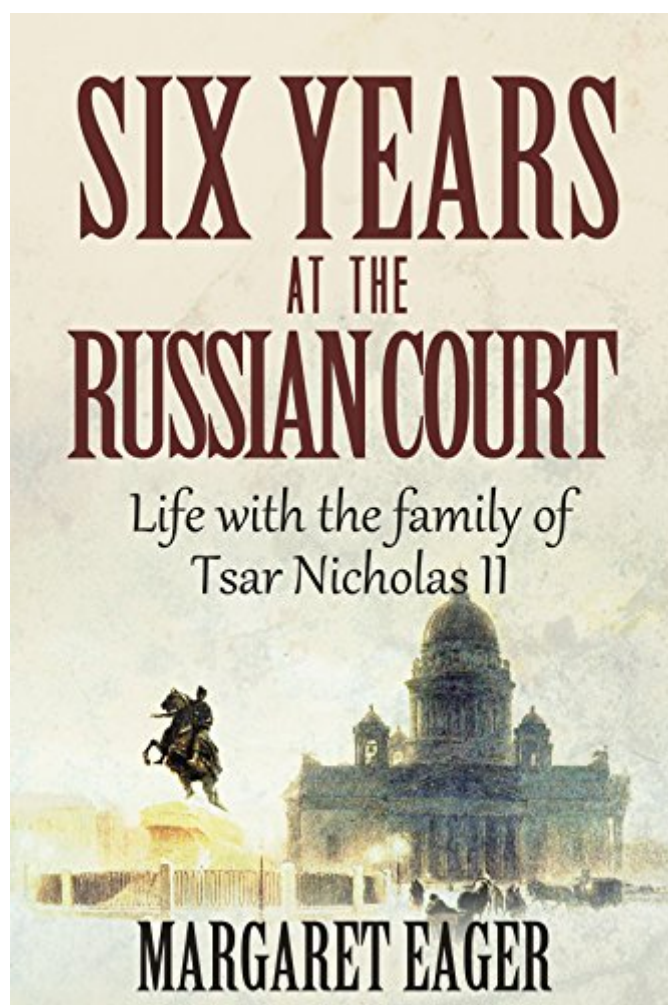


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# Six Years At The Russian Court



## Synopsis

Six Years at the Russian Court is the enlightening memoir of Margaret Eager - an Irishwoman from Limerick who served as a nanny to the Russian royal family from 1898 to 1904. Originally published in 1906, the book captures Eager's years as governess to the four daughters of the Emperor and Empress Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna: the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia. All of whom would be executed during the Russian civil war just over a decade later. This first-person account provides a fascinating insight into what was everyday life for the Romanov family. From religious celebrations and family illness to assassination attempts and life during the war; Eager's central role gained her access to some of the family's most precious and testing times. In addition to documenting the time spent with her royal employers, Eager also reveals intriguing aspects of Russian society as whole. Through a series of anecdotal references she includes recollections of her time in Russia regarding such things as the tough life of the peasantry, criminal activity and even the national post service. This classic, written from the unsuspecting eyes of a foreign nanny, shows early twentieth century Russia and the last Russian royal family like you've never seen before. Margaret Eager (1863-1936) left the Russia in 1904 and returned to Ireland where she received a pension from the Russian government for her time as a nurse. She kept in contact with the family she had known so well right up to their brutal deaths in 1918. Eager's family stated that she never fully recovered from the news. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating account of life inside the Russian court of Emperor Nicholas II. Working as a nanny for the Grand Duchesses, Margaret Eager was able to travel with the royal family and be part of their household for six years. The first part of this book was mostly just descriptions of places and of how things were done, from royal ceremonies to the management of the children. As the book goes on, happily we get more anecdotes that really bring these people to life. There are many adorable stories about the children and things that happened as they grew, but there was also some shocking tales about life in Russia at that time. I thought this book was very well rounded in its selection of stories. My only complaint is that it ended very abruptly. In literally two sentences, Eager went from working for the family, to leaving them. Some kind of summing up or epilogue would have been nice. If you like history, particularly Russian history and/or first-hand accounts, give this book a try. \*\*I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*

From 1898 until 1904, Irishwomen Margaret Eager served as governess of the four daughters of Czar Nicholas II. How she came to hold this position remains unclear; the train trip to Russia is definitely more exciting than Ms Eager anticipated. Throughout the book, we learn about Russian customs, society, clothing, education and really a lot of political information. How do peasants live? How do city folk live? And, of course, censorship and graft. Have I not heard some of the same schemes elsewhere? But they worked! Ms Eager is very proud of her charges, their preferences are analyzed and we get to know the girls. Even wonder at the adoration these children received from members of the military or the court. Of course, the governess travels with the family from one palace to the next from one ruling house to the next; she describes palaces, cleanliness (or lack thereof), customs of the courts; and relatives of the Imperial family. The outfits her charges wore are an obvious source of pride and at all times "they looked very sweet and quaint." I am wondering

how an Irishwomen from Limerick managed to have the correct clothing for all these occasions? The ending is rather abrupt and not really explained. Sometime in 1904 during/right after the war between Russia and Japan, Margaret Eager left Russia - "for private and personal reasons."

I give this four stars despite the flaws. And they are not exactly small ones. The writing is a little disjointed and scattered. Even when the author tries to focus on singular elements of her experience in a chapter there is a lack focus that can be a little jarring and confusing. The author also is not a historian. She passes on anecdotes that often have no proof or merit. There is an odd animosity towards Catherine the Great here that is not that subtle. I'm not sure if Catherine was still seen as less than worthy of the crown in a male dominated dynasty as the Romanovs became after her death. Maybe it was an unconscious determination to undermine someone the author thought put her own Victoria in the shadows. Maybe it offended her own sensibilities to have a woman be autocrat. But at least one of the stories she puts forth to illustrate how wicked and wrong Catherine was actually occurred during a previous reign if it happened at all. But I give it four stars because it is a quick read that gives a really clear look at small but telling scenes of how the imperial family lived. There is both an intimacy and a remove that I found very interesting and entertaining. At times the author is quite cynical and pragmatic in regards to class struggle and hardship. But other times she is compassionate with a strong sense of justice and reason that is almost surprising for the time and place she lived. Overall this is a read that anyone interesting in Russian history will like to pick up and add to their collection. Also I imagine, anyone who likes a look into the luxury and intricacy of a court/royal life.

So many sincere and innocent observations from within the palace that allow readers a different view of the Czar & Czarina. The descriptions and insights from their nanny help clarify what lead to what happened to them because of how they lived.

Russian history written by Nanny in early 1900s An Irish nanny to the children of the last Czar gives an intimate glimpse of daily of the palaces and activities of the children. They travel between the palaces As the seasons change. The baptisms are described in great detail in the Orthodox Church. The Nannie's admiration of the Czar and Czarina As sensitive and kindly people is portrayed honestly Not often described by history.

This is one memoir of the Romanov Era in Russia that does not end in tragedy - because the author

left Russia to return to England just after the Tsarevitch was born and before the hemophilia which would destroy his family was discovered. Written in a chatty, upbeat voice, the memoir covers many of the aspects of life at the Russian court, from the yearly activities of the Court calendar to the dress requirements for particular functions. A quick, easy read, this is a first-person memoir, so it does not require the heavy scholarship, and or take on the sometime-ponderous tone of researched biographies.

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