

Edward VII Mistresses



Edward VII's Mistresses: Unveiling the Secrets of a Royal Playboy

The reign of Edward VII, King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, is often remembered as a period of significant social and political change, marking a transition from Victorian rigidity to the Edwardian era's more relaxed atmosphere. However, beyond the pomp and circumstance, lurks a fascinating and often scandalous aspect of his life: his numerous mistresses. This blog post delves into the captivating, and sometimes controversial, relationships of Edward VII, exploring the women who shaped his personal life and, arguably, influenced his reign. We'll examine the historical context, the societal implications, and the enduring legacy of his romantic entanglements.

The Context of Royal Infidelity: Victorian Morality vs. Edwardian Reality

Before delving into the specifics of Edward VII's romantic liaisons, it's crucial to understand the prevailing social norms of the time. Victorian society, during his formative years as Prince of Wales, placed a strong emphasis on public morality and respectability. Extramarital affairs, while certainly not unheard of, were generally kept discreet and out of the public eye. However, the Edwardian era, which he ushered in as king, saw a gradual shift towards a more tolerant, albeit still discreet, attitude towards such matters. This transition influenced how Edward's affairs were perceived and reported, though discretion remained paramount.

The Prince of Wales's Early Affairs: A Pattern Emerges

Even as the Prince of Wales, Edward developed a reputation for his romantic pursuits. While the exact number of his mistresses remains a matter of historical debate, several prominent women were linked to him. These relationships often involved high-society ladies and actresses, reflecting his social circles and personal preferences. These early affairs helped to solidify his reputation for charm, charisma, and a certain disregard for strict Victorian conventions.

Notable Early Relationships: A Glimpse into the Private Life

Detailed biographies and historical accounts mention various women associated with the Prince, but concrete evidence and verifiable accounts often remain elusive. This is partially due to the deliberate secrecy surrounding such relationships, and partially due to the limitations of historical record-keeping at the time. However, several names frequently appear in discussions of Edward's early romantic life, highlighting the diversity of his relationships and the social circles he moved in.

The Reign of Edward VII: Mistresses and Political Influence?

Edward's ascension to the throne did not significantly alter his personal habits. While the level of public scrutiny undoubtedly increased, his romantic involvements continued. However, the question arises: did these relationships have any impact on his political decisions or reign? Historians debate this point. While there's no direct evidence suggesting his mistresses wielded political power, their influence on his personal life and temperament might have indirectly affected his leadership style and choices. The very existence of these relationships demonstrated a certain disregard for the rigid Victorian morality, potentially contributing to the atmosphere of change he embodied as king.

The Later Years: A Continuation of a Pattern

As king, Edward continued to enjoy the company of women beyond his marriage to Queen Alexandra. While maintaining an outward show of respect for his wife and the institution of monarchy, he continued his pattern of discreet romantic relationships. This seemingly contradictory behavior highlights the complexities of his character and the nuances of the Edwardian era's evolving social attitudes.

The Legacy of Discretion: Secrecy and Speculation

The lack of easily accessible, verifiable information regarding Edward VII's mistresses adds to their allure and the historical mysteries surrounding his personal life. This very lack of definitive information fuels speculation and interpretations, making the topic even more intriguing for researchers and history enthusiasts alike. The secrecy surrounding these relationships reflects both

the societal constraints of the time and Edward's careful management of his public image.

Conclusion: A Complex Legacy

Edward VII's legacy is multifaceted. He is remembered for his significant contributions to British society and his role in ushering in a new era. However, his numerous mistresses remain a significant part of his personal story, a testament to his complex character and the social transformations of his time. Examining these relationships provides a deeper understanding not only of the king himself but also of the evolving social norms and expectations of the Edwardian era. The enduring mystery surrounding the details of these affairs only serves to amplify their fascination and their place in the historical record.

