

Epub free Henry vii penguin monarchs [PDF]

Edward VII (Penguin Monarchs) Edward VII (Penguin Monarchs) Henry VII (Penguin Monarchs) George V (Penguin Monarchs) Victoria (Penguin Monarchs) Henry VIII (Penguin Monarchs) Henry VI (Penguin Monarchs) Edward VII Oliver Cromwell (Penguin Monarchs) George IV (Penguin Monarchs) Edward VI (Penguin Monarchs) Henry II (Penguin Monarchs) Edward I (Penguin Monarchs) George II (Penguin Monarchs) James I (Penguin Monarchs) Edward IV (Penguin Monarchs) George VI (Penguin Monarchs) Edward VIII (Penguin Monarchs) Henry III (Penguin Monarchs) Richard III (Penguin Monarchs) Athelstan (Penguin Monarchs) John (Penguin Monarchs) Edward III (Penguin Monarchs) William I (Penguin Monarchs) Charles I (Penguin Monarchs) Mary I (Penguin Monarchs) Charles II (Penguin Monarchs) Elizabeth I (Penguin Monarchs) Richard II (Penguin Monarchs) Edward the Confessor (Penguin Monarchs) William III & Mary II (Penguin Monarchs) Richard I (Penguin Monarchs) Henry I (Penguin Monarchs) Aethelred the Unready (Penguin Monarchs) Henry V (Penguin Monarchs) Stephen (Penguin Monarchs) William IV (Penguin Monarchs) Elizabeth II (Penguin Monarchs) Edward II (Penguin Monarchs) William II (Penguin Monarchs)

Edward VII (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-02-25

like his mother queen victoria edward vii defined an era both reflected the personalities of their central figures hers grand imperial and pretty stiff his no less grand but much more relaxed and enjoyable this book conveys edward s distinct personality and significant influences to the despair of his parents he rebelled as a young man conducting many affairs and living a life of pleasure but as king he made a distinct contribution to european diplomacy and which is little known to london laying out the mall and admiralty arch richard davenport hines s book is as enjoyable as its subject and the age he made

Edward VII (Penguin Monarchs) 2018-09-25

the acclaimed penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers now in paperback like his mother queen victoria edward vii defined an era both reflected the personalities of their central figures hers grand imperial and pretty stiff his no less grand but much more relaxed and enjoyable this book conveys edward s distinct personality and significant influences to the despair of his parents he rebelled as a young man conducting many affairs and living a life of pleasure but as king he made a distinct contribution to european diplomacy and which is little known to london laying out the mall and admiralty arch richard davenport hines s book is as enjoyable as its subject and the age he made

Henry VII (Penguin Monarchs) 2025-04-24

part of the penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers in a collectible format henry vii was one of england s unlikeliest monarchs an exile and outsider with barely a claim to the throne his victory over richard iii at bosworth field seemed to many in 1485 only the latest in the sequence of violent convulsions among england s nobility that would come to be known as the wars of the roses with little to suggest that the obscure henry would last any longer than his predecessor to break the cycle of division usurpation deposition and murder he had both to maintain a grip on power and to convince england that his rule was both rightful and effective here sean cunningham explores how in his ruthless and controlling kingship henry vii did so in the process founding the tudor dynasty

George V (Penguin Monarchs) 2014-12-04

for a man with such conventional tastes and views george v had a revolutionary impact almost despite himself he marked a decisive break with his flamboyant predecessor edward vii inventing the modern monarchy with its emphasis on frequent public appearances family values and duty george v was an effective war leader and inventor of the house of windsor in an era of ever greater media coverage frequently filmed and initiating the british empire christmas broadcast george became for 25 years a universally recognised figure he was also the only british monarch to take his role as emperor of india seriously while his great rivals tsar nicolas and kaiser wilhelm ended their reigns in catastrophe he plodded on david cannadine s sparkling account of his reign could not be more enjoyable a masterclass in how to write about monarchy that central if

peculiar pillar of british life

Victoria (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-04-30

part of the penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers in a collectible format queen victoria inherited the throne at 18 and went on to become the longest reigning female monarch in history in a time of intense industrial cultural political scientific and military change within the united kingdom and great imperial expansion outside of it she was made empress of india in 1876 overturning the established picture of the dour old lady this is a fresh and engaging portrait from one of our most talented royal biographers jane ridley is professor of modern history at buckingham university where she teaches a course on biography her previous books include the young disraeli a study of edwin lutyens the architect and his wife which won the 2003 duff cooper prize and the best selling bertie a life of edward vii a fellow of the royal society for literature ridley writes for the spectator and other newspapers and has appeared on radio and several television documentaries she lives in london and scotland

