

Chapter 1 : The loves of Charles II (edition) | Open Library

From princesses to country girls to actresses the loves of Charles II come to life. Ten years after Charles I was deposed and executed, his son, Charles II, regains the throne after many years in exile.

Charles was their second child. Their first son was born about a year before Charles, but died within a day. At or around his eighth birthday, he was designated Prince of Wales, though he was never formally invested. Charles accompanied his father during the Battle of Edgehill and, at the age of fourteen, participated in the campaigns of 1642, when he was made titular commander of the English forces in the West Country. Setting off from Falmouth after staying at Pendennis Castle, he went first to the Isles of Scilly, then to Jersey, and finally to France, where his mother was already living in exile and his first cousin, eight-year-old Louis XIV, was king. When negotiations with the Scots stalled, Charles authorised General Montrose to land in the Orkney Islands with a small army to threaten the Scots with invasion, in the hope of forcing an agreement more to his liking. Montrose feared that Charles would accept a compromise, and so chose to invade mainland Scotland anyway. He was captured and executed. Charles reluctantly promised that he would abide by the terms of a treaty agreed between him and the Scots Parliament at Breda, and support the Solemn League and Covenant, which authorised Presbyterian church governance across Britain. Upon his arrival in Scotland on 23 June, he formally agreed to the Covenant; his abandonment of Episcopal church governance, although winning him support in Scotland, left him unpopular in England. Charles himself soon came to despise the "villainy" and "hypocrisy" of the Covenanters. The Scots forces were divided into royalist Engagers and Presbyterian Covenanters, who even fought each other. Disillusioned by the Covenanters, in October Charles attempted to escape from them and rode north to join with an Engager force, an event which became known as "the Start", but within two days the Presbyterians had caught up with and recovered him. With many of the Scots including Lord Argyll and other leading Covenanters refusing to participate, and with few English royalists joining the force as it moved south into England, the invasion ended in defeat at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September, after which Charles eluded capture by hiding in the Royal Oak at Boscobel House. Charles II painted by Philippe de Champaigne, c. 1650. Charles raised a ragtag army from his exiled subjects; this small, underpaid, poorly-equipped and ill-disciplined force formed the nucleus of the post-Restoration army. However, the new Lord Protector had little experience of either military or civil administration. In 1659, the Rump Parliament was recalled and Richard resigned. During the civil and military unrest that followed, George Monck, the Governor of Scotland, was concerned that the nation would descend into anarchy. The Long Parliament dissolved itself and for the first time in almost 20 years, there was a general election. There would be liberty of conscience and Anglican church policy would not be harsh. He would not exile past enemies nor confiscate their wealth. There would be pardons for nearly all his opponents except the regicides. Above all, Charles promised to rule in cooperation with Parliament. On 14 May, he was proclaimed king in Dublin. Painting by Lieve Verschuier. He set out for England from Scheveningen, arrived in Dover on 25 May and reached London on 29 May, his 30th birthday. The bodies of Oliver Cromwell, Henry Ireton and John Bradshaw were subjected to the indignity of posthumous decapitations. For the most part, the actual revenue was much lower, which led to attempts to economise at court by reducing the size and expenses of the royal household [27] and raise money through unpopular innovations such as the hearth tax. Charles was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 23 April. Dubbed the Cavalier Parliament, it was overwhelmingly Royalist and Anglican. It sought to discourage non-conformity to the Church of England and passed several acts to secure Anglican dominance. The Acts became known as the Clarendon Code, after Lord Clarendon, even though he was not directly responsible for them and even spoke against the Five Mile Act. Puritanism lost its momentum. Theatres reopened after having been closed during the protectorship of Oliver Cromwell, and bawdy "Restoration comedy" became a recognisable genre. Theatre licences granted by Charles required that female parts be played by "their natural performers", rather than by boys as was often the practice before; [32] and Restoration literature celebrated or reacted to the restored court, which included libertines such as John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester. Of Charles II, Wilmot supposedly said: We have a

