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Emilie Du Chatelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment

Judith P. Zinsser

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Emilie Du Chatelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment Judith P. Zinsser
The captivating biography of the French aristocrat who balanced the demands of her society with passionate affairs of the heart and a brilliant life of the mind

Although today she is best known for her fifteen-year liaison with Voltaire, Gabrielle Emilie le Tonnelier de Breteuil, Marquise Du Châtelet (1706-1749) was more than a great man's mistress. After marrying a marquis at the age of eighteen, she proceeded to fulfill the prescribed-and delightfully frivolous-role of a French noblewoman of her time. But she also challenged it, conducting a highly visible affair with a commoner, writing philosophical works, and translating Newton's *Principia* while pregnant by a younger lover. With the sweep of *Galileo's Daughter*, *Emilie Du Châtelet* captures the charm, glamour, and brilliance of this magnetic woman.

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