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A Treasury Of Royal Scandals: The Shocking True Stories History's Wickedest, Weirdest, Most Wanton Kings, Queens, Tsars, Popes, And Emperors





Synopsis

From Nero's nagging mother (whom he found especially annoying after taking her as his lover) to Catherine's stable of studs (not of the equine variety), here is a wickedly delightful look at the most scandalous royal doings you never learned about in history class. Gleeful, naughty, sometimes perverted-like so many of the crowned heads themselves-A Treasury of Royal Scandals presents the best (the worst?) of royal misbehavior through the ages. From ancient Rome to Edwardian England, from the lavish rooms of Versailles to the dankest corners of the Bastille, the great royals of Europe have excelled at savage parenting, deadly rivalry, pathological lust, and meeting death with the utmost indignity-or just very bad luck.

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Customer Reviews

In another royal exposé, Farquhar, a writer at the Washington Post, duplicates some of the ground covered in Karl Shaw's Royal Babylon, such as Peter the Great's delight in administering torture (he had his son lashed to death) and the way Britain's Queen Mary cajoled her subjects into giving her their household treasures ("I am caressing it with my eyes," she would coyly coo). Written in a provocative tabloid style (with headings like "We Are Not Abused. We Are Abusive," "A Son Should Love His Mother, But..." and "All the Holiness Money Can Buy"), Farquhar publicly washes the dirty laundry of not only European royalty, but also of Roman emperors and popes. Murderers and torturers who slept with their siblings (and other relatives), the emperors of Rome excelled at corruption. The maniacal pedophile Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 14-37) left the corpses of his many victims to rot on the Gemonian Steps, which descended from the Capitol to the Forum, or

alternatively enjoyed watching them being thrown from a cliff ("A contingent of soldiers was stationed below to whack them with oars and boat hooks just in case the fall failed to do the trick"). Many popes were no better. Not content with just rooting out Christian heretics by launching a bloody crusade against the Cathars in southern France, Innocent III (1160-1216) declared himself ruler of the world. He sacked Constantinople and massacred every Muslim he could find. Like Royal Babylon, this gossipy string of anecdotes is a popularized rather than an authoritative history and perfect for travel reading. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Designed for lovers of the curious and bizarre, this choice collection of true stories spans more than a millennium of European history. Farquhar includes the debauchery and cruelty of Roman Emperors like Tiberius and Caligula, the lusty personal life of Catherine the Great, and a number of the depraved popes who reigned between 800 and 1200. The author's anecdotal style creates a popularized tabloid history. A Treasury of Royal Scandals is entertaining and warns against the excesses of power as narrator Johnny Heller leads the listener on a roller coaster ride. James Dudley, Westhampton, NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've read many of Farquhar's books, and have loved them all. This one is no exception. I've read "Behind the Palace Doors: Five Centuries of Sex, Adventure, Vice, Treachery, and Folly from Royal Britain" and was hesitant to purchase this book, as I feared it would be a repeat of the same stories. It is not. This book includes stories about the first Popes and some of the Roman Emperors, as well as stories about Spanish nobles and famous Italians (the Medici family really would be a great next book for this author to write about). Honestly, I could stand to never read about the early Popes and Roman Emperors ever again (really unseemly stuff), but I was grateful for their inclusion just to be reminded of the world we live and how we got to where we are today. Like all of this author's books, I'd recommend stopping every few chapters, and reading more about these historical figures online. It really gives a better insight into how these people fit into the overall history of our world. Overall, a great read.

Understanding of Tudor history glancing and shallow-seem to be likely gleaned from watching 'The Tudors' on tv more than from any true scholarship-personages portrayed as little more than archtypes, which were put forth in Victorian era America.

I really enjoyed reading this collection of weird and wasted royalty. Absolute power screws up absolutely I guess. But sometimes they do cool stuff along the way, like how crazy Ludwig neglected his country but built us his fantastic castles. He was just ahead of his time. I learned a lot of history the fun way. Who is whose great great grandfather etc and how they are all cousins. They are even cousins AND nephews and nieces at the same time. Can they be cousins and sisters? I don't know but if it can be done royalty will do it.

I just finished reading another of this author's books for the first time and was actually impressed with the writing style and decided to try this one thinking it would be as fun and informative as *Behind the Palace Doors: Five Centuries of Sex, Adventure, Vice, Treachery, and Folly from Royal Britain*. The *Royal Scandals* was a much more shallow and tabloid style take on the information. I have only gotten through the first section and decided I'm not going to read any further. There was one point about the "We are NOT amused" statement by Queen Victoria that was in this book said that it had to do with an opera. I had read in more than one place in the past that it was about a dirty joke that someone told at a dinner party so it left me wondering how well researched this book really was. If you want to experience just a licentious slant on history and aren't worried about truly learning anything...this is a good book and I'm sure many will find this kind of writing humorous. Unfortunately for myself I didn't find it amusing;) If you haven't read any of this author's work before read the above mentioned book *Behind the Palace Doors*. I actually have found it informative and entertaining to read...I'm over 85% done with it and it will get me to purchase more from this writer...too bad it was *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*...next time I will read the reviews better. Happy Shopping!! Update: I have read and finished this book...after the first section in my opinion it did get better so I raised it to three stars...much of the same information as in *Behind the Palace Doors*.

At last someone has gathered all these legendary tales of outrageous behaviour into one convenient volume! The author of this gossipy, quick read reveals many of history's naughty bits with a smart-alecky attitude. It is titillating without being overly detailed and features short chapters, usually 4 to 10 pages, organized into nine categories: sex, vice, marriage, bad parenting, family feuds, madness, Roman emperors, popes and death. Supplemental material is generous and includes family trees, a timeline, a bibliography and chronological lists of the British, French and Russian monarchies; the latter also contain the index, which detracts a bit from its usefulness -- you have to know a figure's nationality and place in time to look them up. Nine line drawings depict

some of the people and events discussed.

While the book condition wasn't great (addressed that with the seller review), the book itself is very informative. There are charts of who is related to who, as well as birth/death dates and which 'house' they are from (useful with genealogy stuff). There are dozens of stories of who did what to who.... fascinating stuff :)

It was ok. If you read any history at all - there really is nothing new in this book.

If you have an interest in history, and a sense of humor, you'll really like Michael Farquhar's books. He takes basic facts in history, and fills them in with more hilarious and sometimes disturbing tales. I'm not sure what's actually true and what's been rumored over many years, but who cares. It's a fun, fast read you'll pick up again and again.

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