

# READER Q&A *TSARINA*

1. Catherine might be called the Forgotten Empress. Is that justified?
2. Why do you think her astonishing rise was so far ignored by historians and authors, even though she was always “out there,” albeit in snippets?
3. In what way did she set the scene for all that came later in Russian politics—a unique century of female rule in the world’s biggest realm?
4. How important is her humble background as a defining element of her character?
5. Do you think Catherine being a foreigner influences her way of perceiving the Russians?
6. What are crucial moments in her relationship with Peter, and how do her actions and decisions influence the course of her destiny?
7. Do you think it is justified to call her a murderess?
8. What does it say about Russian serfs if “Other people’s tears are but water”?
9. Who, apart from Marta, is your favorite character in the book and why?
10. Whom would you like to see cast as Catherine if *Tsarina* was to be adapted for television or the movies?

