



Royal Panoply: Brief Lives of the English Monarchs

Carolly Erickson

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From medieval conqueror to Renaissance autocrat to Victorian Empress to modern melodrama, *Royal Panoply* is the story of some of the most fascinating people in world history.

With her trademark blend of probing scholarship, lively prose, and psychological insight, Carolly Erickson focuses on each monarch's entire life---from the puny, socially awkward Charles I, to the choleric, violent William the Conqueror, to the well-meaning, deeply affectionate Queen Anne, who was so heavy she had to be carried to her coronation. *Royal Panoply* recaptures the event-filled, often dangerous, always engaging lives of England's kings and queens, set against the backdrop of a thousand years of Britain's past.

Royal Panoply: Brief Lives of the English Monarchs Details

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Author : Carolly Erickson

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From Reader Review Royal Panoply: Brief Lives of the English Monarchs for online ebook

Susan Liston says

The more you know about a subject the nitpicky-er you get, and there were some strange "facts" here that I know are just either not true or not known. (Which of course makes me wonder what else is wrong that I didn't catch because I don't know.) One example, she says that the bones of Richard III were dug up and thrown into the River Soar during the time of Henry VIII. ? I've never even heard that one before, no "perhaps", "no rumor has it", no "legend says" no "allegedly", a statement of fact. And WE KNOW he was in the car park all this time, Carolly.)

But over all, this was a readable, entertaining book and a good introduction or review of the British monarchs.

Jill Hutchinson says

If you know your history of the British monarchy, you probably won't find much new in this book which covers the Kings/Queens from William I to the present monarch, Elizabeth II. I must admit that there were a few "iffy" statements regarding some monarchs' sexual preferences which I don't believe have ever been verified by historians. Other than that, each ruler is profiled (with paintings added which you can bet looked nothing like the subject) in a few pages highlighting their successes, quirks and failures. This is not a book to be read straight through....it seems to fit better in the category of reference. It is nice to have on hand to refresh one's memory or as a primer for the first time reader of British royal history.

Amanda says

3.75

Nicole B says

Excellent overview on the lives of all of England's monarchs starting with William the Conqueror. Each biography is brief but very informative. Would recommend to anyone looking to get a general understanding of the lives of English monarchs.

Angie says

Great for anyone interested in learning about the English Monarchs, but not wanting to spend an eternity reading all the biographies that are out there about them. Each one has a 5-10 page summary. Having read

other bios on a few of them, Carolly Erickson pointed out other aspects of their lives and reigns that other biographers didn't mention. She was decent to Richard III. That's why she got three stars. If she had been better, it would have been higher.

Jo Clark says

This is the 2nd time I've read this book. I've loved it both times. A very entertaining way to learn more about the English Monarchy. I've enjoyed other history books by Carolly too. I'd love to see her write a similar style of book following the Queens, wives and mothers in more detail, even though it would probably be double the volume!

Kristina says

I checked this out at the library just to skim and use as a source of reference. But when I started reading it, I couldn't stop and didn't want to even skip a paragraph. The author took British History that could be so dull and gave it life. If you are interested in the monarchy, I highly recommend this book.

Jim says

Engaging, short biographies of all of the English monarchs, how they came to power, their personalities & pitfalls. Well-written, though at times repetitive with information when discussing the history that led to the fall of one monarch and the rise of another, which some may actually find helpful. The only thing that would have helped would have been the addition of family trees to help visualize lineage.

Charlene Vickers says

Lots of historical blunders here, and some jarring quirks in diction and syntax. For example, Erickson confuses the words "homosexual" and "homoerotic"; although this is often deliberate among the Pat Robertson/Rick Santorum crowd, here it seems (or at least I hope it is) inadvertent. That's the most striking (and the post potentially teeth-grinding) example, but there are others.

As for the factual errors I mentioned, here's a bunch from one biography: Richard I wasn't gay. He's known to have had many female lovers, and may have raped women (jury's still out on that, but it is more likely than not). He shared a bed with a French Prince, once, at a time when people shared beds platonically all the time. His intended probably didn't become his father's mistress; the story is not contemporary.

I skipped ahead to Henry VIII to see if Anne Boleyn had six fingers - luckily not, but that may be because she is only mentioned in passing.

Roberta says

A fairly interesting group of short bios of British kings from William I to Elizabeth II.

Heather says

I started reading this book because I have a few ancestors who were medieval British monarchs and wanted to learn more about them. (I can't say that I am proud of this heritage now that I know more about them.) I liked that the author gave a brief summary of each king or queen's life. Short enough to fit in an average of 8 pages, but detailed enough to give some insight into their personalities. By the last third of the book I was getting pretty bored. Not so much a reflection of the author or her writing abilities, but I was tired of these self-absorbed people who only cared about their own vanities and their many lovers and/or mistresses while they were in a position to really improve the lives of thousands of people. But they didn't seem to care. This was not true of all of them, but an embarrassingly large percentage. I did like that the author tried to point out positive and negative qualities about each person. I think the book could have been improved by having a picture of each monarch at the beginning of the chapter that was about them instead of having pictures of a select few on colour plates in the middle. When I read a biography I like to have a face to match it with.

Greg Strandberg says

This is a really good book if you want to know a little on each of England's 40 monarchs. For the most part, these were bad people. Most of them drank too much, spent way too much money, and had all kinds of sexual affairs. A lot of them neglected their duties so they could collect art, for instance. It's really no surprise that the people took more and more power back over the years.

There were some good monarchs, but I'd say that of the 40, only 10 or so had really redeeming qualities and helped their country out. Overall, this is a good book that kept my interest and provided me with lots of details for each of the 5-6 page chapters on each ruler.

Yasmin Halliwell Fraser Bower says

Brief lives of the English Monarchs is a compilation of biographies of all the monarchs, being each one explained briefly in 10 pages. I honestly thought this book was gonna leave a lot of things out, because there are a lot of Kings & Queens and not too many pages, but it was actually a flat book. It did not explain the essence of the person. For example, Henry VII? It didn't specify why or how many wifes he killed and it was relevant in his story.

So, for me this book was a little too shallow and superficial, even for a briefing. It was kind of disappointing actually, but well, not the author for me. It just felt boring and that she did not research the history well. Anyway, it was not my kind of book and it's sad because I know some stories to be interesting. I'm giving this book 2 stars. Shame u.ú

Nick says

I've read many books about the English monarchy, being an Anglophile and all that, but this is the best, most entertaining one-volume summation of all the Kings and Queens in order. There's just the right amount of information on each for an overview, and Carolly gets into the psychology and early lives (to the extent possible) about many of them, rare in most histories. Highly recommended if you want to get a walking familiarity with a thousand years of English history.

Terri says

This is an extremely handy reference book for the Royal Monarchs from William II to Elizabeth II.