Henry VIII (Penguin Monarchs) 2014-12-04

charismatic insatiable and cruel henry viii was as john guy shows a king who became mesmerized by his own legend and in the process destroyed and remade england said to be a pillager of the commonwealth this most instantly recognizable of kings remains a figure of extreme contradictions magnificent and vengeful a devout traditionalist who oversaw a cataclysmic rupture with the church in rome a talented towering figure who nevertheless could not bear to meet people s eyes when he talked to them in this revealing new account john guy looks behind the mask into henry s mind to explore how he understood the world and his place in it from his isolated upbringing and the blazing glory of his accession to his desperate quest for fame and an heir and the terrifying paranoia of his last agonising 54 inch waisted years

Henry VI (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-12-29

henry vi son of the all conquering henry v was one of the least able and least successful of english kings his long reign which started when he was only nine months old ended in catastrophe with the loss of england s territories in france and a bankrupt england s long decline into civil war the wars of the roses yet failure though henry undoubtedly was he remains an enigma was he always as he became in the last disastrous years of his rule a holy fool simple minded to the point of insanity and prey to the ambitions of others or was he more active and as some have suggested actively malign in this groundbreaking new portrait james ross shows a king whose priorities diverged sharply from what england expected of its monarchs and whose fitful engagement with government was directly though not solely responsible for the disasters that engulfed the kingdom during his reign

Edward VII (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-03-29

like his mother queen victoria edward vii defined an era both reflected the personalities of their central figures hers grand imperial and pretty stiff his no less grand but much more relaxed and enjoyable this book conveys edward s distinct personality and significant influences to the despair of his parents he rebelled as a young man conducting many affairs and living a life of pleasure but as king he made a distinct contribution to european diplomacy and which is little known to london laying out the mall and admiralty arch richard davenport hines s book is as enjoyable as its subject and the age he made

Oliver Cromwell (Penguin Monarchs) 2017-02-23

although he styled himself his highness adopted the court ritual of his royal predecessors and lived in the former royal palaces of whitehall and hampton court oliver cromwell was not a king in spite of the best efforts of his supporters to crown him yet as david horspool shows in this illuminating new portrait of england s lord protector cromwell the puritan son of cambridgeshire gentry wielded such influence that it would be a pretence to say that power really lay with the collective the years of cromwell s rise to power shaped by a decade long civil war saw a sustained attempt at the collective government of england the first attempts at a real union of britain the beginnings of empire a radically new solution to the idea of a national religion atrocities in ireland and the readmission to england of the jews a people officially banned for over three and a half centuries at the end of it oliver cromwell had emerged as the country s sole ruler to his enemies and probably to most of his countrymen his legacy looked as likely to last as that of the stuart dynasty he had replaced

George IV (Penguin Monarchs) 2019-07-04

george iv spent most of his life waiting to become king as a pleasure loving and rebellious prince of wales during the sixty year reign of his father george iii and for ten years as prince regent when his father went mad the days are very long when you have nothing to do he once wrote plaintively but he did his best to fill them with pleasure women art food wine fashion architecture he presided over the creation of the regency style which came to epitomise the era and he was with charles i the most artistically literate of all our kings yet despite his life of luxury and indulgence george died alone and unmourned stella tillyard has not written a judgemental book but a very human and enjoyable one about this most colourful of all british kings

Edward VI (Penguin Monarchs) 2014-12-04

edward vi the only son of henry viii became king at the age of nine and died wholly unexpectedly at the age of fifteen all around him loomed powerful men who hoped to use the child to further their own ends but who were also playing a long game assuming that edward would long outlive them and become as commanding a figure as his father had been stephen alford s wonderful book gives full play to the murky sinister nature of edward s reign but is also a poignant account of a boy

learning to rule learning to enjoy his growing power and to come out of the shadows of the great aristocrats around him
england s last child monarch edward would have led his country in a quite different direction to the catastrophic one caused
by his death

