

(Free download) The Moon and the Sun (English Edition)

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Von Vonda McIntyre

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Von Vonda McIntyre : The Moon and the Sun (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Moon and the Sun (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A sea-monster brings humanity to the court of the Sun King.Von Edward Alexander GersterVonda N. McIntyre has once again spread her wings and flown with a novel that is unlike any other I have read. It seamlessly weaves historic

fantasy, legend, and gothic influences into 17th century reality with a deft touch and lyrical telling. Simply one of the best novels I have read in a very long time. Marie-Josphe's bond with the creature, and coming to understand the sea woman's eerily beautiful singing language, brings realization that there is a heart and soul not so far from human. Marie-Josphe finds that her views on the creature's "humanity", her budding love for the king's advisor, dwarf and atheist Count Lucien - are bringing her into conflict with the Pope, Louis's courtiers, her brother and the very Sun King himself. This is the very heart of the story and it is beautifully told, questioning the perceptions and convictions of the characters populating the story and the reader alike. Sub-plots that truly bring the 17th century to life include: Marie-Josphe being the math tutor of the young genius composer Domenico Scarlatti; the Sun King's protection of his married brother whose male lover (The Chevalier de Lorraine) is the epitome of indiscretion and randiness; and the power struggle between Louis and his visiting cousin Pope Innocent I.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Shimmering lyricism Von Catherine Asaro Set in Versailles, France, in 1693, this book tells the story of a Marie-Josephe, a lady-in-waiting to the niece of Louis XIV--the Sun King. Marie-Josephe's brother, Father Yves de la Croix, is a Jesuit and also the King's natural philosopher. He has brought the King a sea woman captured on an ocean voyage. So begins a rich tale of conscience, politics, science, history, and love. The Moon and the Sun combines two demanding genres, with some remarkable twists. It is a science fiction story of first contact with an alien race, but told in a setting more often associated with fantasy. It is also a romantic historical novel, the type of meticulously researched work that brings another era to life. McIntyre infuses it all with her marvelously unique style. As a scientist, I found the interplay of science and the historical setting fascinating. Few sf novels take place in our past, unless they involve time travel. What McIntyre has done is in some ways more difficult: she accurately represents the state of science in the past, without insights from the future. The depiction of the investigations carried out by Yves and Marie-Josephe are authentic. With the sea woman, McIntyre evokes another classic science fiction theme--how do we create convincingly different alien life? The Moon and the Sun also portrays well how politics and the church affected scientific endeavor in that era. Science fiction is replete with the idea of the polymath--a protagonist talented in many disciplines. This isn't coincidence; in real life, artistic and linguistic gifts often pair with scientific or mathematical talent. The math-physics-music constellation is perhaps the best known combination. McIntyre gets the personality down well for Marie-Josephe. I found her a likable genius, unaffected and humble, with integrity and humor. It was also refreshing to see a woman portrayed as the polymath. The book does a good job depicting the barriers women encountered in those times to pursuing science or the arts. It challenges the reader to ask questions about the roles of women that remain almost as valid today, at the turn of the millennium, as they were in the court of Louis XIV. McIntyre's prose is clean and polished, with a lyrical quality, spare on words and rich with imagery. The historical background gains richness in the detail, from the clothing worn in the Sun King's court to the gardens of Versailles to one of the most realistic descriptions I've read of what it is like to ride sidesaddle. At times I would have liked to see the prose style varied more, but this is minor. Overall, the story shimmers. The characters are well-layered, neither paragons nor villains, but genuine people. I also enjoyed the engaging, and unusual, romance between Marie-Josephe and Count Lucien. If Louis XIV is the Sun, then Marie-Josephe and Yves are the moons that reflect his glory. This book poses a fascinating question: the moon exists whether or not the sun illuminates it--but if it cannot be seen, does it cease to exist in the minds of the people who observe and record history? The Moon and the Sun offers prose rich in imagery and lyricism, powerful characterization, a plot that sings, romance, and a depth of insight into human nature.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great story, slightly disappointing writing Von Dick Oliver Sometimes, there's nothing an author can do to kill a great story. Mermaid/Monster gets captured and brought to the court of Louis XIV, where a spunky young servant girl must liberate her. With a premise like that, how could you lose? The author did well enough telling the story to make the book a winner. The trouble for me was that I just really wanted the author to do more, and write better. The setting and story didn't deserve the awkward, flat prose, or the almost-but-not-quite believable characters. The worst part was when the plot seemed to come to a complete stop around Chapter 4 and didn't start up again until Chapter 10 or so. It was like the characters all avoided each other (often literally) for 100 pages. The author seemed to be so entranced by the location (how many times can she describe at length the same "green carpet" that the protagonist walks up and down every day?) that she forgot characters are allowed, even at court, to do something other than make courtly small talk with one another. Why this lapse, I never figured out. Once the plot got going again, it was intricate, exciting, and emotionally engaging right up to the satisfying-if-predictable ending. I can only hope Vonda McIntyre does with this book what Stephen King did with *The Stand*: come back in a few years when her skill as a writer has grown, add 100 pages, thicken the plot, and ratchet up the character depth and tension. Don't wait til then to read the book, though! Greatness will out, sometimes in spite of the author's efforts, and this is a truly great story.

Produktbeschreibung Can she find the courage to defy a king? In seventeenth-century France, Louis XIV rules with flamboyant ambition. From the Hall of Mirrors to the vermin-infested attics of the Chateau at Versailles, courtiers compete to please the king, sacrificing fortune, principles and sacred bonds. Here, Marie-Josephe de la Croix looks forward to assisting her brother, Yves, in the scientific study of the rare sea monster he has captured. But when Marie-

Josephine makes a discovery about the sea creature that threatens all her brother, the courtiers and the King understand, it is left to her to defy the institutions that power her world. But in the decadent court of King Louis, where morality is skewed and corruption reigns - will anyone listen to a single voice? Somehow, she must find the courage to follow her heart and her convictions - even at the cost of changing her life forever.