



## Tsarina

By J. Nelle Patrick

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*"Romance, adventure, magic and history blend seamlessly into a story that is... historically sensitive and gloriously thrilling." --Kirkus, starred review*

Natalya knows a secret.

A magical Faberge egg glows within the walls of Russia's Winter Palace. It holds a power rooted in the land and stolen from the mystics. A power that promises a life of love for her and Alexei Romanov. Power, that, in the right hands, can save her way of life.

But it's in the wrong hands.

**An epic romance with glittering magical elements, *TSARINA* is swirling with beautiful prose, stark Russian contrasts, and lavish visuals perfect for fans of Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty*.**

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**Tsarina By J. Nelle Patrick Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Natalya Kutepova and Alexei Romanov are in love, and though she is not of royal blood, everyone expects that Tsar Nicholas II will allow them to be married. Alexei reveals to her a magical secret: before Rasputin was murdered, he poured all of his power into a Fabergé creation known as the Constellation Egg. The power of this egg miraculously protects the Romanov family, including healing Alexei from his hemophilia. But the egg is unable to protect the royal family from revolution: the year is 1917, and a civil war is on the horizon. Alexei and his family are taken by the Reds. In an attempt to reclaim power for Russia, Natalya and her highborn friend Emilia try to retrieve the egg, but they are deceived and captured. What ensues is a desperate search for the egg in order to claim the power for either the White or Red faction—but there is a dangerous third group at play that cares nothing for politics and everything for power. The characters in this novel don't quite live up to the clearly well-researched historical detail: they're flat and under-nuanced. The two romances in this book are presented as deriving from Natalya's genuine affection for both Alexei and a young revolutionary named Leo, but neither are well developed enough to address the complicated feelings that would likely arise when one begins to have feelings for the enemy of one's true love. The story is fascinating, however, and the details of the Russian Revolution that are included might inspire students to research Russian history and such characters as Alexei Romanov and Grigori Rasputin.—Heather M. Campbell, formerly at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO

#### From [Booklist](#)

Natalya relishes the privileged swirl of life at the Russian imperial court, especially her status as the intended wife of the tsar's son, Alexei. When Alexei shows her the priceless jeweled egg the royal family harbors, she learns of the magical sway this so-called Constellation Egg has in keeping the ruling Romanovs in power. Part fantasy, part historic fiction, the story shifts from palace life to the revolution, as characters fight to save the egg to protect the Romanovs. Can the girl dreaming of becoming tsarina collaborate successfully with a former servant turned Red to rescue the egg from mystics who have taken it to turn the tide of history? Patrick's tale of Russia, Rasputin, and Romanovs packs in suspense, harrowing escapes, and romance. Without heavy-handedness, Natalya's spirited narration affords readers a sense of what led to revolution as well as the catastrophic impact of war. While liberties are taken with the historic setting, the mystics add an intriguing layer of storytelling, as does the egg's supernatural powers at strategic moments. Grades 6-9. --Anne OMalley

#### Review

"A raw and elegant tale of a country on the brink of revolution and a girl who will do anything to save her beloved Russia." --Brenna Yovanoff, *NY Times* Bestselling author of *The Replacement*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Georgia Lopez:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important usually. The book *Tsarina* has been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve *Tsarina* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you feel bored.

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**Carl Yeates:**

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**Clarence Delapaz:**

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**William Sam:**

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