FAQs

1. Were Edward VII's mistresses publicly known during his lifetime? While rumors circulated within high society, the affairs were largely kept discreet to protect the royal family's public image. Open knowledge was suppressed as much as possible.
2. Did Edward VII's mistresses influence his political decisions? There is no direct evidence to suggest this. However, their influence on his personal life and temperament might have indirectly shaped his approach to leadership.
3. How many mistresses did Edward VII actually have? The exact number remains unknown and is a subject of historical debate. The lack of concrete evidence makes a definitive answer impossible.
4. What was the societal reaction to Edward VII's affairs? While not openly condoned, the societal reaction ranged from quiet acceptance to whispered gossip, reflecting the changing attitudes towards morality during the transition from Victorian to Edwardian society.
5. Why is there limited documented evidence of Edward VII's relationships? The deliberate secrecy surrounding these affairs, coupled with the limited historical record-keeping practices of the time, contributes to the lack of definitive information. Many details remain lost to history.

edward vii mistresses: The King in Love Theo Aronson, 1988 Explains the background of Edward VII's involvements, and offers profiles of Langtry, Warwick, Keppel, and the King's wife.

edward vii mistresses: The King in Love Theo ARONSON, 1991

edward vii mistresses: The King in Love Theo Aronson, 2020-11-12 An all-embracing account of the loves of that royal womaniser, Edward VII, as Prince of Wales and King. Spanning three decades, the story is set in the extravagant and hypocritical world of late Victorian and Edwardian society.

edward vii mistresses: The King in Love Theo Aronson, 2014-11-13 Here, for the first time, is an all-embracing account of the loves of that celebrated royal womaniser, Edward VII, as Prince of

Wales and King. It is also a study of the three women with whom the King was most deeply in love - his official 'mistresses', Lillie Langtry, Daisy Warwick and Alice Keppel. In their different ways, all three were exceptional personalities. Lillie Langtry, the socially ambitious girl from the vicarage, became a famous actress. Daisy Warwick, an immensely wealthy heiress and social butterfly, was converted to socialism. Alice Keppel, probably the King's greatest love, developed into an astute and fascinating figure in her own right. Spanning three decades and packed with incident, scandal and high romance, the story is set in the extravagant and hypocritical world of late Victorian and Edwardian society. It is full of colourful characters: Edward's beautiful and betrayed wife Alexandra; the three cuckolded husbands - Edward Langtry, the Earl of Warwick and the Hon. George Keppel; the flamboyant Oscar Wilde; the sensuous Sarah Bernhardt; the dissipated Prince Albert Victor; the sexually complex W.E. Gladstone. Royal biographer Theo Aronson draws on much new and unfamiliar material in this vivid book and reassesses many aspects of his subjects' lives. He challenges long-established myths and reveals much that was hitherto unknown: not least the extraordinary scene that took place at the deathbed of King Edward VII. The result is a brilliant evocation of a world, and a way of life that has gone forever.

edward vii mistresses: *Mrs Keppel* Tom Quinn, 2016-09-20 For Alice Keppel, it was all about appearances. Her precepts were those of the English upper classes: discretion, manners and charm. Nothing else mattered - especially when it came to her infamous affair with King Edward VII. As the King's favourite mistress up until his death in 1910, Alice held significant influence at court and over Edward himself. But it wasn't just Edward she courted: throughout her life, Alice enthusiastically embarked on affairs with bankers, MPs, peers - anybody who could elevate her standing and pay the right price. She was a shrewd courtesan, and her charisma and voracity ensured her both power and money, combined as they were with an aptitude for manipulation. Drawing on a range of sources, including salacious first-hand eyewitness accounts, bestselling author Tom Quinn paints an extraordinary picture of the Edwardian aristocracy, and traces the lives of royal mistresses down to Alice's great-granddaughter, the current Duchess of Cornwall. Both intriguing and astonishing, this is an unadulterated glimpse into a hidden world of scandal, decadence and debauchery.

