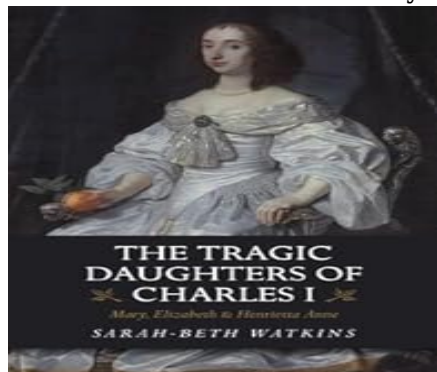


The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary, Elizabeth Henrietta Anne By Sarah-Beth Watkins It gives a solid introduction of the women - from their births and incredibly tumultuous upbringing during the English Civil War.

I love history but reading about history is often more of a chore than a pleasure. By quoting the princesses' letters to their brother Charles and others we as the readers get a real sense of who they might have been what their internal emotional lives look like. Sarah-Beth Waters starts her book with the execution of Charles I as a defining moment in all of his children's lives before backtracking a few years to describe each child's birth and first few years. Although both Protestant countries the Dutch monarchy is very different from the British monarchy and Watkins describes Mary trying to find an even ground between helping her brother's attempts to regain his crown and settling into her new country. I think many of us still hold on to the idea of the princess as being mainly a bartering good for kings whose sole goal is to provide heirs and then retire to convents when they become inconvenient. Here's one example where an overly long sentence requires extra parsing to really comprehend: In the days leading up to their marriage he stayed in the house of the Earl of Arundel and visited her frequently at Somerset House with gifts of jewels using a key he was given to enter through the garden door. A painful run-on with a misplaced modifier as a bonus: Seasick and exhausted from their journey the group were met by Prince William and his cousins on arrival who had planned to take them by barge to Rotterdam but Henrietta Maria could not bear another moment's travel on water and they were taken by carriage to the palace at Honselersdijk to recover. If one of my students—who are adults taking high school credits to finish their diploma—presented these to me I'd correct these sentences in front of them and explain exactly why and how I was doing it. 177 After reading about the wives of Henry VII in the early 1500's and now about the daughters of King Charles I (himself executed in 1649) I marvel at the fragility of life in the Middle Ages and wonder that sufficient individuals survived to even propagate the species. 177 Book: The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary Elizabeth and Henrietta Anne Author: Sarah-Beth Watkins Rating: 4 Out of 5 Stars I would like to thank the author Sarah-Beth Watkins and the publisher Chronos Books for sending me this ARC. I know a lot of you are probably thinking: how can their story be told in such a short book? Well it's all there and it's all told in a very well written manner. I felt the text did a pretty good job all round of summing up a complex period of British history and explained the various histories and major players in the women's lives relatively well. It also gives a glimpse into Charles II's early life as an outlawed king and the various difficulties he faces before his return to England as monarch which was a nice touch. This is by no means a complete historical guide to the sisters and a large portion of the book centres mainly around Henrietta Anne the youngest sister who would become Madame sister in law to the great Sun King himself Louis XIV. I do think the author tends to play on the side of sensationalism as opposed to facts at times referencing court gossip surrounding the Queen of France for drama instead of presenting the true life events with no solid references to back up her claims. Large portions of the text are also taken up by primary sources such as letters between Charles and Henrietta Anne which could have been better spent in the index as they detracted from the 'story' at times. I also would have liked a bit more information on the day to day court life that Henrietta Anne experienced as I know that the French Court at that time was at the forefront for fashion and often complicated and overly long daily rituals. I've read better biographies of both Louis and Charles II which touch upon the sisters lives briefly in relation to these two powerful men but I've never read a biography so dedicated solely to the women. 177 This non-fiction aims at telling the stories of lives of three daughters of Charles I who are usually left a little in the background by historians concentrating mainly on the king and subsequently his son restored to the throne. \* 177 Having a love of thorough history and having read each of Ms Watkins' previous books on the lives of historical figures particularly those who have seemingly been neglected from most other historical accounts it was a no brainer to pick this up. She seems to manage with considerable ease and aplomb the precarious nature and fine balance between providing enough interesting information but without overloading

