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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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you eagerly await each issue of The National Enquirer but wish it were less about Jennifer Lopez and more about Henry VIII, this is the book for you. In it, Michael Farquhar has collected charming tales of Europe's royal elite at their finest-fornicating, battling, murdering, backstabbing, beheading, inbreeding, prancing, politicking, and going stark raving mad. You'll read about the touching love of Philip the Fair for Joanna the Mad (who's called that for a reason, as you'll see), the familial love of Napoleon for his brothers, and the not-so-familial love of Caligula for his sister. Farquhar's gift is not so much for digging up tales of shame, but for the irreverent sarcasm with which he dishes them out. Of King Frederick William of Prussia: "The reply [to his son] was written in the glowing warmth of the third person." "Peter the Great was what might be best described as a super-tsar." [Groan.] "If Louis XIV was France's Sun King, then his brother, Philippe, duc d'Orl ans, was its Drag

Queen."Sarcasm and bad puns aside, let's get back to the comparison to The National Enquirer. Unless you are truly the type who subscribes to Playboy/Playgirl for the articles, chances are that you read The National Enquirer for the titillating hints of the scandals, improprieties, infidelities, gifts to the Democratic Party, and other acts calculated to provoke moral outrage that today's royal icons, celebrities have virtually trademarked.If you have any common sense (and how would you? Look at what you're reading!), of course you realise that little of The National Enquirer is burdened by the weight of the truth, but it is seasoned just right to tempt your sense of gullibility.

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