edward vii mistresses: *Alice Keppel and Agnes Keyser* Raymond Lamont-Brown, 2011-10-24 A detailed look at the two women in the life of Edward VII during his last years. Alice Keppel, youngest daughter of a Scottish retired admiral and MP emerged from obscurity in 1898 to become the publicly acknowledged mistress of the portly, fun-loving Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. Agnes Keyser, daughter of a prominent member of the Stock exchange, defied social expectations by not marrying, instead becoming involved in hospital charity work. Her twelve-year relationship with the king was much less in the public eye, but was just as important.

edward vii mistresses: *Mrs Keppel and Her Daughter* Diana Souhami, 2013-07-04 Alice Keppel, lover of Queen Victoria's son Edward VII and great-grandmother of Camilla Parker-Bowles, was the acceptable face of Edwardian adultery. It was her art to be the King's mistress yet to laud the Royal Family and the institution of marriage. She partnered the King for yachting at Cowes and helped him choose presents for his wife Queen Alexandra while remaining calmly married to her complaisant husband George. But for her daughter Violet, passionately in love with Vita Sackville-West, romance proved tragic and destructive. Mrs Keppel used all the force at her command to repress the relationship. This fascinating and intense mother-daughter relationship highlights Edwardian and contemporary duplicity and double standards. It goes to the heart of questions about the monarchy, family values and sexual freedoms.

edward vii mistresses: *The Heir Apparent* Jane Ridley, 2013-12-03 NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW AND THE BOSTON GLOBE This richly entertaining biography chronicles the eventful life of Queen Victoria's firstborn son, the quintessential black sheep of Buckingham Palace, who matured into as wise and effective a monarch as Britain has ever seen. Granted unprecedented access to the royal archives, noted scholar Jane Ridley draws on numerous primary sources to paint a vivid portrait of the man and the age to which he gave his name. Born Prince Albert Edward, and known to familiars as "Bertie," the future King

Edward VII had a well-earned reputation for debauchery. A notorious gambler, glutton, and womanizer, he preferred the company of wastrels and courtesans to the dreary life of the Victorian court. His own mother considered him a lazy halfwit, temperamentally unfit to succeed her. When he ascended to the throne in 1901, at age fifty-nine, expectations were low. Yet by the time he died nine years later, he had proven himself a deft diplomat, hardworking head of state, and the architect of Britain's modern constitutional monarchy. Jane Ridley's colorful biography rescues the man once derided as "Edward the Caresser" from the clutches of his historical detractors. Excerpts from letters and diaries shed new light on Bertie's long power struggle with Queen Victoria, illuminating one of the most emotionally fraught mother-son relationships in history. Considerable attention is paid to King Edward's campaign of personal diplomacy abroad and his valiant efforts to reform the political system at home. Separating truth from legend, Ridley also explores Bertie's relationships with the women in his life. Their ranks comprised his wife, the stunning Danish princess Alexandra, along with some of the great beauties of the era: the actress Lillie Langtry, longtime "royal mistress" Alice Keppel (the great-grandmother of Camilla Parker Bowles), and Lady Randolph Churchill, mother of Winston. Edward VII waited nearly six decades for his chance to rule, then did so with considerable panache and aplomb. A magnificent life of an unexpectedly impressive king, *The Heir Apparent* documents the remarkable transformation of a man—and a monarchy—at the dawn of a new century. Praise for *The Heir Apparent* "If [*The Heir Apparent*] isn't the definitive life story of this fascinating figure of British history, then nothing ever will be."—*The Christian Science Monitor* "The Heir Apparent is smart, it's fascinating, it's sometimes funny, it's well-documented and it reads like a novel, with Bertie so vivid he nearly leaps from the page, cigars and all."—*Minneapolis Star Tribune* "I closed *The Heir Apparent* with admiration and a kind of wry exhilaration."—*The Wall Street Journal* "Ridley is a serious scholar and historian, who keeps Bertie's flaws and virtues in a fine balance."—*The Boston Globe* "Brilliantly entertaining . . . a landmark royal biography."—*The Sunday Telegraph* "Superb."—*The New York Times Book Review*

