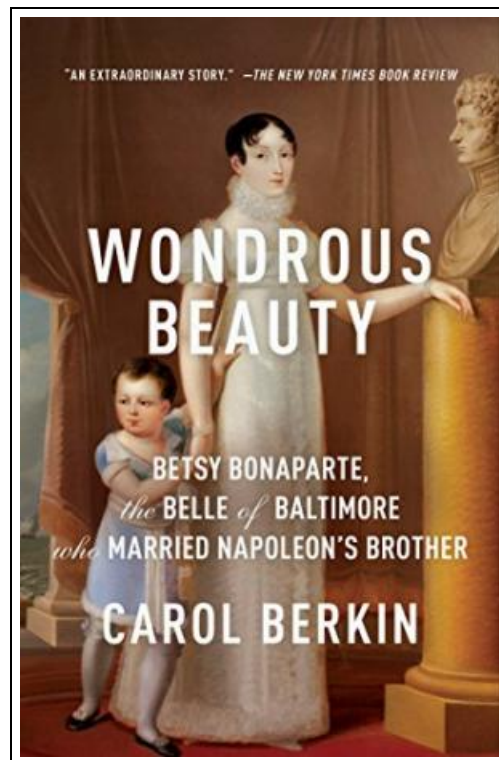


Wondrous Beauty Betsy Bonaparte, the Belle of Baltimore WHO Married NApoleons Brother



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WONDROUS BEAUTY BETSY BONAPARTE, THE BELLE OF BALTIMORE WHO MARRIED NAPOLEONS BROTHER



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Vintage. Paperback. Condition: New. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.2in. x 0.8in. From the award-winning historian and author of *Revolutionary Mothers*, here is the remarkable life of Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte, renowned as the most beautiful woman of nineteenth-century Baltimore, whose marriage in 1803 to Jerome Bonaparte, the youngest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, became inextricably bound to the diplomatic and political histories of the United States, France, and England. In *Wondrous Beauty*, Carol Berkin tells the story of this audacious, outsized life. We see how the news of the union infuriated Napoleon and resulted in his banning the then pregnant Betsy Bonaparte from disembarking in any European port, offering his brother the threat of remaining married to that American girl and forfeiting all wealth and power or renouncing her, marrying a woman of Napoleons choice, and reaping the benefits. Jerome ended the marriage posthaste and was made king of Westphalia; Betsy fled to England, gave birth to her son and only child, James namesake, and was embraced by the English press, who boasted that their nation had opened its arms to the cruelly abandoned young wife. Berkin writes that this brave, headstrong American girl returned to Baltimore a wiser, independent woman, refusing to seek social redemption or a return to obscurity through a quiet marriage to a member of Baltimores merchant class. Instead she was courted by many, indifferent to all, and initiated a dangerous game of politics a battle for a pension from Napoleon which she won: her pension from the French government arrived each month until Napoleons exile. Using Betsy Bonapartes extensive letters, the author makes clear that the belle of Baltimore disdained Americas obsession with moneymaking, its growing ethos of democracy, and its rigid gender roles that confined women to the parlor and the nursery; that she sought instead a European society...



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