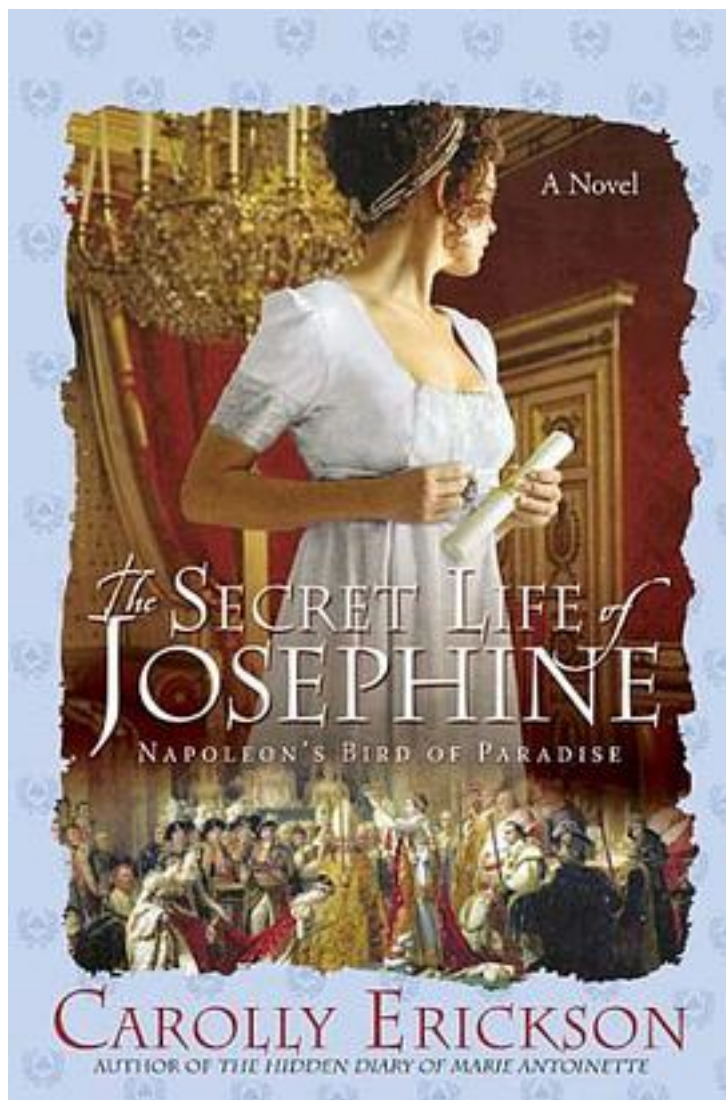


The Secret Life of Josephine



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Born on the Caribbean island of Martinique, Josephine had exotic Creole appeal that would ultimately propel her to reign over an empire as wife of the most powerful man in the world. Married young to an arrogant French aristocrat who died during the Terror, Josephine also narrowly missed losing her head to the guillotine. But her extraordinary charm, sensuality and natural cunning helped her become mistress to some of the most powerful politicians in post-Revolutionary France. Soon she married the much younger General Bonaparte whose armies garnered France, an empire that ran from Europe to Africa and the New World, and who crowned himself and his wife Emperor and Empress of France. He dominated on the battlefield and she presided over the worlds of fashion and glamour. But Josephine's heart belonged to another man-the mysterious, compelling stranger who had won her as a girl in Martinique. Determined to conquer the world, the ruthless Bonaparte divorced Josephine and married an Austrian archduchess who gave him the son he craved. Yet Josephine, believing herself fated to bring about his downfall, followed him to Russia on his last great campaign and, through her enduring influence on him, helped to destroy his ambitions-and to create her own romantic fulfilment with the man she truly loved. "The Secret Life of Josephine" tells Josephine's remarkable story in her own words.

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