edward vii mistresses: Edward VII Catharine Arnold, 2017-07-25 "Victorian England: We know what that was supposed to mean — all priggish prudery and we-are-not-amused harrumphing. Except now we know it wasn't all that . . . [Catharine Arnold's] new biography focuses — deliciously — on the women who shared the scandalously plentiful sex life of Queen Victoria's eldest son, the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII." —*USA Today* Edward Prince of Wales, better known as "Bertie," was the eldest son of Queen Victoria. Charming and dissolute, he was a larger-than-life personality with king-size appetites. A lifelong womanizer, Bertie conducted his countless liaisons against the glittering backdrop of London society, Europe, and the stately homes of England in the second half of the 19th century. Bertie's lovers were beautiful, spirited, society women who embraced a wide field of occupations. There was Lillie Langtry, the simple Jersey girl who would become an actress and producer; "Daisy" Brooke, Countess of Warwick, the extravagant socialite who embraced socialism and stood for Parliament as a Labour party candidate; bisexual French actress Sarah Bernhardt, celebrated for her decadent appeal and opium habit; and by total contrast the starchy Agnes Keyser, who founded a hospital for army officers. One of Bertie's most intriguing liaisons was with American heiress Jennie Churchill, unhappy wife of Sir Randolph Churchill and mother of Sir Winston. While the scandals resulting from his affairs—from suicides to divorces—were a blight on the royal family, Bertie would become a surprisingly modern monarch. His major accomplishment was transforming the British monarchy into the modern institution that we know today and ensuring its survival in a period when every other European dynasty collapsed in the wake of WWI.

edward vii mistresses: Bertie Jane Ridley, 2013 Exciting new approach to biography by an acclaimed historian and biographer: King Edward VII (Bertie) seen through the eyes of the women in his life. Entertaining and different, this enjoyable study of a flawed yet characterful Prince of Wales wears its scholarship lightly. 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 power. Known as Bertie, and the eldest son of Victoria and Albert, he was bullied by both his parents. His mother, Queen Victoria, the first and most powerful woman in his life, blamed Bertie's scandalous

womanising for his father's early demise. Although Bertie was heir to the throne, she refused to give him any proper responsibilities, as a result of which he spent his time eating (his waist measurement was 48 inches and his nickname was 'Edward the Wide'), betting on race-horses and shooting grouse. He was married off to Alexandra of Denmark, who was beautiful but infantile, lavishing her affection on her doggies and pet bunnies. Bertie's numerous mistresses included the society hostess Daisy Brook ('Babbling Brook') and the gorgeous but fragile Lillie Langtry (with whom 'played house' in a specially built hide-away home). The last of the women in his life was the clever and manipulative Alice Keppel. He always placed her at dinner next to his most important guests, because of her grasp of politics, her brilliant conversation and her formidable skills at the Bridge table. When Bertie finally became king, he did a good job, especially in foreign policy. This colourful book gives him due credit, while painting a vivid portrait of the age in all its excess and eccentricity, hypocrisy and heartbreak.

edward vii mistresses: Royal Mistresses of the House of Hanover-Windsor Susanna de Vries, 2018-10-01 The genuine love match between Prince William and Kate Middleton has rekindled enthusiasm for the British monarchy. In the past, young princes reluctantly entered into arranged marriages and took mistresses. Perdita Robinson, a famous actress, was enticed from the stage with promises of money to live with the fickle Prince of Wales, who turned her and her child onto the street. Perdita fought back, won a financial settlement and became a pioneer of women's writing. Edward VII's most fascinating mistresses were aristocrats' wives like the multi-talented unconventional Lady Jennie Churchill, mother of Winston, and the headstrong heiress, Daisy, Countess of Warwick, mother of one of Edward's love children. Beautiful Alice Keppel became the love of Edward's life and was the great-grandmother of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, yet another royal mistress. Edward's grandson, Edward VIII suffered an attack of mumps that left him physically and mentally immature. He implored Mrs Freda Dudley Ward to elope but she refused. Another mistress, Lady Thelma Furness, star of Hollywood's silent screen, introduced Edward to the domineering Wallis Simpson who insisted the impotent king seek psychiatric help. In order that Wallis could look like a queen the Duke of Windsor lavished her with jewels and forgave her infidelities in this most intriguing of all royal stories.

