

At the Court of Napoleon



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Laure Junot d Abrantes was young, bright, and pretty, a childhood friend of the Bonapartes in Corsica. She knew everyone in Paris. When at age sixteen she made a brilliant marriage to the dashing General Junot, governor of Paris, she became one of the foremost hostesses of the era and played a major role at the flamboyant court of Napoleon and Josephine. In those golden

times, social life, so rudely interrupted by the Revolution, flourished again, giving her a chance to dazzle at ball after ball. When she discovered Junot unfaithful, she retaliated by taking Metternich, one of the century's foremost statesmen, as one of a substantial series of lovers.

Gossip and social climbing, those two mainstays of American life at the end of the twentieth century, were already rife in the France of the 1820s, and Laure Junot had a talent for both.

We always want to know what great men and their families are like in private, and Laure's immensely successful memoirs bring to life the intimacies of the Imperial family, their amorous intrigues, their constant feuds for more wealth and power in the parvenu "Nouvelle Societe."

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