Henry II (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-04-30

henry ii 1154 89 through a series of astonishing dynastic coups became the ruler of an enormous european empire one of the
most dynamic restless and clever men ever to rule england he was brought down both by his catastrophic relationship with his
archbishop thomas becket and his debilitating arguments with his sons most importantly the future richard i and king john his
empire may have ultimately collapsed but in richard barber s vivid and sympathetic account the reader can see why henry ii
left such a compelling impression on his contemporaries

Edward I (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-11-24

the acclaimed penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers now in paperback edward i 1272 1307 is
one of the most commanding of all english rulers he fought in southwest france in wales in scotland and in northern france he
ruled with ruthlessness and confidence undoing the chaotic failure of his father henry iii s reign he reshaped england s
legal system and came close to bringing the whole island of great britain under his rule he promoted the idea of himself as
the new king arthur his round table still hanging in winchester castle to this day his greatest monuments are the
extraordinary castles caernarfon beaumaris harlech and conwy built to ensure his rule of wales and some of the largest of all
medieval buildings andy king s brilliant short biography brings to life a strange complex man whose triumphs raise all kinds
of questions about the nature of kingship how could someone who established so many key elements in england s unique legal
and parliamentary system also have been such a harsh militarily brutal warrior

George II (Penguin Monarchs) 2021-05-27

from the celebrated historian and author of europe a history a new life of george ii george ii king of great britain and
ireland and elector of hanover came to britain for the first time when he was thirty one he had a terrible relationship with
his father george i which was later paralleled by his relationship to his own son he was short tempered and uncultivated but
in his twenty three year reign he presided over a great flourishing in his adoptive country economic military and cultural
all described with characteristic wit and elegance by norman davies george ii so admired the hallelujah chorus in handel s
messiah that he stood while it was being performed as modern audiences still do much of his attention remained in hanover and
on continental politics as a result of which he was the last british monarch to lead his troops into battle at dettingen in
1744

James I (Penguin Monarchs) 2017-12-07

james s reign marked one of the very rare major breaks in england s monarchy already james vi of scotland and a highly experienced ruler who had established his authority over the scottish kirk he marched south on elizabeth i s death to become james i of england and ireland uniting the british isles for the first time and founding the stuart dynasty which would with several lurches reign for over a century indeed his descendant still occupies the throne a complex curious man and great survivor james drastically changed court life in london and presided over such major projects as the authorized version of the bible and the establishment of english settlements in virginia massachusetts gujarat and the caribbean although he failed to unite england and scotland he insisted that ambassadors acknowledge him as king of great britain and that vessels from both countries display a version of the current union flag he was often accused of being too informal and insufficiently regal but when his son charles i decided to redress these criticisms in his own reign he was destroyed how much of the roots of this disaster were to be found in james s reign is one of the many problems dramatized in thomas cogswell s brilliant and highly entertaining new book

Edward IV (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-07-28

in 1461 edward earl of march an able handsome and charming eighteen year old usurped the english throne from his feeble lancastrian predecessor henry vi ten years on following outbreaks of civil conflict that culminated in him losing then regaining the crown he had finally secured his kingdom the years that followed witnessed a period of rule that has been described as a golden age a time of peace and economic and industrial expansion which saw the establishment of a style of monarchy that the tudors would later develop yet argues a j pollard edward who was drawn to a life of sexual and epicurean excess was a man of limited vision his reign remaining to the very end the narrow rule of a victorious faction in civil war ultimately his failure was dynastic barely two months after his death in april 1483 the throne was usurped by edward s youngest brother richard iii

