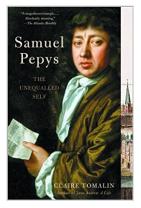
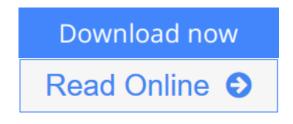
Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self



By Claire Tomalin



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For a decade, beginning in 1660, an ambitious young London civil servant kept an astonishingly candid account of his life during one of the most defining periods in British history. In **Samuel Pepys**, Claire Tomalin offers us a fully realized and richly nuanced portrait of this man, whose inadvertent masterpiece would establish him as the greatest diarist in the English language.

Against the backdrop of plague, civil war, and regicide, with John Milton composing diplomatic correspondence for Oliver Cromwell, Christopher Wren drawing up plans to rebuild London, and Isaac Newton advancing the empirical study of the world around us, Tomalin weaves a breathtaking account of a figure who has passed on to us much of what we know about seventeenth-century London. We witness Pepys's early life and education, see him advising King Charles II before running to watch the great fire consume London, learn about the great events of the day as well as the most intimate personal details that Pepys encrypted in the Diary, follow him through his later years as a powerful naval administrator, and come to appreciate how Pepys's singular literary enterprise would in many ways prefigure our modern selves. With exquisite insight and compassion, **Samuel Pepys** captures the uniquely fascinating figure whose legacy lives on more than three hundred years after his death.

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Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self By Claire Tomalin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #364534 in Books
- Published on: 2003-11-11
- Released on: 2003-11-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.30" w x 5.20" l, 1.07 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 528 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) is the most famous diarist in English letters. From 1660 to 1669, he penned an unforgettable day-by-day description of Restoration London, with its disasters (the Great Plague of 1665, the Great Fire of 1666), its tumultuous politics and its amazing cultural fervor. Pepys's diary also describes his eager womanizing, as he makes passes, often clumsily, at barmaids and shop girls and the wives of his associates. It is Pepys's intermingling of the public and the private that makes his diary so remarkable. Tomalin (Jane Austin: A Life, etc.) really knows her man, following him closely through some of the great events of English history. As a young government clerk, Pepys allied himself with his cousin Edward Montagu, who turned away from Cromwell to help Charles II become king in 1660, and the Restoration made Pepys's career. Highly organized, intelligent and a savvy political infighter, as Tomalin portrays him, he became a leading navy official and helped build the British navy into a world power. Tomalin also brings us inside Pepys's personal life: his tempestuous marriage, his romantic liaisons, his private, quite negative feelings about King Charles II. Tomalin writes brilliant chapters on all aspects of Pepys's life, relying not only on the diary but also on impressive scholarship. Tomalin clearly admires her subject, whose energy she constantly praises. For those who have already enjoyed the diary, Tomalin's learned and entertaining work admirably fills in the gaps. 16 pages of photos.

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From Library Journal

Tomalin, biographer of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, goes beyond Pepys's diary years to examine his entire life.

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From **Booklist**

Sing another chorus of "Life Isn't Fair." Last year, StephenCoote, author of *Royal Survivor* (2000), a fine biography ofEnglish Restoration monarch Charles II, published an excellent life ofthe man who started to make the British navy the great instrument ofempire that it became: Samuel Pepys, clerk of the acts on theRestoration-era naval board. Now Tomalin, author of the acclaimed*Jane Austen* (1997), rather trumps Coote by plumbing much moreextensively Pepys' best-known achievement, his diary for 1660-69, considered the absolute classic of its type ever since its first, bowdlerized publication in 1825 (unabridged publication came as lateas 1970). Coote drew upon the diary, but he concentrated on Pepys'significance as the archetypal modern bureaucrat, albeit one who hadto observe the patronage system that persisted from medieval timesuntil the nineteenth century, and did so adroitly and very much to hisprofit. Tomalin mines the diary, and she also expands upon thecharacters and events, great and small, that affected Pepys' life andlivelihood to bring the man and his milieu to life--pungently as wellas vibrantly, for one of her most effective tactics in the book is topoint out how fulsomely every place smelled in an age lackingplumbing, sanitation, and cleanliness as we know them. Think ofTomalin's biography as the Technicolor version of a story Cooterenders in sepia. *Ray Olson*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Browning:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self. You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Judy Brewer:

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Louis Patrick:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self.

Gene Conley:

The book untitled Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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