



Emma Hamilton

Norah Lofts

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Emma Hamilton was lover and confidante to some of the greatest men of her time.

Born a poor country girl of immense charm with kindness and ambition, Emma Hamilton becomes the wife of Sir William Hamilton, the British Ambassador to Naples, then meets and falls in love with the darling of Britain - Horatio Nelson. With extraordinary sensitivity, Norah Lofts has captured the changing, volatile, intriguing character of Emma Hamilton. Her lucid narrative is enhanced by selections from Emma's letters and many portraits by the great painters of her time.

Non-fiction

Emma Hamilton Details

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From Reader Review Emma Hamilton for online ebook

Angelyn Schmid says

This 1978 work follows Lofts' previously successful efforts at historical non-fiction--Domestic Life in England and Queens of England. From the inside jacket: "With extraordinary sensitivity, Norah Lofts has captured the changing, volatile, intriguing character of Emma Hamilton. Her lucid narrative is enhanced by selections from Emma's letters and many portraits by the great painters of her time. This combination has undoubtedly produced the finest biography ever of Emma Hamilton."

High praise indeed, and worthy of it.

Laurel says

Great choice for a first biography of Lady Emma Hamilton. Well written and researched with beautiful illustrations. Out of print, but I easily found a second hand copy from an online retailer.

Linda says

Biography.

Mary says

Emma Hamilton was lover and confidante to some of the greatest men of her time. Born Amy Lyon, she was the daughter of a blacksmith near Cheshire, England. Her father died when she was two months old, and young Amy was raised by her mother, Mary, with no formal education. She gave birth to her first child, a daughter named Emma Carew, in 1781 when Emma was just sixteen years old. She then became a model for the English artist George Romney in 1782 under the name Emma Hart.

A woman of immense charm, kindness and ambition, Emma became the wife of Sir William Hamilton, the British Ambassador to Naples in 1791. She was twenty-six, her husband was sixty. Two years later, she met and fell in love with the darling of Britain - Horatio Nelson. During their subsequent seven year love affair, she gave birth to a daughter, Horatia, whose birth she managed to keep secret from Sir William and London society.

After Horatio Nelson's death in 1805 during the Battle of Trafalgar, Emma fell into poverty, moved to France to escape her creditors, and later fell victim to alcoholism, dying of liver failure in 1815. Horatia Nelson eventually married a Reverend in 1822 and they had ten children. Although, Horatia acknowledged that she was the daughter of Horatio Nelson, she never publicly acknowledged being Emma Hamilton's daughter.

I loved this book. Before reading this book, I knew nothing about Lady Emma Hamilton's life, only that she

was the mistress of Admiral Lord Nelson. I give Emma Hamilton an A+! and will put it on my keeper shelf to read again sometime soon.

Susan Liston says

I will admit that my interest in Emma Hamilton stem mostly from the wonderful paintings of her by George Romney. I could have learned as much detail as I needed to know about her from Wikipedia or the Vivien Leigh movie. But this is a lovely, heavily illustrated book. I've not read a Norah Lofts book since my youth, and the prose style here seemed very old fashioned.... I would have guessed this was written a lot longer ago than 1978. But, you know, nice pictures.
