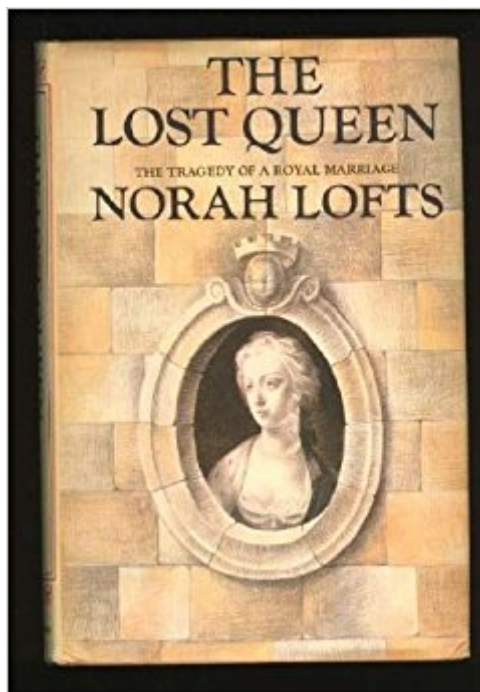


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The Lost Queen



Synopsis

"Princesses are born to be exiled. What is the alternative? Spinsterhood?" Thus the future of Caroline Matilda, youngest sister of George III, was settled - marriage to the nearly insane Prince of Denmark. Prompted by a sense of foreboding, she begged that one of her sisters should be sent in her place. But Caroline was the healthiest, the strongest of the English princesses, and as well as being exiled, princesses were meant to be brood mares... Exiled in a strange country, isolated by her inability to speak the language, Caroline forms a close bond with the King's doctor, Johann Struensee. They become lovers, eventually being arrested and charged with treason, with tragic consequences...

Book Information

Hardcover: 302 pages

Publisher: Doubleday; 1st edition (June 1969)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385067593

ISBN-13: 978-0385067591

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 5.8 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a well-written work of historical fiction that will keep the reader riveted to its pages until the very end. It tells the story of Princess Caroline Mathilde of England, sister to King George III. At the age of fifteen she was wed to young King Christian VII, who eventually became known as the mad king of Denmark. Temperamental, high strung, and given to strange outbursts, his predilection for strange behavior was known early on, but despite this, the two kingdoms would still see these two wed, as the unification of England and Denmark was paramount to individual happiness. King Christian VII developed a peculiar aversion to his wife and, consequently had conjugal relations with her only once, which propitiously resulted in the birth of a son nine months later. Alone in a foreign country, whose language she was only beginning to learn, and estranged from a King surrounded by sycophants, the young Queen gravitated to the one person who treated her as a person in her own right, the King's physician, Johann Struensee. An advocate of the philosophy of Enlightenment

that was overtaking Europe, Struensee had many ideas that were introduced as reforms in Denmark, through his influence with the King, who by now was easily led. These reforms were to make many enemies for him, as they upset the established feudal system that still existed in eighteenth century Denmark at the time. As he gained power through his influence, resentment against him grew within those circles that had formerly been close to the King. Unaware of the growing animosity against him, Struensee and the Queen became close intimates, bound by shared ideas and interests.

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