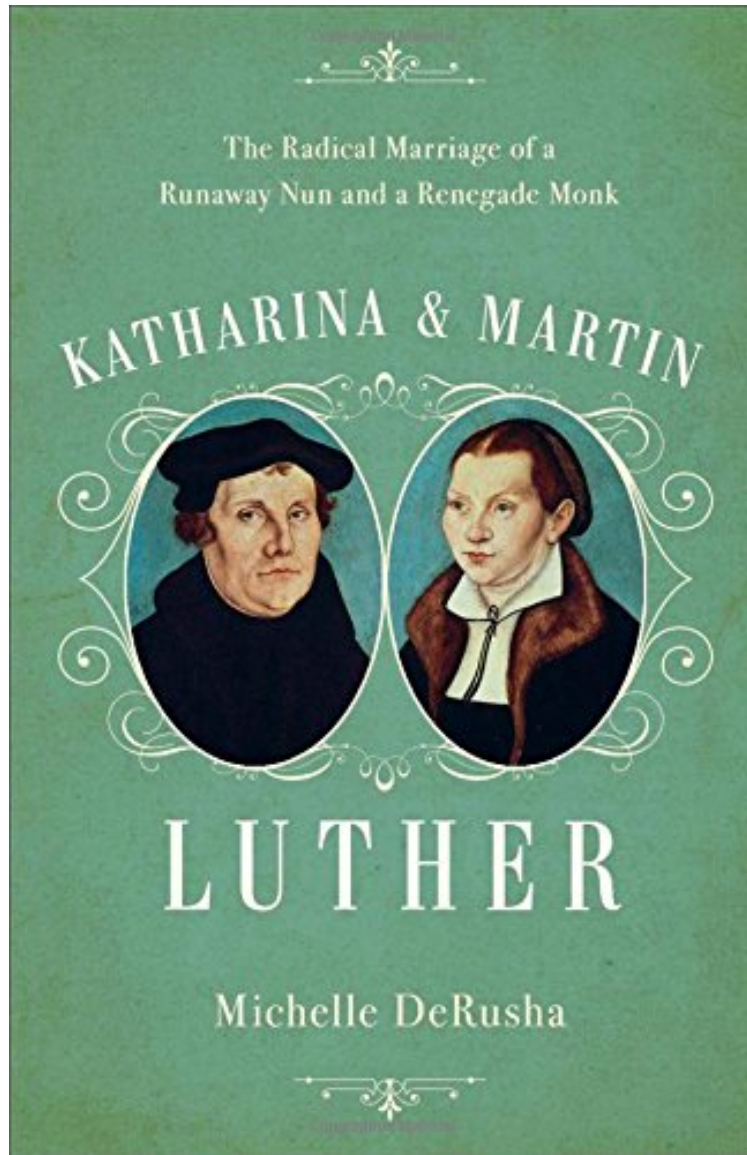


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## Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk

*Michelle DeRusha*

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#14873 in Books Baker Pub Group/Baker Books 2017-01-31 2017-01-31 Original language: English 8.60 x 1.30 x 5.70l, 1.10 #File Name: 0801019109320 pages Katharina and Martin Luther The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk | File size: 54.Mb

**Michelle DeRusha : Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk:

40 of 40 people found the following review helpful. ... If that chapter title from a book about the great Reformer, Martin Luther By Leah Slawson Two Pigtales on the Pillow - If that chapter title from a book about the great Reformer, Martin Luther, doesn't intrigue you, what would? Actually, the book is about much more than Martin Luther; it's about the woman behind the man: Katharina Luther, the runaway nun he married. Michelle DeRusha's new book, *Katharina and Martin: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk*, is a fascinating look at life and marriage in the 1500s, yet deeply pertinent to us today because of the influence of Luther on Protestantism and its doctrines concerning marriage. DeRusha highlights their relationship and the effects marriage had on him as a person and his work as a Reformer. Luther, a former monk and already leading in the Reformation when he got married, ultimately affected, perhaps even defined, the Protestant view of marriage we hold today. Like most of us, what Luther said and wrote about marriage and the inner dynamics of his actual marriage, were sometimes at odds. I found that comforting. If Luther was sometimes not practicing what he preached about marriage, well that means on-the-job-training is probably to be expected for the rest of us. DeRusha has delved deeply into the scholarly works written by and about Luther, but in her book, she writes for all of us. It reads like a work of fiction, plot and character driven, compelling the reader to keep turning the pages. It's a story, first and foremost. I found myself having to remind myself that this was a work of non-fiction. Katharina and Martin are alive to the reader. Through their letters, we see them working through frustrations with people in their community, their worries for each other, their grief after the death of their daughter, and even their questioning of their faith in that most difficult time. Luther wasn't in love when he married Katharina; and most probably, she wasn't either, but over time, the relationship grew to be one of endearing care, great mutual respect, and playful banter. In the end, it had all the hallmarks of a happy, love-filled marriage. Luther said, Marriage does not always run smoothly; it is a chancy thing. One has to commit oneself to it. He did and she did, and several children and years later, these two changed the institution for all of us. As a runaway nun, marriage was an absolute must for a woman of this time as she had no legal status or means of supporting herself. Luther had no intentions of marriage but tried to help Katharina and the other runaway nuns find suitable mates. At one point, he encourages her to marry another man who she finds unappealing and she flatly refuses; but suggests she would marry Luther! That kind of spirit and strength was exactly the kind of woman a man like Martin Luther would need to run his home, rear his children, and entertain and host his countless houseguests - up to fifty at a time! DeRusha's book is full of surprises, candor and humor. A worthy read and a fun read all at the same time.

