



## Great Tales from English History, Vol 3

*Robert Lacey*

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- With insight, humor and fascinating detail, Robert Lacey brings brilliantly to life the stories that made England. From Ethelred the Unready to Richard the Lionheart, the Venerable Bede to Piers the Ploughman, this is, quite simply, history as history should be told.- Lacey's bestseller The Year 1000 has netted 120,000 copies in hardcover and paperback combined.- In the bestselling tradition of How the Irish Saved Civilization, this is popular, accessible, bite-sized history at its best.

## **Great Tales from English History, Vol 3 Details**

Date : Published December 11th 2006 by Little, Brown and Company (first published 2004)

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Author : Robert Lacey

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## **From Reader Review Great Tales from English History, Vol 3 for online ebook**

### **Lucy says**

This book is a collection of snippets from history. All interesting, each "tale" brings an era to life and does a better job than most histories of making the tale's characters recognizably human. Even the villains of English history, such as Richard III and Bloody Mary, are treated gently and made more understandable in the context of their times.

A lively and informative book, "Great Tales" is great to pick up now and then to encounter such disparate people as the Venerable Bede and Henry VIII, Alfred the Great and Oliver Cromwell, and many less famous figures who played important roles in England's story.

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### **Al Tarancón says**

From my blog original entry...

Ahora mismo me estoy leyendo tres libros, a ratos. El primero es Great Tales of English History de Robert Lacey. El libro cuenta de manera cronologica momentos curiosos o interesantes de la historia de los ingleses, narrandolos en cuatro o cinco paginas, y de manera muy amena. De este voy leyendo poco a poco, un capitulo o dos al dia. Este es el tercer libro, que cubre de 1690 a 1953, aunque servidor pretendia pillar el segundo libro, que iba del 1100 al 1690, una epoca que me parecia mas interesante. Sin embargo, para cuando fui a pillarlo, ya no quedaban ejemplares. Ya veremos si lo vuelvo a encontrar. De momento lo estoy encontrando muy interesante y entretenido, y la verdad es que a lo tonto estoy aprendiendo bastante de la historia del pais. Tendre que mirar si hay algo parecido sobre España.

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### **Chris says**

This third volume held my interest---its short chapters (usually about 3 pages) contained interesting information about a range of historical figures; many of whom were new to me.

It started fast, but the recurrent style dragged about midway through. The writing held up well, but it was the repetitive nature of the chapters that slowed me down. They are written in a newspaper column style, and it's a style I really like, but it just got old after a while. I would have enjoyed this book much more if I had taken it in small doses over a longer period of time.

Still, I'd recommend it to anyone who has an interest in English history. It's a fine book, an interesting book.

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### **Lincoln says**

This was great, and it worked well as an audiobook. It's a collection of stories around episodes in British history from the late 17th century through the mid 20th. The author does a fine job reading it. I love the way certain folks can make historical incidents really come alive, and Robert Lacey does that here. I don't know why I started with Vol. 3. I want to go back and get Vols. 1 and 2 as well. It's about 6 hours long and, depending on the family, might make excellent car-drive listening on a road trip.

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### **Allison says**

Maybe it was me reading the jacket incorrectly, but I expected this book to contain more unusual stories from English history. Instead, there were few I hadn't heard before and many that were presented exactly the same way as my tenth-grade text book. That said, I always found that text book to be rather interesting, so I enjoyed this reminder of the history I knew.

I did have to laugh at the inclusion of "The Boston Tea-Party," which I tend to think of as a great tale from American History. The author didn't even give it a more English spin by using the point of view of the people transporting the tea or anything.

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### **Carolyn says**

Very interesting and readable. Short essays (2-3 pages) on a variety of topics spanning about 350 years. There are insights into the development of Britain's economy (and the development of Britain for that matter), political system, industrialization and colonization. It was very interesting how one person's idea had major impacts down the road. Also, I did not realize until reading this that Mary Shelley was the daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft. Or that Britain owed its air superiority in WW2 to the much maligned Chamberlain's fiscal policies in the previous decade.