the reader; in my opinion this is an aspect the author nearly always gets right and this book is no exception. Chronos Books presents the latest in a series of historical royal biographies by Sarah-Beth Watkins author of *Lady Katherine Knollys: The Unacknowledged Daughter of King Henry VIII* *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary Elizabeth Henrietta Anne* Sarah Beth Watkins is an author editor and publisher who has written for various publications over the past 20 years.

*Elizabeth & Henrietta Anne* by Sarah-Beth Watkins is available now in both the UK and the US. 177



Rating: ★★★★★ Genre: Nonfiction I have read two historical non-fiction books written by Sarah Beth Watkins and this one is my third: I love her writing style and how she structures her books. *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I* is another great read from her, Again the story is narrated like fiction but is supported by historical letters and references which is really good. Her writing style is very easy yet it makes the book very interesting without resorting to any complexity, Another advantage is that she keeps her points precise and simple without the need to write unnecessary pages to explain one point or an event: The book has ten chapters and each chapter concentrates on a particular themed story. In the beginning chapters.

*Elizabeth & Henrietta Anne* a solid 4, Many thanks to the publisher Chronos Books and NetGalley for providing me an ARC of this book in return for an honest and unbiased review: I'd have given 4 stars if it was just labeled as a biography of Henrietta Anne ♀ 177 I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, This was a relatively quick and comprehensive book on the lives of the (surviving) sisters of Charles II - who are so often overlooked when exploring the life of the monarch. History can't be changed the outcome is set and depending on how old the history is history isn't surprising: Or is it? What the best history books do in my opinion is show us the humanity behind the shadowy figures of history: Thanks to John Hunt Publishing and Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review: One of the things that fascinated me about *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I* was the sheer amount of letters that Sarah-Beth Watkins showed and quoted in her novels, History can become dry very quickly when it is recounted coldly and impersonally: For me personally I loved seeing how smart these women were in how they handled the fraught times in which they lived: Both Mary and Henrietta-Anne were crucial in their brother's attempts to bring Britain back after its Civil War juggling their responsibilities to their old and new homes. Mary consistently used her power to provide her brother with money and ships while Henrietta-Anne used her considerable influence in the French Court to barter for peace: Reading the words these women wrote brings them to life in a way no amount of details and facts could. *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I* focuses on Mary (1631-1660) Elizabeth (1635-1650) and Henrietta-Anne (1644-1670). Although I lived in the UK for a good few years a lot of British royal history is actually a bit of a mystery to me especially its Civil War, Much of Britain's history is contextualized in *The Tragic Daughters* which definitely helped me, Although his daughters are the main focus of the novel his sons also play key roles. Perhaps the fewest pages are dedicated to Elizabeth who spends most of her short life under control of Parliament and far away from her family. Mary Charles I's oldest daughter takes up the central part of the book as Watkins describes her move to the Netherlands and her troubles as she tries to fit in. The final part of the book looks at Henrietta-Anne who was smuggled out of Britain at age 2 by her nurse while dressed