pretty witty king, Whose word no man relies on, He never said a foolish thing, And never did a wise one" [33] To which Charles is reputed to have replied "that the matter was easily accounted for: The death toll reached a peak of 7, per week in the week of 17 September. The public blamed Catholic conspirators for the fire, [39] and one Frenchman, Robert Hubert , was hanged on the basis of a false confession even though he had no hand in starting the fire. Portugal had been helped by France, but in the Treaty of the Pyrenees in Portugal was abandoned by its French ally. The next day the couple were married at Portsmouth in two ceremonies—a Catholic one conducted in secret, followed by a public Anglican service. To lay foundations for a new beginning, envoys of the States General appeared in November with the Dutch Gift. Almost all of the ships were sunk except for the flagship, Royal Charles , which was taken back to the Netherlands as a trophy. Power passed to five politicians known collectively by a whimsical acronym as the Cabal —Clifford , Arlington , Buckingham , Ashley afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury and Lauderdale. In fact, the Cabal rarely acted in concert, and the court was often divided between two factions led by Arlington and Buckingham, with Arlington the more successful. Louis made peace with the Triple Alliance , but he continued to maintain his aggressive intentions towards the Netherlands. In exchange, Charles agreed to supply Louis with troops and to announce his conversion to Catholicism "as soon as the welfare of his kingdom will permit". Charles endeavoured to ensure that the Treaty—especially the conversion clause—remained secret. In , Charles issued the Royal Declaration of Indulgence , in which he purported to suspend all penal laws against Catholics and other religious dissenters. Charles withdrew the Declaration, and also agreed to the Test Act , which not only required public officials to receive the sacrament under the forms prescribed by the Church of England, [54] but also later forced them to denounce certain teachings of the Catholic Church as "superstitious and idolatrous". By England had gained nothing from the Anglo-Dutch War, and the Cavalier Parliament refused to provide further funds, forcing Charles to make peace. Charles was presented with the first pineapple grown in England in Painting by Hendrick Danckerts. Charles did not believe the allegations, but ordered his chief minister Lord Danby to investigate. Although much of the nation had sought war with Catholic France, Charles had secretly negotiated with Louis XIV , trying to reach an agreement under which England would remain neutral in return for money. Unfortunately for him, the House of Commons failed to view him as a reluctant participant in the scandal, instead believing that he was the author of the policy. Many members feared that he had intended to use the standing army to suppress dissent or impose Catholicism. However, with insufficient funds voted by Parliament, Charles was forced to gradually disband his troops. Having lost the support of Parliament, Danby resigned his post of Lord High Treasurer , but received a pardon from the King. In defiance of the royal will, the House of Commons declared that the dissolution of Parliament did not interrupt impeachment proceedings, and that the pardon was therefore invalid. When the House of Lords attempted to impose the punishment of exile—which the Commons thought too mild—the impeachment became stalled between the two Houses. As he had been required to do so many times during his reign, Charles bowed to the wishes of his opponents, committing Danby to the Tower of London , in which he was held for another five years. The prospect of a Catholic monarch was vehemently opposed by Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury previously Baron Ashley and a member of the Cabal, which had fallen apart in The Abhorrrers—those who thought the Exclusion Bill was abhorrent—were named Tories after a term for dispossessed Irish Catholic bandits , while the Petitioners—those who supported a petitioning campaign in favour of the Exclusion Bill—were called Whigs after a term for rebellious Scottish Presbyterians. When a new Parliament assembled at Oxford in March , Charles dissolved it for a fourth time after just a few days. Lord Shaftesbury was prosecuted albeit unsuccessfully for treason in and later fled to Holland, where he died. For the remainder of his reign, Charles ruled without Parliament. Protestant conspirators formulated the Rye House Plot , a plan to murder him and the Duke of York as they returned to London after horse races in Newmarket. News of the failed plot was leaked. Lord Essex slit his own throat while imprisoned in the Tower of London; Sydney and Russell were executed for high treason on very flimsy evidence; and the Duke of Monmouth went into exile at the court of William of Orange. On the last evening of his life he was received into the Catholic Church in the presence of Father John Huddleston , though the extent to which he was fully conscious or committed, and with whom the idea originated, is unclear. Other kings had inspired more respect,

but perhaps only Henry VIII had endeared himself to the popular imagination as much as this one. He was the playboy monarch, naughty but nice, the hero of all who prized urbanity, tolerance, good humour, and the pursuit of pleasure above the more earnest, sober, or material virtues. Charles was universally beloved, beloved not only by the crowd of individuals with whom he came in contact, not only adored by his dependents, but thoroughly popular with the mass of his subjects and particularly with the poorer populace of London who knew him best. He delighted and bored listeners with tales of his escape for many years. Numerous accounts of his adventures were published, particularly in the immediate aftermath of the Restoration. Though not averse to his escape being ascribed to divine providence, Charles himself seems to have delighted most in his ability to sustain his disguise as a man of ordinary origins, and to move unrecognised through his realm. Ironic and cynical, Charles took pleasure in retailing stories which demonstrated the undetectable nature of any inherent majesty he possessed. As a result, in his lifetime he was often nicknamed " Old Rowley ", the name of his favourite racehorse, notable as a stallion. James was eventually dethroned in , in the course of the Glorious Revolution. Statue of Charles II c. Today it is possible to assess him without the taint of partisanship, and he is seen as more of a lovable rogue" in the words of his contemporary John Evelyn , "a prince of many virtues and many great imperfections, debonaire, easy of access, not bloody or cruel". Restless he rolls from whore to whore A merry monarch, scandalous and poor. He was the personal patron of Sir Christopher Wren , the architect who helped rebuild London after the Great Fire and who constructed the Royal Hospital Chelsea , which Charles founded as a home for retired soldiers in Traditional celebrations involved the wearing of oak leaves but these have now died out. Titles, styles, honours and arms[edit] Titles and styles[edit] 29 May " May The Duke of Cornwall May " 30 January The Prince of Wales 30 January " 6 February

Chapter 2 : Cultural depictions of Charles II of England - Wikipedia

The Loves of Charles II has ratings and 14 reviews. Kait said: This was the first book I ever read on Charles II and the women in his life and I was.

Chapter 3 : The Loves of Charles II (Stuart Saga, #) by Jean Plaidy

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About The Loves of Charles II. From princesses to country girls to actresses the loves of Charles II come to life. Ten years after Charles I was deposed and executed, his son, Charles II, regains the throne after many years in exile.

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Chapter 6 : The Loves of Charles II (ebook) by Jean Plaidy |

Of all Charles II's loves, she is the only one believed to have consistently refused his advances. Like Hortense Mancini who would capture the king's interest nearly ten years later, Frances Stuart indulged in the Restoration fashion of dressing in men's clothing.

Chapter 7 : The Loves of Charles II - Indianapolis Public Library - OverDrive

From princesses to country girls to actresses the loves of Charles II come to www.nxgvision.com years after Charles I was deposed and executed, his son, Charles II, regains the throne after many years in exile. Charles is determined not only to restore the monarchy but also to revive a society that has.

Chapter 8 : The Loves of Charles II : Jean Plaidy :

The Loves of Charles II: The Stuart Saga by Jean Plaidy About the Book From princesses to country girls to actresses the loves of Charles II come to life.

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