edward vii mistresses: *Dirty Bertie: An English King Made in France* Stephen Clarke, 2014-05-22 The entertaining biography of Edward VII and his playboy lifestyle, by Stephen Clarke, author of 1000 Years of Annoying the French and A Year in the Merde. Despite fierce opposition from his mother, Queen Victoria, Edward VII was always passionately in love with France. He had affairs with the most famous Parisian actresses, courtesans and can-can dancers. He spoke French more elegantly than English. He was the first ever guest to climb the Eiffel Tower with Gustave Eiffel, in defiance of an official English ban on his visit. He turned his French seduction skills into the diplomatic prowess that sealed the Entente Cordiale. A quintessentially English king? Pas du tout! Stephen Clarke argues that as 'Dirty Bertie', Edward learned all the essentials in life from the French.

edward vii mistresses: **Queens and Mistresses of Renaissance France** Kathleen Wellman, 2013-05-21 Tells the history of the French Renaissance through the lives of its most prominent queens and mistresses.

edward vii mistresses: Royal Mistresses and Bastards Anthony J. Camp, 2007-01-01

edward vii mistresses: **The Shadow Sister** Lucinda Riley, 2017-04-18 Star D'Apliese is at a crossroads in her life after the sudden death of her beloved father - the elusive billionaire, named Pa Salt by his six daughters, all adopted by him from the four corners of the world. He has left each of them a clue to their true heritage, but Star - the most enigmatic of the sisters - is hesitant to step out of the safety of the close relationship she shares with her sister CeCe. In desperation, she decides to follow the first clue she has been left, which leads her to an antiquarian bookshop in London, and the start of a whole new world.

edward vii mistresses: Scarlet Women Ian Graham, 2016-01-26 In 1965, an impoverished elderly woman was found dead in Nice, France. Her death marked the end of an era; she was the

last of the great courtesans. Known as La Belle Otero, she was a volcanic Spanish beauty whose patrons included Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia. She accumulated an enormous fortune, but gambled it all away. *Scarlet Women* tells her story and many more, including: Marie Duplessis, who inspired characters by both Dumas and Verdi; Clara Ward, a rare American courtesan who hunted for a European aristocrat, but having married a Belgian prince, ran away with a gypsy violinist; Ninon de L'Enclos, who was offered 50,000 crowns by Cardinal Richelieu for one night. Money left in her will paid for Voltaire's education. Courtesans were an elite group of talented, professional mistresses. The most successful became wealthy and famous in their own right. While they led charmed lives, they occupied a curious position: they enjoyed freedom and political power unknown to most women, but they were ostracised by polite society. From the hetaerae of ancient Greece to the cortigiani onesti of 16th century Venice, the oiran of Edo-period Japan to the demimondaines of 19th century France, this captivating book--perfect for readers of *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*--uncovers the rich, colorful lives of these women who dared to pursue fortunes outside their societies' norms.

edward vii mistresses: King Edward the Seventh Sir Philip Montefiore Magnus, 1975

edward vii mistresses: Grandmama of Europe Theo Aronson, 2020-11-12 Understanding the vital role of marriage in upholding Britain's power and influence over Europe, Queen Victoria asserted herself as royal matchmaker. This is a study of how a family shaped Europe.