George VI (Penguin Monarchs) 2014-12-04

written by philip ziegler one of britain s most celebrated biographers george vi is part of the penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers in a collectible format if ethelred was notoriously unready and alfred great king george vi should bear the title of george the dutiful throughout his life george dedicated himself to the pursuit of what he thought he ought to be doing rather than what he wanted to do inarticulate and loathing any sort of public appearances he accepted that it was his destiny to figure conspicuously in the public eye gritted his teeth battled his crippling stammer and got on with it he was not born to be king but he made an admirable one and was the figurehead of the nation at the time of its greatest trial the second world war this is a brilliant touching and sometimes funny book about this reluctant public figure and the private man philip ziegler is the author of the authorised biographies of mountbatten harold wilson and edward heath his other books include the duchess of dino william iv the black death and most recently olivier initially a diplomat he worked for many years in book publishing before becoming a full time writer

Edward VIII (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-04-28

after my death george v said of his eldest son and heir the boy will ruin himself within twelve months the forecast proved uncannily accurate edward viii came to the throne in january 1936 provoked a constitutional crisis by his determination to marry the american divorcée wallis simpson and abdicated in december he was never crowned king in choosing the woman he loved over his royal birthright edward shook the monarchy to its foundations given the new title duke of windsor and essentially sent into exile he remained a visible skeleton in the royal cupboard until his death in 1972 and he haunts the house of windsor to this day drawing on unpublished material notably correspondence with his most loyal though much tried supporter winston churchill piers brendon s superb biography traces edward s tumultuous public and private life from bright young prince to troubled sovereign from wartime colonial governor to sad but glittering expatriate with pace and panache it cuts through the myths that still surround this most controversial of modern british monarchs

Henry III (Penguin Monarchs) 2017-01-26

henry iii was a medieval king whose long reign continues to have a profound impact on us today he was on the throne for 56 years and during this time england was transformed from being the private play thing of a french speaking dynasty into a medieval state in which the king answered for his actions to an english parliament which emerged during henry s lifetime despite henry s central importance for the birth of parliament and the development of a state recognisably modern in many of its institutions it is henry s most vociferous opponent simon de montfort who is in many ways more famous than the monarch himself henry is principally known today as the driving force behind the building of westminster abbey but he deserves to be better understood for many reasons as stephen church s sparkling account makes clear part of the penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers in a highly collectible format

Richard III (Penguin Monarchs) 2020-09-24

no english king has so divided opinion both during his reign and in the centuries since more than richard iii he was loathed in his own time for the never confirmed murder of his young nephews the princes in the tower and died fighting his own subjects on the battlefield this is the vision of richard we have inherited from shakespeare equally he inspired great loyalty in his followers in this enlightening even handed study rosemary horrox builds a complex picture of a king who by any standard failed as a monarch he was killed after only two years on the throne without an heir and brought such a decisive end to the house of york that henry tudor was able to seize the throne despite his extremely tenuous claim whether richard was undone by his own fierce ambitions or by the legacy of a yorkist dynasty which was already profoundly dysfunctional the end result was the same richard iii destroyed the very dynasty that he had spent his life so passionately defending

Athelstan (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-06-30

the formation of england occurred against the odds an island divided into rival kingdoms under savage assault from viking hordes but after king alfred ensured the survival of wessex and his son edward expanded it his grandson athelstan inherited the rule of both mercia and wessex conquered northumbria and was hailed as rex totius britanniae king of the whole of britain tom holland recounts this extraordinary story with relish and drama transporting us back to a time of omens raven harbingers and blood red battlefields as well as giving form to the figure of athelstan devout shrewd all too aware of the precarious nature of his power especially in the north he introduces the great figures of the age including alfred and his daughter aethelflaed lady of the mercians who brought athelstan up at the mercian court making sense of the family rivalries and fractious conflicts of the anglo saxon rulers holland shows us how a royal dynasty rescued their kingdom from near oblivion and fashioned a nation that endures to this day

John (Penguin Monarchs) 2020-07-30

king john ruled england for seventeen and a half years yet his entire reign is usually reduced to one image of the villainous monarch outmanoeuvred by rebellious barons into agreeing to magna carta at runnymede in 1215 ever since john has come to be seen as an archetypal tyrant but how evil was he in this perceptive short account nicholas vincent unpicks john s life through his deeds and his personality the youngest of four brothers overlooked and given a distinctly unroyal name john seemed doomed to failure as king he was reputedly cruel and treacherous pursuing his own interests at the expense of his country losing the continental empire bequeathed to him by his father henry and his brother richard and eventually plunging england into civil war only his lordship of ireland showed some success yet as this fascinating biography asks were his crimes necessarily greater than those of his ancestors or was he judged more harshly because ultimately he failed as a warlord