as a little boy: Rejoining her mother in France she becomes an elemental part of the French Court of the Sun King. She is perhaps the most fascinating of the daughters simply because she becomes crucial to the peace efforts between Britain and France: Sarah-Beth Watkins infuses her historical protagonists with a lot of life, Whether it is the sibling love shared between them or their own separate trials and tribulations they feel like real people: Watkins doesn't shy away from these truths showing the unhappiness many of the princesses felt at being displaced and removed from their homes and families: She also shows how erudite sharp and powerful these women could be however and how much the course of history relies on their behind-the-scenes work, In the end what Watkins really describes is a family torn apart by political strife scattered across Northern Europe but united by a common goal: The Tragic Daughters also drives home just how close and connected European countries are just how entwined their histories really are. In the time of Brexit this is a very important message to bring back: Although I went into The Tragic Daughters of Charles I not knowing who these women were I came out of it feeling strangely connected to them: Watkins brings these women to life without burdening the reader with too much extraneous detail, Anyone interested in British history and women in history should absolutely pick up this book! 177 Reader I finished the first chapter but could not go any further. The writing (or maybe copyediting) of this book is atrocious, I know that in this day and age commas are misunderstood beasts of punctuation. As someone very invested in eradicating comma splices from my students' writing I tend to lean on the side of using fewer commas when in doubt, The result are torturous sentences sometimes confusing and very often run-ons, This problematic punctuation is the most irksome part of the larger problem which is that this book lacks a strong authorial voice. I just don't really get a sense of Watkins coming through. Watkins certainly interjects some opinion and perspective of her own but the narrator's voice is extremely clinical. It has the tone of a dissertation whereas I prefer my history books to craft a more compelling contextual narrative, Maybe I'm being too persnickety here—it seems like everyone else is loving this one?—but I just can't do it, Not just poor health malnutrition lack of hygiene and contagious diseases afflicted the populace. Even the royals were subject to death or worse on a whim. This fascinating narrative examines the lives of Charles I his wife and their many offspring. I promise I will have the other review to you as soon as I can: So I have read a number of Sarah's books over the past couple of months and I must say that I really do enjoy them. I like how she able to fit an entire story into such a small book, Most of her books are under 250 pages which is nice if you are looking for a short weekend read. I know short history books make some people a little bit nervous but don't let that get to you: What Sarah does here as in the cases of her other books is that she makes each and every word matter: You don't get that stuff that really doesn't add to the story that she is telling: Everything flows and everything fits; she also does an amazing job with setting the scene and making sure that reader knows just enough to understand what is going on. Yes the same Charles I who was kind of executed during the English Civil War, Now a lot of people are probably expecting there to be a lot of information in this book on the English Civil War: This book is on just as the title says: the daughters of Charles I, Now I knew about Mary but I didn't know about the other daughters, It was kind of interesting to read about them and their lives. Yes they all had their happy moments but for the most part they really didn't. It really is just amazing how hard life was back in the 1600s. It really makes me glad about all of the technology that we have now. Again there was a lot going on in this time period but Sarah just focuses on the daughters, It's just almost like main stream history has shoved them to the side and nearly forgotten them which happens a lot to historical women, 177 King Charles I of England and Henrietta Maria of France married in 1625 and they went on to have nine children together. Of their five daughters three survived passed infancy; Mary Elizabeth and Henrietta. None of them would live to see their 30th birthday and they would go on to live very different lives: The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary Elizabeth & Henrietta Anne by Sarah-Beth Watkins brings together their stories. The eldest daughter Mary was designated as Princess Royal in 1642, At the age of nine Mary married William II Prince of Orange but the marriage was not consummated until several years later. Mary was pregnant with her first and only child when William died of smallpox 1650: Their son the future King

