Marie Antoinette was not a bad person

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Marie Antoinette was often misjudged by history. Despite her luxurious way of life and the belief that she was indifferent to the French people's struggles, it's important to understand that she was a victim of circumstances beyond her control. As a young girl, she was elevated to a position of power and had to navigate the expectations of those around her. Despite her flaws, Marie Antoinette was a kind and compassionate person who cared deeply for her family. It's unfair to label her as a bad person based on her actions as a queen.

First, she was a child. Imagine being a fifteen year old girl being told that you're going to be forced out of your country and move to another to become someone's wife and a country's queen. She didn't even speak the language where she was Queen of. Everyone hated her as well, and would call her an "Austrian Spy" because she was an immigrant. The French citizens would make fun of her for looking different and would say awful things about her in a language she didn't understand. I'm fifteen right now and I most definitely would not want to marry someone, let alone rule a whole country. Before you say "She was old enough to not make certain mistakes," think about all the mistakes you made as a child. I bet they were just as bad, maybe even worse than hers.

Second, she was the only one who was really blamed for France's economic woes, when in fact personal spending by the royal family accounted for only a tiny sliver of public spending. She was known for spending lots of money on "unnecessary" things with the citizens tax dollars, but was she really the one who wanted to buy all the clothes? During her time period, it was heavily encouraged to spend money on fabulous clothes, jewelry etc. Also, Paris, where she lived, was very dependent on the luxury trades, and expected royalty and the upper classes to spend a lot on such things. Many people also only ever blame her instead of her husband, Louis XVI, who would spend just as much as her or even more. People only blaming her can come off as misogynistic.

Third, she was described as a loving mother and wife who cared deeply about people. The loss of her son and daughter, her other son was torn from her arms and used to manipulate himself into believing his mother was a horrible person. I'm not saying that if you lose a loved one you're allowed to mess with other people's lives, but what I'm really saying is that her title of being a snob was all a lie to make her look bad.

Lastly, there is no historical evidence that she said "Let them eat cake." She was rumored to have said that phrase as a way of making fun of the poor people who couldn't afford food during the French Revolution but really people falsely credited it to Marie-Antoinette, and spread it as propaganda, as a way to rouse opposition to the monarchy. According to britannica.com, Writer John M. Cunningham said The first person to put the specific phrase "Qu'ils mangent de la brioche" into print may have been the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In Book VI of Rousseau's Confessions (written about 1767), he relates a version of the story, attributing the quote to "a great princess." Although Marie-Antoinette was a princess at the time, she was still a child, so it is unlikely that she was the princess Rousseau had in mind.

Marie Antoinette was a complex historical figure who was often misunderstood. While she was known for her lavish lifestyle and perceived indifference to the suffering of the French people, it's important to remember that she was also a victim of circumstance. She was a young girl thrust into a position of power and influence, and her behavior was often dictated by the expectations of those around her. Despite her flaws, Marie Antoinette was a kind and compassionate person who cared deeply for her family and friends. While she may not have been a perfect queen, it's unfair to label her as a bad person.

Marie Antoinette

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