Edward III (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-05-26

edward iii lived through bloody and turbulent times his father was deposed by his mother and her lover when he was still a teenager a third of england s population was killed by the black death midway through his reign and the intractable hundred years war with france began under his leadership yet edward managed to rule england for fifty years and was viewed as a paragon of kingship in the eyes of both his contemporaries and later generations venerated as the victor of sluis and crécy and the founder of the order of the garter he was regarded with awe even by his enemies but he lived too long and was ultimately condemned to see thirty years of conquests reversed in less than five in this gripping new account of edward iii s rise and fall jonathan sumption introduces us to a fêted king who ended his life a heroic failure

William I (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-08-25

on christmas day 1066 william duke of normandy was crowned in westminster the first norman king of england it was a disaster soldiers outside thinking shouts of acclamation were treachery torched the surrounding buildings to later chroniclers it was an omen of the catastrophes to come during the reign of william the conqueror england experienced greater and more seismic change than at any point before or since marc morris s concise and gripping biography sifts through the sources of the time to give a fresh view of the man who changed england more than any other as old ruling elites were swept away enemies at home and abroad including those in his closest family were crushed swathes of the country were devastated and the map of the nation itself was redrawn giving greater power than ever to the king when towards the end of his reign william undertook a great survey of his new lands his subjects compared it to the last judgement of god the domesday book england had been transformed forever

Charles I (Penguin Monarchs) 2014-12-04

the tragedy of charles i dominates one of the most strange and painful periods in british history as the whole island tore itself apart over a deadly entangled series of religious and political disputes in mark kishlansky s brilliant account it is never in doubt that charles created his own catastrophe but he was nonetheless opposed by men with far fewer scruples and less consistency who for often quite contradictory reasons conspired to destroy him this is a remarkable portrait of one of the most talented thoughtful loyal moral artistically alert and yet somehow disastrous of all this country s rulers

Mary I (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-10-27

the elder daughter of henry viii mary i 1553-58 became england s ruler on the unexpected death of her brother edward vi her short reign is one of the great potential turning points in the country s history as a convinced catholic and the wife of philip ii king of spain and the most powerful of all european monarchs mary could have completely changed her country s orbit making it a province of the habsburg empire and obedient again to rome these extraordinary possibilities are fully dramatized in john edward s superb short biography the real mary i has almost disappeared under the great mass of protestant propaganda that buried her reputation during her younger sister elizabeth i s reign but what if she had succeeded

Charles II (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-03-31

charles ii has always been one of the most instantly recognisable british kings both in his physical appearance disseminated through endless portraits prints and pub signs and in his complicated mix of lasciviousness cynicism and luxury his father s execution and his own many years of exile made him a guarded curious unusually self conscious ruler he lived through some of the most striking events in the national history from the civil wars to the great plague from the fire of london to the wars with the dutch clare jackson s marvellous book takes full advantage of its irrepressible subject

Elizabeth I (Penguin Monarchs) 2018-03-01

part of the penguin monarchs series short fresh expert accounts of england s rulers in a collectible format in the popular imagination as in her portraits elizabeth i is the image of monarchical power the virgin queen ruled over a golden age the spanish armada was defeated and england s enemies scattered english explorers reached almost to the ends of the earth a new church of england rose from the ashes of past conflict and the english renaissance bloomed in the genius of shakespeare spenser and sidney but the image is also armour in this illuminating new account of elizabeth s reign helen castor shows how england s iconic queen was shaped by profound and enduring insecurity an insecurity which was both a matter of practical political reality and personal psychology from her precarious upbringing at the whim of a brutal capricious father and her perilous accession after his death to the religious division that marred her state and the failure to marry that threatened her line elizabeth lived under constant threat but facing down her enemies with a compellingly inscrutable public persona the last and greatest of the tudor monarchs would become a timeless fearless queen

