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aa : Queen Anne: The Politics of Passion: A Biography by Somerset, Anne (2012) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Queen Anne: The Politics of Passion: A Biography by Somerset, Anne (2012):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Much-needed reassessment of a politician in the middle of fierce partiesBy S. WeinsteinI don't normally write reviews, but I was so blown away by this biography I had to. Somerset has done a great service to restore the reputation of a monarch who, rather than being the superficial card-playing Mrs. Morley, was a very hands-on player in the age that established the presence of modern political parties in parliamentary and representative-government nations.Anyone who despairs at the machinations of Republicans and Democrats can take some comfort in reading about the far more vicious tactics, scurrilous pamphlets and backstairs goings-on of the Whigs and Tories. Despite being more sympathetic to the "High Church" Tories, to her great credit, Anne's sole motivation in choosing governments, dismissing Parliaments and navigating the very (very!) strong personalities of the time was simply "not to be the slave of any party."To that end, she somehow (mostly) managed to navigate the shoals of Whig and Tory. There's no question misogyny has played something of a role in the decline of Anne's reputation, but Somerset makes it clear that it's no coincidence that Anne's reign was coincident with Britain's emergence as the major power in Europe.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating study of a Queen and politicsBy GallaQueen Anne is not one of the more famous monarchs of England but Somerset has done much to explain her role during a tumultuous period in history She lived through the Glorious Revolution, the highly

expensive War of Spanish Succession, the unification of England and Scotland, and undoubtedly one of the nastiest periods of party politics. Anne was not particularly well educated and her shyness and lack of social skills added to her weaknesses as a monarch. However, she was hardworking, conscientious, and dedicated to safeguarding the rights of the monarchy in the governance of the kingdom. She unsuccessfully sought to build a government of moderate Whigs and Tories but the partisan politics was so vehement that this was impossible. Complicating the issue was Anne's relationship with Sarah Churchill, the Duchess of Marlborough, a key player in Whig politics. What began as a close friendship degenerated into an ugly scandal with most of the vituperation issuing from the mouth and pen of Sarah. In addition to her disappointments as Queen, Anne also suffered the loss of all of her children who were born alive as well as several miscarriages and stillbirths. The fact that she was the last Protestant Stuart meant that this personal tragedy had serious political ramifications as the Jacobites and the Hanoverians waited for her death. Somerset has written a rich, detailed biography and political study. The number of important characters and the complicated political situation both in England and in Europe necessitate close attention on the part of the reader. This is not a book to breeze through but it is enjoyable and worthwhile. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A monarch who improved on the job! By see above For a woman who was neither brought up to nor expected to ever be a monarch, Queen Anne acquitted herself "royally". She had certain goals and attributes to which she remained faithful (e.g.: devotion to and faithfulness to her loving husband, protection of royal (read executive) prerogatives and the Anglican religion) and which she followed and defended with consummate and unexpected political skill. She also chose her chief ministers with skill although, unfortunately, she failed to use the same skill in choice of friends. In addition, she never let her considerable medical illness interfere with her devotion to and her responsibility toward her duties. Most impressively, Anne was a monarch who grew into her job and, as a result, left an impressive and beneficial legacy for her country. Although the subject of this book is fascinating, I found the "cast of characters" too voluminous for me to follow. This was particularly evident in the long history of the relationship between Anne and Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, which is so detailed that it appears to be, "She said...", and then "Well, then "She said..." ad infinitum. This may be difficult to wade through but the writing style only indicates how well this book was researched. It is a monumental biography and should be read by anyone interested in European and British history.