edward vii mistresses: The Mistress of Paris Catherine Hewitt, 2015-11-05 Valtesse de la Bigne was a celebrated nineteenth-century Parisian courtesan. She was painted by Manet and inspired Emile Zola, who immortalised her in his scandalous novel *Nana*. Her rumoured affairs with Napoleon III and the future Edward VII kept gossip columns full. But her glamorous existence hid a dark secret: she was no Comtesse. She was born into abject poverty, raised on a squalid Paris backstreet; the lowest of the low. Yet she transformed herself into an enchantress who possessed a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages, and art the envy of connoisseurs across Europe. A consummate show-woman, she ensured that her life - and even her death - remained shrouded in just enough mystery to keep her audience hungry for more. Catherine Hewitt's biography tells, for the first time ever in English, the forgotten story of a remarkable woman who, though her roots were lowly, never stopped aiming high.

edward vii mistresses: Royal Sex Roger S. Powell, 2010 'Royal Sex' exposes the amazing story of how key English aristocratic families supplied the British royal family mistresses over several generations to secure influence at court.

edward vii mistresses: Other Tudors: Henry VIII's Mistresses & Bastards Philippa Jones, 2017-03-07 Forget everything you thought you knew about Henry the Eighth. While Henry VIII has frequently been portrayed as a womanizer, author Philippa Jones reveals a new side to his character. Although he was never faithful, Jones sees him as a serial monogamist: he spent his life in search of a perfect woman, a search that continued even as he lay dying. This book brings together for the first time the 'other women' of King Henry VIII. When he first came to the throne, Henry VIII's mistresses were dalliances, the playthings of a powerful and handsome man. However, when Anne Boleyn disrupted that pattern, ousting Katherine of Aragon to become Henry's wife, a new status quo was established. Suddenly noble families fought to entangle the king with their sisters and daughters; if wives were to be beheaded or divorced so easily, the mistress of the king was in an enviable position. Yet he loved each of his wives and mistresses, he was a romantic who loved being in love, but none of these loves ever fully satisfied him; all were ultimately replaced. *The Other Tudors* examines the extraordinary untold tales of the women who Henry loved but never married, the mistresses who became queens and of his many children, both acknowledged and unacknowledged. Philippa Jones takes us deep into the web of secrets and deception at the Tudor Court and explores another, often unmentioned, side to the King's character.

edward vii mistresses: Ladies of the Bedchamber Dennis Friedman, 2005 Examining the roles played by the mistress and the concubine, this study also sheds light on commercial sex, the ready availability of which possibly protected the sanctity of marriage in the years preceding today's

less holy alliances. The book shows how sex addiction cast its shadow over the 20th century--from the accession of King Edward VII in 1901 to his and Mrs. Alice Keppel's great, great grandchildren and to Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles today.

edward vii mistresses: George V Jane Ridley, 2021-11-04 The prequel to *The Crown*: the first truly candid portrait of George V and Mary, the Queen's grandparents and creators of the modern monarchy Shortlisted for the Elizabeth Longford Historical Biography prize and the History Reclaimed Book of the Year prize The lasting reputation of George V is for dullness. However throughout his reign, the monarch navigated a constitutional crisis, the First World War, the fall of thirteen European monarchies and the rise of Bolshevism. The suffragette Emily Davison threw herself under his horse at the Derby, he refused asylum to his cousin the Tsar Nicholas II and he facilitated the first Labour government. How this supposedly limited man steered the Crown through so many perils is a gripping tale. With unprecedented access to the Royal archives, Jane Ridley has been able to reassess the many myths associated with this dramatic period for the first time. 'Wonderful... Never a dull paragraph' Ysenda Maxtone Graham, *The Times* 'Magnificent... An evocative and touching portrait of a surprisingly impressive man' Philip Hensher, *Spectator* 'A big, beautiful beast of a book. Fair, thorough and unexpectedly funny' Lucy Worsley