Richard II (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-01-28

richard ii 1377 99 came to the throne as a child following the long domineering martial reign of his grandfather edward iii he suffered from the disastrous combination of a most exalted sense of his own power and an inability to impress that power on those closest to the throne neither trusted nor feared richard battled with a whole series of failures and emergencies before finally succumbing to a coup imprisonment and murder laura ashe s brilliant account of his reign emphasizes the strange gap between richard s personal incapacity and the amazing cultural legacy of his reign from the wilton diptych to sir gawain and the green knight piers plowman and the canterbury tales

Edward the Confessor (Penguin Monarchs) 2020-11-26

edward the confessor the last great king of anglo saxon england canonized nearly 100 years after his death is in part a figure of myths created in the late middle ages in this revealing portrait of england s royal saint david woodman traces the course of edward s twenty four year long reign through the lens of contemporary sources from the anglo saxon chronicle and the vita Ædwardi regis to the bayeux tapestry to separate myth from history and uncover the complex politics of his life he shows edward to be a shrewd politician who having endured a long period of exile from england in his youth ascended the throne in 1042 and came to control a highly sophisticated and powerful administration the twists and turns of edward s reign are generally seen as a prelude to the norman conquest in 1066 woodman explains clearly how events unfolded and personalities interacted but unlike many he shows a capable and impressive king at the centre of them

William III & Mary II (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-04-30

william iii 1689 1702 mary ii 1689 94 britain s only ever joint monarchs changed the course of the entire country s history coming to power through a coup which involved mary betraying her own father reestablishing parliament on a new footing and

through committing britain to fighting france initiating an immensely long period of warfare and colonial expansion jonathan keates wonderful book makes both monarchs vivid the cold shrewd dutch william and the shortlived mary whose life and death inspired purcell to write some of his greatest music

Richard I (Penguin Monarchs) 2018-02-22

richard i s reign is both controversial and seemingly contradictory one of england s most famous medieval monarchs and a potent symbol of national identity he barely spent six months on english soil during a ten year reign and spoke french as his first language contemporaries dubbed him the lionheart reflecting a carefully cultivated reputation for bravery prowess and knightly virtue but this supposed paragon of chivalry butchered close to 3 000 prisoners in cold blood on a single day and though revered as christian europe s greatest crusader his grand campaign to the holy land failed to recover the city of jerusalem from islam seeking to reconcile this conflicting evidence thomas asbridge s incisive reappraisal of richard i s career questions whether the lionheart really did neglect his kingdom considers why he devoted himself to the cause of holy war and asks how the memory of his life came to be interwoven with myth richard emerges as a formidable warrior king possessed of martial genius and a cultured intellect yet burdened by the legacy of his dysfunctional dynasty and obsessed with the pursuit of honour and renown

Henry I (Penguin Monarchs) 2018-07-26

to be a medieval king was a job of work this was a man who knew how to run a complex organization he was england s ceo the youngest of william the conqueror s sons henry i came to unchallenged power only after two of his brothers died in strange hunting accidents and he had imprisoned the other he was destined to become one of the greatest of all medieval monarchs both through his own ruthlessness and through his dynastic legacy edmund king s engrossing portrait shows a strikingly charismatic intelligent and fortunate man whose rule was looked back on as the real post conquest founding of england as a new realm wealthy stable bureaucratized and self confident

Aethelred the Unready (Penguin Monarchs) 2018-10-25

a major new title in the penguin monarchs series in his fascinating new book in the penguin monarchs series richard abels examines the long and troubled reign of aethelred ii the unraed the ill advised it is characteristic of aethelred s reign that its greatest surviving work of literature the poem the battle of maldon should be a record of heroic defeat perhaps no ruler could have stemmed the encroachment of wave upon wave of viking raiders but aethelred will always be associated with that failure richard abels is professor emeritus at the united states naval academy he is the author of alfred the great war kingship and culture in anglo saxon england and lordship and military obligation in anglo saxon england he is a fellow of the royal historical society