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. A biography which reads like an adventure By John E Butler Michelle DeRusha has written an informative and fascinating book on the personal life of Katharina and Martin Luther. There were so many tidbits of information about them in this book. Such as the fact that Katharina escaped from the Cistercian Convent. Can you imagine being a rebel nun who chose to escape in those days? Michelle's storyline maintains a fast pace drawing the reader in from beginning to end. Her style of writing is informative yet inviting and friendly. It begs the reader to ask, "What's next"! Although there is little direct historical information about Katharina and Martin's personal life, Michelle brings Katharina to life as a real woman and equal partner to Martin. She threads together Martin and Katharina's devotion to each other and God. The font, spacing and layout selected for this book makes it a comfortable, "easy on the eyes" read. Anyone interested in biographies or the reformation period of history or is just wanting to read an historical account of two great lives, this is the book for you!

26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. I bet you don't know this side of the Luthers! By Robin Loved this book more than I thought I would. DeRusha's style of writing makes Katharina and Luther's story come to life. Even though it's peppered with footnotes, it reads like fiction. If you're like me and didn't realize (or remember) there was a Mrs. Luther, you'll find her story very interesting. She was a women's libber before there was women's lib. And Martin's views on women (and marriage) were very progressive for his time. Be careful - you won't want to stop reading once you start.

Their revolutionary marriage was arguably one of the most scandalous and intriguing in history. Yet five centuries later, we still know little about Martin and Katharina Luther's life as husband and wife. Until now. Against all odds, the unlikely union worked, over time blossoming into the most tender of love stories. This unique biography tells the riveting story of two extraordinary people and their extraordinary relationship, offering refreshing insights into Christian history and illuminating the Luthers' profound impact on the institution of marriage, the effects of which still reverberate today. By the time they turn the last page, readers will have a deeper understanding of Luther as a husband and father and will come to love and admire Katharina, a woman who, in spite of her pivotal role, has been largely forgotten by history. Together, this legendary couple experienced joy and grief, triumph and travail. This book brings their private lives and their love story into the spotlight and offers powerful insights into our own twenty-first-century understanding of marriage.

From the Inside Flap Their revolutionary marriage was arguably one of the most scandalous and intriguing in history. Yet five centuries later we still know little about Martin and Katharina Luther's life as husband and wife. Until now. Against all odds, the unlikely union of a runaway nun and a renegade monk worked, over time blossoming into the most tender of love stories. This unique biography tells the riveting story of two remarkable people and their

extraordinary relationship, offering refreshing insights into Christian history and illuminating the Luthers' profound impact on the institution of marriage, the effects of which still reverberate today. Together, this legendary couple experienced joy and grief, triumph and travail. This book brings their private lives and their love story into the spotlight and offers powerful insights into our own twenty-first-century understanding of marriage. |Michelle DeRusha is the author of *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*. She publishes a monthly column on religion and spirituality for the Lincoln Journal Star and writes about faith in the everyday on her blog, [www.michellederusha.com](http://www.michellederusha.com). She lives with her husband and their two boys in Lincoln, Nebraska.

From the Back Cover "No wonder it is sometimes said that the impact of this marriage was as great in the social sphere as the Ninety-five Theses in the religious sphere. Here is a story of a growing love accompanied by sorrow, the joys of marriage, and faith in God's providence. These well-researched pages are filled with unexpected treasures."--Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer, pastor emeritus, Moody Church, Chicago

"Michelle DeRusha gives us a fascinating peek into the Luthers' individual lives, their theological wrestlings, and an unexpected partnership that redefined yet another biblical institution--Christian marriage. The Luthers, through DeRusha's masterful portrayal, remind us again and again how the grace of Christ truly affects all of life."--Christine Hoover, author of *From Good to Grace and Messy Beautiful Friendship*

"We owe Michelle DeRusha a debt of gratitude for her impressive commitment to tell the story of this unlikely marriage. This book is a gift for believers everywhere, a reminder of how the transformational grace of God can leave a lasting and unforgettable legacy."--Emily P. Freeman, author of *Simply Tuesday*

"A fascinating, behind-the-scenes look at one of the most well-known Christian couples of all time. This is the Luthers' story, but in important ways, it's the story of all of us."--Jennifer Dukes Lee, author of *The Happiness Dare*

"I promise that this book will hold your attention and open your eyes."--Warren W. Wiersbe, author; former pastor of Moody Church, Chicago

About the Author Michelle DeRusha is the author of *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*. She publishes a monthly column on religion and spirituality for the Lincoln Journal Star and writes about faith in the everyday on her blog, [www.michellederusha.com](http://www.michellederusha.com). She lives with her husband and their two boys in Lincoln, Nebraska.