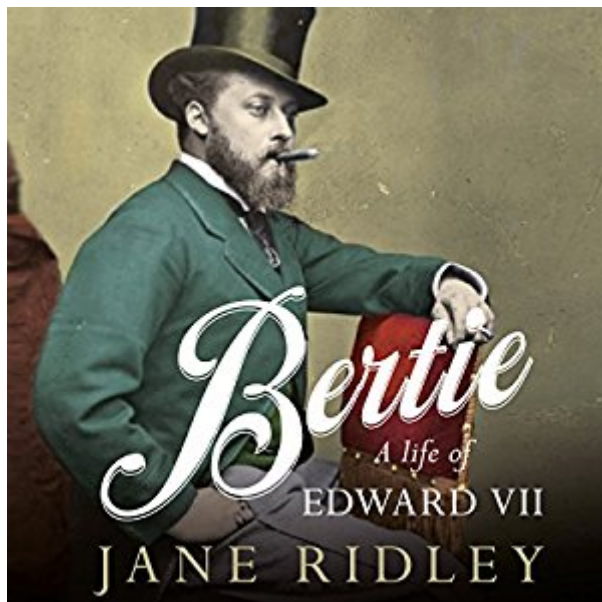


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Bertie: A Life Of Edward VII



Synopsis

Entertaining and different, this is an enjoyable study of a flawed yet characterful Prince of Wales seen through the eyes of the women in his life. Edward VII, who gave his name to the Edwardian Age and died in 1911, was King of England for the final 10 years of his life. He was 59 when at last he came to the throne. Known as Bertie, the eldest son of Victoria and Albert, he was bullied by both his parents. Although Bertie was heir to the throne, Victoria refused to give him any proper responsibilities, as a result of which he spent his time eating, betting, and womanising. Bertie's numerous mistresses included the society hostess Daisy Brook ('Babbling Brook'), Lillie Langtry and Alice Keppel. When Bertie finally became king, he did a good job, especially in foreign policy. This colourful book gives Bertie due credit, while painting a vivid portrait of the age in all its excess and eccentricity, hypocrisy and heartbreak.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This biography is a jewel. The author spent years of research, in fact, delivered her manuscript late to her publishers because new documents, interviews and information kept coming to her attention rounding out her view of this fascinating character (Bertie). Not your usual dry, uninteresting biography. Very informative in the relationship with his mother and father and siblings who married into many of the royal families of Europe. Particularly interesting is the fact that Edward VII did so much, in middle life, to help establish world renown hospitals in England, our hospital in Bermuda is called the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital - his financier friends helped with donations. His wife Queen Alexandra did much for nurses and raised funds for them. If you only read one biography this year - read this one it is fun, never dull and very perceptive of Edward's character, including a

balanced view of his many love affairs.

It's clear 'Bertie' by Jane Ridley is a landmark work. The book redefines the role of Edward VII as King, and recognises the role he played in restoring the Monarchy after his mother, Queen Victoria allowed it to languish during her protracted period of mourning for her late husband, Prince Albert. It details Edward's grasp of European affairs, and the important part he played in securing enhanced relations with France, which led to the Entente Cordiale. Ridley demolishes the revisionist biographies written about 'Bertie' during the 1930s. These allowed his reputation as playboy Prince to colour their perspective of him as King. 'Bertie' is exhaustively researched and very well written. The lives of the Royal family, Bertie's consorts, conquests and contemporaries are both entertaining and informative. Importantly, it gives us a deeper understanding of the complex Family ties between the British, German and Russian Royal Families. An invaluable contribution to one's understanding of the Edwardian era.

Jane Ridley's research is deeper and more extensive than any previous biographers of this arcane royal person. As a result, she has been able to craft 'the gold standard' in bios of the Prince of Wales and his later life as King Edward VII. Secretive and well-defended, King Edward VII was people-smart and wise enough to have much personal (and potentially revealing) correspondence destroyed after his death. From the remainder and other documents and letters in the Royal Windsor Archives, Ridley has been able to piece together a relatively balanced picture of Bertie's personality and interests and the psychology underlying them - without judging him by modern standards. She does not stray far from the documented evidence, not trying to psychologise her subject. Rather, she draws reasonable conclusions from what is definitely known, without sensational claims. Clearly, Prince Albert Edward was a creature of his genes, his family upbringing and his uniquely privileged position in England's aristocratic and power circles. It is necessary to 'read between the lines' to form a fuller picture of the man, while having to abandon some questions as unanswerable from current sources and Edwardian sensibilities. For readers interested in Bertie and the Victorian and Edwardian rule and society in England, this is an excellent read, which I recommend highly above all other bios of the man.

A fascinating insight into the Monarchies at the turn of the twentieth century, and of course of Edward himself. A man strictly brought up as a child with little love, who, when allowed to live his own life, lived it to the full, irresponsibly and selfishly using his power solely for his own pleasure.

How fortunate for him to marry a faithful and devoted wife. The aristocracy were no better in living petty selfish lifestyles. However once he became King he worked tirelessly for the good of his country without giving up his own lifestyle. My rather bland review does not give credit to this fascinating colourful biography, and I cannot but help liking this aimable.. rogue. Thankfully the fate of nations is no longer decided by petty selfish Royalty, but are we any better off ?

This was factual as well as personality based. No recriminations by the author, just stated facts as best resourced. Enjoyed so much I just had to read about his heirs. Notebook/Journal Spiral A5 Stylanote Fluoro Sticky Reminder Tabs Lined Notebook with Pen in holder Wirebound for Work, Home or Holiday for all ages. Never forget information again using your notebook.

Very interesting book. I knew his childhood was horrible, but I didn't realize that Albert "The Good" was such a control freak. I found the story of his creeping around the bushes and spying on the playtime of the little prince and the boys he was allowed as companions frankly rather creepy. I knew about the wasted decades he spent while Queen Victoria blocked him from most meaningful activities but he was more active than I knew once he became king. A very enjoyable read!

I have read a number of biographies on Edward VII. This is by far one of the most readable. Ridley does a great job of coalescing facts and translating them into a riveting narrative. I would recommend this book to readers of royal bios, and to those interested in the important role royalty played in a constitutional monarchy as late as the twentieth century. Little wonder Edward VII is called England's last great king!

I thought that this biography of Bertie King of England was a very interesting. The facts were pretty accurate considering there are always things that one cannot know unless you were there.

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