



The Loves of Charles II

Jean Plaidy

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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 is determined not only to restore the monarchy but also to revive a society that has suffered under many years of Puritan rule, when everything from theater to Christmas festivals was illegal. As king, Charles II throws himself into the gaiety of court life, becoming a patron of the arts and a consummate lover of women. He first secures a strong dynastic alliance by marrying Catherine of Braganza, a shy, plain Portuguese princess who falls in love with her handsome husband and brings him great wealth, but can never give him the son he longs for. For many years, his “untitled queen” is a bold and sensual older woman—Barbara, Countess of Castlemaine—whose husband is routinely paid to look the other way. But when the politically ambitious Lady Castlemaine becomes too powerful, she is replaced by Louise de Kéroualle, a baby-faced French noblewoman who may have been sent to Charles’s court as a spy. His other great love, and Louise’s rival, is Nell Gwyn, a stage actress who rises from the streets of London to become the king’s favorite and a hero of the working class.

Court intrigue and affairs of the heart weave together in this unforgettable page-turner. Includes *The Wandering Prince*,
A Health Unto His Majesty, and *Here Lies Our Sovereign Lord*.

The Loves of Charles II Details

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From Reader Review The Loves of Charles II for online ebook

Mandy Moody says

The Loves of Charles II is three of Plaidy's works combined into one volume. First is The Wandering Prince, which is much less about Charles than about his sister, Henriette. It is also about his first mistress and the mother of James, Duke of Monmouth, Lucy Water. I enjoyed this story, until the end, when I felt it began to drag a bit. I would rate it 3 stars.

The second book is A Health Unto His Majesty, about Charles' wife, Catherine of Braganza, and his favorite mistress, Barbara Villiers. I did not like the way Plaidy portrayed either woman, but her Barbara was especially offensive to me. I rated this one just 2 stars.

The final book, Here Lies Our Sovereign Lord, was about Nell Gwyn and Louise de Keroualle. I liked this book best and felt like Nelly was the only woman in all 3 books (with the possible exception of Minette) that was portrayed in a positive way. In sharp contrast to the other 2 books, the ending of this one was quite poignant and stayed engaging. I would rate this one 4 stars.

Cheryl a.k.a Poptart says

This was my first read by Jean Plaidy. I would recommend this book to someone who likes tedious historical reads. This book is actually three books in one. 1. The Wandering Prince 2. A Health Unto His Majesty 3. Here Lies Our Sovereign Lord. Basically book 1, The Wandering Prince is the story of Charles II from his younger sister's point of view and later his wife's. In book 2, A Health Unto His Majesty, is about the life of Charles II from his own perspective. And finally, Here Lies Our Sovereign Lord, is about the life of Charles II from the perspective of his mistresses. So again, if you like tedious reads about royalty history, this is the book for you.

Marita says

This book is in 3 parts and the stories overlap so much that I felt like I was reading the same stuff over and over again. Irritating.

Michelle says

I enjoyed this one a little more than others. I think that is due to the women themselves...Barbara Villiers is a compelling person.

Kellirina says

Not a bad read - kept me entertained on many a train ride home. Very historical. More of a history book than

historical fiction. I liked reading all of the novels in one book, because the bouncing around of character points of view kept me interested. A little bland, but not bad by any means. It did prompt many a jeer on the train, however - as the book is 768 pages and mildly resembles a large phone book - so this book is not for those not equipped with a VERY large bag to carry it in. ;)

Jami says

Maybe it's my advanced pregnancy that is making it impossible for me to focus on the story but I could not get into this book at all. I think for now I'll read something with a shorter attention span requirement.

Lisa says

Enjoyed the 1st section which focused on Charles' little sister Henrietta, who grew up in the French court and married Louis XIV brother. 2nd section focused on Charles many affairs & Portugese wife Catherine. Not as fun. Didn't read the 3rd section.

Karen says

Very good. Plaidy does an excellent job of bringing these characters to life. I will be reading more by this author.

Bethany says

I'm always a sucker for English history and I found this to be an interesting story. Not one that you hear about very often (unlike Henry VIII and his many wives). I did find her writing to be a little slow moving at first, but once I got past the first couple of chapters the story picked up speed.

Kait says

This was the first book I ever read on Charles II and the women in his life and I was pleasantly surprised by it. A well researched novel that Jean Plaidy manages to weave together and gives us an insight into the scandalous lives of these courtiers. She is able to bounce between so many characters with great ease and still keep true to their individual voices. This has to be one of my top five books of Jean Plaidy and I would highly recommend to readers who want to learn more about the lives of Charles II and his court to give this a shot. Again, it is a very detailed and well researched account of this merry monarch's life. 4.5 stars

Roni says

This has got to be my FAVORITE historical fiction! Charles II was quite a playboy and juggled many women at a time-and he could because he was king! Well written-couldnt put it down!

Melissa Higby says

My favorite swarthy king. I read these stories, there are 3 in this compilation, many years ago and have re-read them several times. I just fell in love with this era, this man, and his world.

Jean says

I wanted to know more about the Stuarts even if it was fiction and this book of 3 novels was a perfect beginning.

Vanessa Tillery says

This Historical fiction book follows the life of King Charles II of England. Charles is forces through many years of Exile during the Puritan rule of Oliver Cromwell before he is able to gain the throne. Charles is a man of love and loves many.
