

*The Life and Lies*  
*of*  
*Marie Antoinette*

Analysis and Validity of the Motion Picture

# *In the Beginning*

- Maria Antonia Josepha Joann was the daughter of Austrian Empress Marie Therese of Hapsburg
- Born November 2, 1755
- She had a normal childhood and was properly educated



- 1763: a marriage is arranged between Marie Antoinette and Louis XV's grandson to create and hold an alliance between Austria and France



# Madame du Barry

- From Marie Antoinette to Maria Theresa:  
“I have good reason to believe that the King of himself doesn't wish me to speak to du Barry; not only has he never mentioned the subject to me, but he is even friendlier to me since he knows I have refused- and if you could see, as I do, everything that happens here, you would realize that the woman and her clique would never be satisfied with just a word, and that I would have to do it again and again.



True:

- Marie Antoinette did not like nor did she get a long with the King's mistress, Madame du Barry
- The first words she spoke to du Barry were “There are a lot of people here at Versailles today.”

*AT 19*

*SHE BECAME QUEEN*

*BY 20*

*SHE WAS A LEGEND*

*MARIE ANTOINETTE*

*FAME*

# *From Princess to Queen*



- Louis XV died in 1774, and Louis XVI is crowned King in 1775
- True: Marie and her husband lived separate lives doing their own things, he loved to hunt and she loved to party and gamble
- False: arguably Marie Antoinette was not as bad a queen as portrayed in the film

“The stories of Antoinette's excesses are vastly overstated. In fact, rather than ignoring France's growing financial crisis, she reduced the royal household staff, eliminating many unnecessary positions that were based solely on privilege. In the process she offended the nobles, adding their condemnation to the scandalous stories spread by royal hopefuls. It was the nobility that balked at the financial reforms the government ministers tried to make, not the King and Queen, who were in favor of change. In truth, Antoinette and Louis were placed in harms' way not only by elements of their personalities, but by the changing face of political and social ideology in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.”







**MARIE ANTOINETTE**



# Versailles

- True: gossip was common among the aristocrats at Versailles and many people did not like Marie Antoinette; as well many people had cliques of friends

*“Many others among the nobility were envious of the Queen and insulted by her dismissal of court etiquette, preference for her small court circle and the patronage she wielded on their behalf. Thus, disaffected members of the nobility became fertile sources for dirt on the queen. They fabricated and circulated scurrilous stories about the Queen and her private life. Stories accused of all sort of sexual acts with men and women of the court, of sending funds to Austria, and challenged the paternity of the royal children.”*

# Motherhood



## Children:

- Marie gave birth to a girl, Marie-Thérèse Charlotte in 1778
- She finally gave birth to Louis Joseph Xavier François, an heir for France in 1781
- *“Madame, you have fulfilled our wishes and those of France, you are the mother of Dauphin”*  
~Louis XVI

# *Hameau de la Reine*

- Marie Antoinette did build a little farm and chateau where she would escape to at times



# *A Rich Life Style*

- True: Marie Antoinette loved to go to the opera and not only watch but perform as well and partake in the theatre



- True: Marie Antoinette loved to spend money and surpass her monthly allowance on extravagance and fun things



# *Did Marie Antoinette have an Affair?*

- “Count Fersen, who was the supposed lover of Marie Antoinette, wrote a number of letters describing a woman he loved but could never be with—which would obviously point to Marie Antoinette considering she was the queen AND married, and had Count Fersen been caught that would have placed him in a very compromising position. There is no doubt that Marie Antoinette was certainly fascinated and enamored by Count Fersen, but at the same time she was well aware of her duties as a mother and as a wife—however unhappy her relationship might have been with Louis XVI—though towards the end of their reign and their lives, it was clear to nearly everyone in their inner circle that the king and queen did love each other, even if they were not necessarily IN love.”



(Most likely yes, but it's all speculation)



**MARIE ANTOINETTE**



# FALSE!!!



“Let them eat Cake”  
~Marie Antoinette

It was all propoganda and gave rise to the angry mobs

# *The Unmentioned*

- The Diamond Necklace Affair
- Marie Health Issues
- The Reign of Terror
- The Destruction of the French Monarchy
- The Murder of the Royal Family
- Vigée Le Brun and her paintings



# *The Death of Marie Antoinette*



- Marie Antoinette was tried and found guilty of treason
- She was questioned and charged for many things based on rumors
- Her last words were, “Pardon me Sir, I meant not to do it,” to the executioner
- She was guillotined on October 16, 1793

# References

## Websites:

- <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/95nov/antoinette.html>
- <http://www.ladyreading.net/marieantoinette/index-en.html>
- <http://www.pbs.org/marieantoinette/timeline/index.html>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie\\_Antoinette](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Antoinette)
- [http://www.marie-antoinette.org/biography/biography\\_english/#more-877](http://www.marie-antoinette.org/biography/biography_english/#more-877)
- <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20071124083727AAqmUOS>

## Books:

- Marie Antoinette by John E. N. Hearsey
- Marie Antoinette: The Last Queen of France by Evelyne Lever
- Secrets of Marie Antoinette by Olivier Bernier
- Marie Anoinette by Philippe Huisman and Marguerite Jallut

# Picture's References

- <http://www.mastemag.com/wallpapers/data/media/2129/marie-antoinette-4-1024.jpg>
- [http://analienparisienne.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/marie\\_antoinette.jpg](http://analienparisienne.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/marie_antoinette.jpg)
- [http://mi9.com/datawallpapers/data/20/1620/1160206\\_168/marie-antoinette-wallpapers\\_1280x1024.jpg](http://mi9.com/datawallpapers/data/20/1620/1160206_168/marie-antoinette-wallpapers_1280x1024.jpg)
- [http://www.moviewallpaper.net/wpp/Kirsten\\_Dunst\\_in\\_Marie\\_Antoinette\\_Wallpaper\\_4\\_800.jpg](http://www.moviewallpaper.net/wpp/Kirsten_Dunst_in_Marie_Antoinette_Wallpaper_4_800.jpg)
- [http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3053/2814637391\\_5b4bf891a8.jpg](http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3053/2814637391_5b4bf891a8.jpg)
- [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_bU5clzNOblQ/SoBNwnl6imI/AAAAAAAAADeQ/ypctGAeyIM/s800/jeanne\\_b\\_cu\\_de\\_cantigny\\_comtesse\\_du\\_barry\\_01.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_bU5clzNOblQ/SoBNwnl6imI/AAAAAAAAADeQ/ypctGAeyIM/s800/jeanne_b_cu_de_cantigny_comtesse_du_barry_01.jpg)
- [http://johnfenzel.typepad.com/john\\_fenzels\\_blog/images/2007/07/26/marie\\_antoinette.jpg](http://johnfenzel.typepad.com/john_fenzels_blog/images/2007/07/26/marie_antoinette.jpg)
- [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/b/b6/Marieantoinette\\_young.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/b/b6/Marieantoinette_young.jpg)
- <http://queenofcashmere.com/daybook/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Versailles.-hall.-of-mirrors.jpg>
- <http://ash.atomkinder.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/marie-antoinette.jp>
- <http://www.collegefashion.net/fashion-tips/inspired-by-marie-antoinette/>
- [http://www.activehistory.co.uk/Miscellaneous/menus/Year\\_9/marie-antoinette.jpg](http://www.activehistory.co.uk/Miscellaneous/menus/Year_9/marie-antoinette.jpg)
- <http://www.batguano.com/vlbmarose3b2.jpg>