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### **Cassie says**

Great snippets

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### **Leslie says**

These are bite-sized nuggets of fascinating insight into various people and events in English history including such topics as breast cancer surgery without anesthesia in 1810, a background on 'General Ned Lud' and what the Luddites were trying to achieve, poor King George III's then mysterious illness (porphyria) which he apparently inherited from Mary Queen of Scots, details about the reasons for the mutiny on the Bounty and Captain Bly's eventful life after that.

I have found it very worthwhile to listen to repeatedly as each offering is chock full of interesting tidbits I want to follow up on with further research and reading. Very worthwhile and fun reading!

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### **Pete Friend says**

I thought the first two were scintillating but I think this one tops the lot, I read the final 30 odd pages on my train ride from victoria to brighton and sat in the stationary train at the end wishing the journey was longer so i could finish. the level of detail is perfect, the choice of figures and anecdotes and information is brilliant. i've just order the 3 volumes in one so i can read again, but also hope the author brings out more volumes to go with it, or maybe another countries history. awesome!

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### **Oliver Hodson says**

I like it a lot and he manages to deal pretty successfully with choosing stories that are interesting- tales, indeed- as opposed to systematically telling a history. He definitely sketches both sides of the story and allows for exactly the kind of complexity historians like, and does so in a light way, not overbearing. I think that there could be lots of questions about other tales that could go in, but I didn't see too much barrow pushing, in fact it was almost frustrating trying to pin down lacey's politics.

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### **Joe Johnson says**

This was the third and final volume of the Great Tales from English History series. This volume covers the period from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the 1950s. Like the previous volumes, this one consists of a series of short stories from the history of England, well, actually Great Britain in this case. The stories are in chronological order, but they are not necessarily very tightly coupled into a narrative. So it's an easy book to read, and you can set it down for a few days and then pick it up again without any problems.

I enjoyed this book, and the entire series, and I recommend them to anyone who is interested in English history. It's a very gentle introduction to the subject, and a fun and easy read.

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### **Rose says**

I read the first two volumes and enjoyed them very much, but I'm finding this one tedious. Is the modern era less fascinating? Am I just getting tired of the format (very very short snippets of history, in narrative form)? For whatever reason, I'm not inspired to continue past the mid-point of this one.

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### **Dale says**

An Entertaining Take on English History

Published in 2007 by W.F. Howes Ltd.  
Read by the author, Robert Lacey

Duration: 6 hours, 15 minutes

Robert Lacey's quirky 3 volume collection Great Tales from English History was truly a joy to listen to. Volume III ran from the late 17th century to the 1990s and covered such topics as John Locke, The Boston Tea Party (a remarkably even-handed presentation of the American Revolution in general), King George III, the beginnings of the Methodist movement, the Industrial Revolution, Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Charge of the Light Brigade, Darwin, Queen Victoria and World Wars I and II.

Read more at: <http://dwdreviews.blogspot.com/2012/...>

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### **Backoff51 says**

Great.

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### **DaFDC says**

Ever wondered about the origin of the British “stiff upper lip?” Need a fresh take on the historicity of robin hood? How about a quick summary of the South Sea Bubble fiasco? Look no further for a quick and entertaining overview.

This is the perfect conclusion to a fabulous pop history trilogy about Britain. Robert Lacey has a gift for rendering history into anecdotes and personalities that characterize the times. Particularly great for those unfamiliar with British history at large or younger readers struggling to remember the names and dates.

I enjoyed everything about this book except the very end when the author tries to get all philosophical on us and set off my BS detector: When discussing DNA, he says, “Religion, philosophy and the law have yet to adapt to this: if we happen to be genetically programmed to eat, procreate or lose her temper to an excessive degree, *how can our greed, lust or anger be condemned as soon as sins or crimes?*” Well, because every day people all around the world prove that it’s both possible AND beneficial for themselves and society if we control our bodies (stop eating when we’re full, share instead of horde money, stay faithful to one’s spouse instead of stealing someone else’s, seek justice through law instead of vigilante methods), rather than letting our bodies simply control us. We have minds and choices. So yeah, that’s why we can blame people for their “sins or crimes.”

Other than that, I applaud and thank Robert Lacey for the trilogy!

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