Henry V (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-08-27

foremost medieval historian anne curry offers a new reinterpretation of henry v and the battle that defined his kingship agincourt henry v s invasion of france in august 1415 represented a huge gamble as heir to the throne he had been a failure cast into the political wilderness amid rumours that he planned to depose his father despite a complete change of character as king founding monasteries persecuting heretics and enforcing the law to its extremes little had gone right since he was insecure in his kingdom his reputation low on the eve of his departure for france he uncovered a plot by some of his closest associates to remove him from power agincourt was a battle that henry should not have won but he did and the rest is history within five years he was heir to the throne of france in this vivid new interpretation anne curry explores how henry s hyperactive efforts to expunge his past failures and his experience of crisis which threatened to ruin everything he had struggled to achieve defined his kingship and how his astonishing success at agincourt transformed his standing in the eyes of his contemporaries and of all generations to come

Stephen (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-08-27

known as the anarchy the reign of stephen 1135 1141 saw england plunged into a civil war that illuminated the fatal flaw in the powerful norman monarchy that without clear rules ordering succession conflict between members of william the conqueror s family were inevitable but there was another problem too stephen himself with the nobility of england and normandy anxious about the prospect of a world without the tough love of the old king henry i stephen styled himself a political panacea promising strength without oppression as external threats and internal resistance to his rule accumulated it was a promise he was unable to keep unable to transcend his flawed claim to the throne and to make the transition from nobleman to king stephen s actions betrayed uneasiness in his role his royal voice never quite ringing true the resulting violence that spread throughout england was not or not only the work of bloodthirsty men on the make as watkins shows in this resonant new portrait it arose because great men struggled to navigate a new and turbulent kind of politics that arose when the king was in eclipse

William IV (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-08-27

william iv the sailor king reigned for just seven years rash and impetuous as a young man he was sent to join the navy by his father george iii to bring him to order but he was overpromoted at an early age and saw his years of active service marked by a series of calamities he was also notorious for his mounting debts and his long relationship with the actress mrs jordan with whom he had ten children yet as roger knight one of britain s foremost naval historians shows in this concise and perceptive biography william s bluff unpolished sailor s manner made him popular with the people inheriting the throne amid strikes riots and the push for parliamentary reform he helped see the country through the great constitutional crisis of the era despite his many flaws he was perhaps a better king than sailor leaving the monarchy in a healthier state than when he found it and enabling the smooth succession of his niece victoria

Elizabeth II (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-08-27

in september 2015 queen elizabeth ii becomes britain s longest reigning monarch during her long lifetime britain and the world have changed beyond recognition yet throughout she has stood steadfast as a lasting emblem of stability continuity and public service historian and senior politician douglas hurd has seen the queen at close quarters as home secretary and then on overseas expeditions as foreign secretary here he considers the life and role of britain s most greatly admired monarch who inheriting a deep sense of duty from her father george vi has weathered national and family crises seen the end of an empire and heard voices raised in favour of the break up of the united kingdom hurd creates an arresting portrait of a woman deeply conservative by nature yet possessing a ready acceptance of modern life and the awareness that for things to stay the same they must change with a preface by hrh prince william duke of cambridge

Edward II (Penguin Monarchs) 2016-09-29

he seems to have laboured under an almost child like misapprehension about the size of his world had greatness not been thrust upon him he might have lived a life of great harmlessness the reign of edward ii was a succession of disasters unkingly inept in war and in thrall to favourites he preferred digging ditches and rowing boats to the tedium of government his infatuation with a young gascon nobleman piers gaveston alienated even the most natural supporters of the crown hoping to lay the ghost of his soldierly father edward i he invaded scotland and suffered catastrophic defeat at the battle of bannockburn after twenty ruinous years betrayed and abandoned by most of his nobles and by his wife and her lover edward was imprisoned in berkeley castle and murdered the first english king since the norman conquest to be deposed

William II (Penguin Monarchs) 2015-08-27

william ii 1087 1100 or william rufus will always be most famous for his death killed by an arrow while out hunting perhaps through accident or perhaps murder but as john gillingham makes clear in this elegant book as the son and successor to william the conqueror it was william rufus who had to establish permanent norman rule a ruthless irascible man he frequently argued acrimoniously with his older brother robert over their father s inheritance but he also handed out effective justice leaving as his legacy one of the most extraordinary of all medieval buildings westminster hall

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