that of Marie Duplessis, the courtesan who inspired Verdi's *La Traviata*. Her life was a whirlwind of passion, heartbreak, and ultimately tragedy, and her story continues to captivate audiences to this day.

Early Life

Marie Duplessis was born Alphonsine Plessis in Nonant, Normandy, France, on January 15, 1824. Her father was a poor farmer, and her mother died when she was young. Marie was raised by her grandmother, who taught her to read and write.

At the age of 15, Marie moved to Paris with her sister, Caroline. She quickly found work as a milliner, but her beauty and charm soon caught the attention of wealthy men. Marie began to live a life of luxury, attending parties and balls with some of the most influential people in Paris.

Meeting Alfred de Musset

In 1844, Marie met the famous poet and playwright Alfred de Musset. Musset was immediately smitten with Marie, and they began a passionate affair. However, their relationship was doomed from the start. Musset was a notorious womanizer, and Marie was not the type of woman who could be content with being just one of many.

After two years, Musset broke off their relationship. Marie was heartbroken, but she refused to let it ruin her life. She continued to live a life of luxury, but she never forgot the love she had shared with Musset.

Meeting Franz Liszt

In 1845, Marie met the famous composer Franz Liszt. Liszt was a close friend of Musset's, and he had heard all about Marie's beauty and charm. Liszt was immediately drawn to Marie, and they began a passionate affair.

Liszt was everything that Musset was not. He was intelligent, charming, and devoted to Marie. He also helped her to develop her musical talents, and she soon became an accomplished pianist.

Death of Marie Duplessis

Marie's life of luxury and passion came to an end in 1847, when she was diagnosed with consumption (tuberculosis). Liszt was devastated, and he did everything he could to make her comfortable in her final days. Marie died in Liszt's arms on February 3, 1847, at the age of 23.

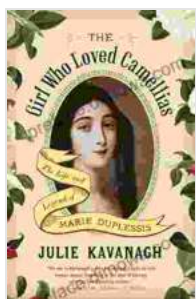
Marie's death shocked and saddened the Parisian elite. She was mourned by her friends and admirers, including Liszt, Musset, and Dumas.

Legacy

Marie Duplessis's life and death inspired many works of art, including Dumas' novel *La Dame aux Camélias* and Verdi's opera *La Traviata*. These works helped to create a legend around Marie, and she became a symbol of the tragic courtesan.

Marie Duplessis's story is a reminder that even the most glamorous and seemingly carefree lives can be filled with heartache and tragedy. It is a story that continues to resonate with audiences today, and it is one that will never be forgotten.

The life and legend of Marie Duplessis is a fascinating and tragic tale of love, loss, and redemption. It is a story that has inspired countless works of art, and it is one that will continue to captivate audiences for generations to come.



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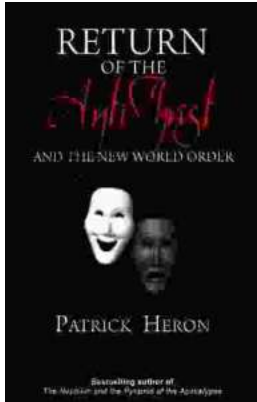
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