edward vii mistresses: The Sinner's Grand Tour Tony Perrottet, 2011-05-10 The Grand Tour: the cultural rite of passage from London to Paris, Berlin, Venice, Florence, Rome, and down to the boot of Italy, which linked the Continent's most spectacular artistic treasures. Sex and travel have always been intertwined, and never more so than on the classic Grand Tour of Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today the Continent is still littered with salacious remnants of that golden age, where secret boudoirs, notorious dungeons, and forbidden artifacts lured travelers all the way from London to Capri. In *The Sinner's Grand Tour*, celebrated historian and travel writer Tony Perrottet sets off to discover a string of legendary sites and relics that are still kept far from public view. In southern France, an ancient text leads him inside the château of the Marquis de Sade, now owned by fashion icon Pierre Cardin. In Paris, an 1883 prostitute guide helps him discover the Belle Époque fantasy brothel Le Chabonais and the lost "sex chair" of King Edward VII. Renaissance documents in the Vatican Secret Archives point the way to the Pope's very own apartments in Vatican City, wherein lies the fabled Stufetta del Bibbiena, a pornography-covered bathroom painted by Raphael in 1516. With his unique blend of original research, sharp wit, and hilarious anecdotes, Perrottet brings us a romping travel adventure through the scandalous backrooms of historical Europe.

edward vii mistresses: Royal Mistress Anne Easter Smith, 2013-05-07 From the author of *A Rose for the Crown* and *Daughter of York* comes another engrossing historical novel of the York family in the Wars of the Roses, telling the fascinating story of the rise and fall of the final and favorite mistress of Edward IV. Jane Lambert, the quick-witted and alluring daughter of a silk merchant, is twenty-two and still unmarried. When Jane's father finally finds her a match, she's married off to the dull, older silk merchant William Shore. Marriage doesn't stop Jane from flirtation, however, and when the king's chamberlain, Will Hastings, comes to her husband's shop, Will knows King Edward will find her irresistible. Edward IV has everything: power, majestic bearing, superior military leadership, a sensual nature, and charisma. And with Jane as his mistress, he also finds true happiness. But when his hedonistic tendencies get in the way of being the strong leader England needs, his life, as well as those of Jane and Will Hastings, hangs in the balance. Jane must rely on her talents to survive as the new monarch, Richard III, bent on reforming his brother's licentious court, ascends the throne. This dramatic tale has been an inspiration to poets and playwrights for five hundred years, and, as told through the unique perspective of a woman plucked from obscurity and thrust into a life of notoriety, *Royal Mistress* is sure to enthrall today's historical fiction lovers as well.

edward vii mistresses: Cupid and the King Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent, Princess Michael (of Kent), 2006-01-03 Written with an insider's keen understanding of court life and filled with delicious details born of impeccable research, *Cupid and the King* explores a

little-known chapter of the history of women's roles in the royal bedrooms of Europe.

edward vii mistresses: *Before Wallis* Rachel Trethewey, 2018-10-15 Wallis Simpson is known as the woman who stole the king's heart and rocked the monarchy – but she was not Edward VIII's first or only love. This book is about the women he adored before Wallis dominated his life. There was Rosemary Leveson-Gower, the girl he wanted to marry and who would have been the perfect match for a future king; and the Prince's long-term mistress, Freda Dudley Ward, who exerted a pull almost equal to Wallis over her lover, but abided by the rules of the game and never expected to marry him. Then there was Thelma Furness, his twice-married American lover, who enjoyed a domestic life with him, but realised it could not last forever and demanded nothing more than to be his mistress – and fatefully introduced him to Wallis. In each love affair, Edward behaved like a cross between a little boy lost and a spoilt child craving affection, resorting to emotional blackmail to keep his lovers with him. Each of the three women in this book could have changed the course of history. By examining their lives and impact on the heir to the throne, we question whether he ever really wanted to be king.

