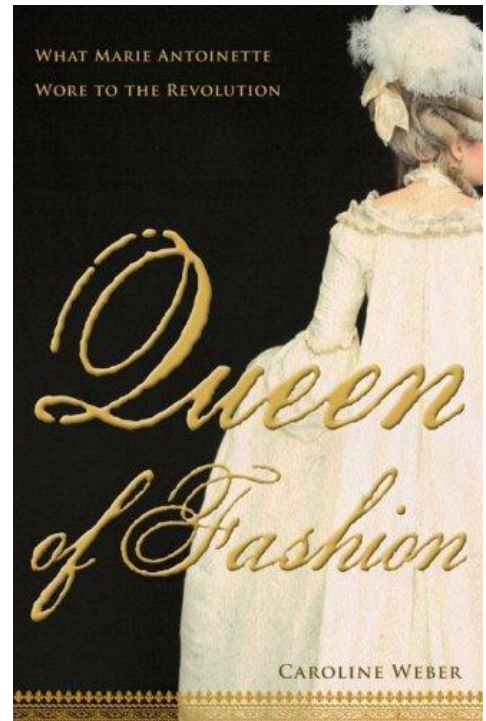


Reading Guide:

Queen of Fashion:

***What Marie Antoinette Wore to the
Revolution***

Caroline Weber (2006)



1. *In Queen of Fashion*, Caroline Weber has a very specific argument. What is her argument, and do you think she supports it well? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree with the portrait the author presents of Marie Antoinette? Is it a fair portrait? Why or why not?
3. After reading this book, do you have a different impression of the legendary French queen? Do you sympathize with her? Why or why not?
4. In the chapter *Stripped* and the chapter *Black*, Weber correlates Marie Antoinette's life with the mythical character Medea. Do you agree with her parallel? Why or why not?
5. Often, Marie Antoinette was seen as usurping the role of the King's mistress, rather than playing the traditional part of the Queen. Why was this, and do you think this was a fair judgment by her contemporaries?
6. Why was there so much disapproval of Marie Antoinette's donning of the *gaulle*, by both the royalty and the commoners, it was adopted as revolutionarily appropriate attire?
7. As a whole, how much of a role do you believe clothing played in the French Revolution?

About Caroline Weber

Caroline Weber is an associate professor of French and Comparative Literature at Barnard College, Columbia University. She has also taught at Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to her books, she also has had articles published in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Bookforum*, and *Vogue*.¹

Also by Caroline Weber

If you liked *Queen of Fashion*, you may also like:

- ***Terror and Its Discontents: Suspect Worlds in Revolutionary France (2003)*** | A revealing look at the reign of terror through the eyes of its contemporary figures.

Other related texts:

- ***Marie-Therese: The Fate of Marie Antoinette's Daughter***, Susan Nagel (2009) | Nagel documents the fate of Marie-Antoinette's Daughter.
- ***Marie Antoinette: The Journey***, Antonia Fraser (2002) | A biography of an intriguing queen, and a revolutionary era.
- ***Versailles: A Biography of a Palace***, Tony Spawforth (2010) | Versailles through its architecture, politics, and its people.
- ***Dancing to the Precipice: The Life of Lucy de la Tour du Pin, Eyewitness to an Era***, Caroline Moorehead (2009) | A British woman that lived through monometers historical events in the 18th and 19th centuries in both France and America.
- ***Madame du Barry: The Wages of Beauty***, Joan Haslip (1992) | The chronicle of Marie-Antoinette's rival, Madame du Barry.
- ***Love and Louis XIV: The Women in the Life of the Sun King***, Antonia Fraser (2006) | A biography of Louis XIV, the Sun King, who put France and Versailles on the world's stage.

¹ Sourced from the writer's biography in *Queen of Fashion*.