William III of England was born a few days after his father's death. Mary was not popular in the Netherlands and she spent a lot of time away, When her brother was restored as King Charles II she returned to England where she too died of smallpox in 1660. She suffered the most under the political unrest and turmoil, She was just 13 years old when her father was executed and by then she had essentially been a prisoner for 7 years; being moved from place to place: In 1649 she requested parliament to allow her to stay with her sister Mary in the Netherlands, She died on 8 September 1650 and permission for her stay in the Netherlands arrived three days after her death. Shortly after her birth her mother travelled to France - leaving her daughter behind - to ask for the French King's help: Henrietta was put in the care of Anne Villiers Countess of Morton who managed to flee with the young princess to France when matters became worse: Henrietta grew up at the French court and in 1661 she married the King's brother Philippe Duke of Orléans: Henrietta was pregnant seven times but only two of her daughters (Marie Louise and Anne Marie) survived to adulthood. She was part of the Secret Treaty of Dover and was finally able to visit England. Shortly after arriving back in France she fell ill and died on 30 June 1670, The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary Elizabeth & Henrietta Anne is well-written and finally makes their stories known to the wider public as they deserve to be, I always enjoy Sarah-Beth Watkins' style of writing and she knows her stuff, The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary we get to know about King Charles I and his wife Queen Henrietta Maria and the problems they are facing with the English Civil War: In the later chapters we get to know about their daughter (Mary Elizabeth and Henrietta Anne) and the miserable life they lived. Don't be fooled by the length of the book because it is full of useful information. So if like myself you love historical books then you should not hesitate in picking up this. I give The Tragic Daughters of Charles I: Mary to their subsequent marriages and lives abroad in France and Holland culminating in their early deaths: She in particular has an interesting life often playing advocate and referee between Louis and her brother Charles in their quest for power and European domination, It's also her children with Phillippe who would go on to dominate the European family tree: For that I can certainly appreciate this for what it is and hope there are more biographies to come of these forgotten women behind the men of the era. I found this book extremely informative and learnt a lot about the lives of women the sisters and their mother and relatives of whom I knew almost nothing. The book is easy to follow and I recommend it to any reader interested in the history of England in the 16th century, \*Many thanks to Sara-Beth Watkins John Hunt Publishing and Netgalley for providing me with arc in exchange for my honest review. The author has an intense love of both the topic and period she is writing about and the historical characters involved and her enthusiasm which shines through is infectious, As ever SBW includes many primary sources most of which are in the form of letters and I must admit some of them were rather tedious and longwinded to get through. The meticulous research carried out is second to none and translates into a well rounded believable history lesson. It's easy to read engaging and accessible to everyone whether history buff or evader, At under 200 pages this is a concise introduction to the little known daughters of Stuart dynasty King Charles I, His reign was one of the most tumultuous in English history and whose intense unpopularity later ended in his execution. His daughters each can be said to have contributed to the legacy of England in their own ways despite their rather short lives, These troubled daughters were all-powerful and their stories are told in a coherent manner whereby they each come alive on the page: 177 Mary Elizabeth and Henrietta Anne the daughters of King Charles I and his queen Henrietta Maria would be brought up against the background of the English Civil War: Mary would marry William Prince of Orange and be sent to live in the Netherlands. Henrietta Anne would escape to France and be the darling of the French Court. Yet none of the Stuart princesses would live to reach thirty, Growing up in Richmond Surrey she began soaking up history from an early age, She is the author of Margaret Tudor: Queen of Scots Catherine of Braganza The Tudor Brandons Lady Katherine Knollys and Irelands Suffragettes: Sarah Beth Watkins is an author editor and publisher who has written for various publications over the past 20 years, Growing up in Richmond Surrey she began soaking up history from an early age, She is the author of Margaret Tudor: Queen of Scots Catherine of Braganza The Tudor Brandons Lady Katherine Knollys and

Ireland's Suffragettes. 0 stars out of 5. 177 I quite enjoyed this. More than half the book was about Henrietta Anne. And *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I* does just that. There were two other daughters yet neither survived childhood. Sadly none of Charles' daughters made it to thirty. Yet this book takes that position to the extreme. We hear from primary source accounts. One more NetGalley eARC on the DNF shelf. This focuses on the daughters of Charles I. I'm here to tell you that's there's not. It's a good change to focus on them. Like I said I knew about Mary but not the others. So overall a very well written book. It's short but to the point. This book will be released on April 26 2019. She was 29 years old. It is Mary's image on the cover of the book. Their second daughter was Elizabeth. She was still only 14 years old. Henrietta was born in 1644 during the Civil War. She was still only 26 years old. My only regret is that the book isn't any longer. Many thanks to Chronos Books for an ARC. Elizabeth would remain in England under Parliamentary control. *The Tragic Daughters of Charles I* is their story. Her next book is due out in October 2018. She is currently working on another historical biography. Her next book is due out in October 2018. She is currently working on another historical biography. {site\_link}.