edward vii mistresses: The Six Wives of Henry VIII Alison Weir, 2011-05-31 One of the most powerful monarchs in British history, Henry VIII ruled England in unprecedented splendour. In this remarkable composite biography, Alison Weir brings Henry's six wives vividly to life, revealing each as a distinct and compelling personality in her own right. Drawing upon the rich fund of documentary material from the Tudor period, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* shows us a court where personal needs frequently influenced public events and where a life of gorgeously ritualised pleasure was shot through with ambition, treason and violence. 'At last we have the truth about Henry VIII's wives. This book is as reliable and scholarly as it is readable' *Evening Standard*

edward vii mistresses: Inheritance Dennis Friedman, 2016-06-29 In exploring Royal dynamics, *Inheritance* sheds light on problems found in any family. On its first publication in the 1990s, Dennis Friedman's *Inheritance* caused a furor in England as he traced the many problems of the Royal family as it was then back to Queen Victoria's nursery, unveiling a host of psychodramas played out against a privileged background of English palaces and Scottish castles. In a post-Diana age, the arrival of a new Prince George to the seemingly stable and blissfully happy William and Kate seems to refute Friedman's thesis—but what of the notoriously wayward Prince Harry? Many questions are raised in this book addressing the complex and turbulent royal relationships, perhaps the most fundamental being the rigid and traditional royal upbringing which still awaits the baby prince. As the royal line is followed down the generations no direct descendent is overlooked and no issue is sidestepped.

edward vii mistresses: Royal Sex Roger Powell, 2010-06-15 Exposes the amazing story of how key English aristocratic families supplied the British royal family mistresses over several generations to secure influence at court.

edward vii mistresses: Wallis in Love Andrew Morton, 2018-02-13 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER. *Wallis in Love* is a vivid, fresh and frankly amazing portrait of Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor. Morton draws on interviews, secret letters, diaries and never before seen or heard primary sources.

edward vii mistresses: Queen Victoria and The Romanovs Coryne Hall, 2020-02-15 Alexander III called Victoria 'a pampered, sentimental, selfish old woman,' while to her he was a sovereign whom she could not regard as a gentleman. But the Queen's son and two of her granddaughters married Romanovs.

edward vii mistresses: Edwardians in Love Anita Leslie, 1974

edward vii mistresses: The Countess of Warwick Margaret Blunden, 1967

edward vii mistresses: The Private Life of Edward IV John Ashdown-Hill, 2016-11-15 Edward's secret mistresses, clandestine affairs and the nature of his marriage are revealed in this exciting new work by John Ashdown-Hill, author of *The Mythology of Richard III*

edward vii mistresses: Petrol In My Blood Eric Jackson, 2012-11-11 Eric Jackson, otherwise known as Marathon Man, drove for Ford Motor Company in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Monte Carlo Rally,

East African Safari Rally, Tulip Rally ... all the classic greats. He was British Rally Champion in 1964. Eric's rallying career has taken him all around the world - literally. He drove round the world in 43 days with his long-time co-driver, Ken Chambers in 1967. He also found the time to build up a successful business and raise a family. He has met movie stars, gangsters, prime ministers, musicians and of course, counted racing legends amongst his best friends. This book is Eric's autobiographical story. Eric travelled the world on epic driving trips, winning rallies, breaking records and generally causing mayhem. Travel with him on his adventures, meet fascinating characters and discover why he is nicknamed Lucky Jacko as he uses up another of his nine lives.

edward vii mistresses: The Mistress of Mayfair Lyndsy Spence, 2016-11-07 The plot could have been inspired by Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies*, but unlike Waugh's novel - which parodies the era of the 'Bright Young Things' - *The Mistress of Mayfair* is a real-life story of scandal, greed, corruption and promiscuity at the heart of 1920s and '30s high society, focusing on the wily, willful socialite Doris Delevingne and her doomed relationship with the gossip columnist Valentine Browne, Viscount Castlerosse. Marrying each other in pursuit of the finer things in life, their unlikely union was tempestuous from the off, rocked by affairs (with a whole host of society figures, including Cecil Beaton, Diana Mitford and Winston Churchill, amongst others) on both sides, and degenerated into one of London's bitterest, and most talked about, divorce battles. In this compelling new book, Lyndsy Spence follows the rise and fall of their relationship, exploring their decadent society lives in revelatory detail and offering new insight into some of the mid twentieth century's most prominent figures.

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