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The Heir Apparent: A Life of Edward VII, the Playboy Prince

By Ridley, Jane.

Random House. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. (One of the New York Times Book Review's Best 100 Books of 2013 and a Boston Globe Best Book of the Year) Born Prince Albert Edward, and known to familiars as "Bertie," the future King Edward VII had a well-earned reputation as a gambler, glutton, and womanizer. His mother Queen Victoria considered him a lazy halfwit, temperamentally unfit to succeed her, and when he ascended to the throne in 1901, at age 59, expectations were low. And yet, as Jane Ridley reveals in her richly entertaining biography, the quintessential black sheep of Buckingham Palace nonetheless matured into a wise and effective monarch, namesake of the Edwardian era. Ridley sheds new light on Bertie's long power struggle with Victoria, illuminating one of the most emotionally fraught mother-son relationships in history. "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 727.



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