

Princess Matilda Comes Home The

[#Princess Matilda](#) [#Matilda homecoming](#) [#Royal return](#) [#Princess's journey home](#) [#Historical princess](#)

Princess Matilda's long-awaited return home marks a momentous occasion, sparking joy and celebration throughout the kingdom. This royal homecoming narrative delves into the anticipation and the warm reception awaiting the beloved princess, highlighting her significant journey back to familiar lands.

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The Princess Matilda Comes Home

Shane and Tim Spall are on the second leg of a very big adventure, taking their Dutch barge The Princess Matilda around the coast of Britain. From Matilda's winter berth in Cardiff, Shane and Tim follow the Welsh coast, before ambitiously deciding to visit the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland. Along the way they cross Cardigan Bay in the company of a pod of dolphins, meet the king and queen of Piel Island, get lost in shipping lanes near Liverpool, successfully cross the notorious Irish Sea (twice!), accidentally sail through an army firing range, and experience the matchless beauty of Scotland's Caledonian canal. Emerging into the North Sea at Inverness, they set a course down the east coast for London, back where their journey began. Tim and Shane aren't the amateur sailors they once were, but things still don't always go to plan. It's not easy navigating our dangerous coastal waters, and crashing waves and strong tides can be terrifying. But it's exhilarating too, and the realisation of a dream they have had for a very long time. It's a slow journey, but a satisfying one, visiting fishing villages and ports, and exploring Britain's windswept coast. Along the way they meet brave lifeboat crews, lockkeepers, fishermen and a whole host of people who make their living or their leisure on the water. The Princess Matilda Comes Home is a funny and warm hearted story about sharing a great adventure with someone you love.

The Voyages of the Princess Matilda

'Tim and I both understood we had done something really stupid. We had underestimated the danger involved in going out to sea. We had no radio, compass, life raft or flares. In other words, we were a couple of idiots.' This is the story of Shane and Timothy Spall and their Dutch barge The Princess Matilda. After a summer on the Thames they head out to sea with only a road atlas and a vast amount of ignorance - and it is absolutely terrifying! On their travels, memories are triggered of childhood trips to the seaside, but also of more recent times. A decade before, Tim had been diagnosed with acute leukaemia and was given only days to live. Shocked at how life can pass you by they decided that when, and if, Tim got better, they would buy a boat. As Tim and Shane explore the coast from the Medway to Cornwall, eventually they start to wonder, could they make it out of England altogether? Could Matilda make it to ... Wales?! Taking over five years, The Voyages of The Princess Matilda is a minor epic, charting a very personal, moving and uplifting story of an everyday couple's adventure around their

much loved homeland. ** Winner of the British Travel Press's Narrative Travel Book of the Year Award
**

Princess Matilda

Clever, whimsical illustrations accompany this charming tale of a little girl named Matilda with a big imagination. She's a beautiful princess, an angry witch, a free butterfly, a jungle dweller, and a clown all in one! Beginning readers will love this story and identify with Matilda's make-believe worlds, and adults will enjoy reading alone. Ideal for children ages 3-8.

A Queen of Tears; Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark and Norway and Princess of Great Britain and Ireland Volume 1

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1904 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER XI. THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN. 1769. On January 14 Christian VII. returned to Copenhagen after an absence of nearly eight months. Queen Matilda drove out to meet him, and husband and wife exchanged affectionate greetings. Together they entered Copenhagen, amid the firing of cannon, ringing of bells, and the joyful acclamations of the people. The English envoy gives the following account of the entry: "The Queen went as far as Roskilde to meet his Majesty, which strong mark of her affection and regard could not fail of affording him the highest satisfaction. Between six and seven o'clock their Majesties made a public entry into this capital, under a triple discharge of the cannon on the ramparts. The whole garrison, as well as the burghers, were under arms, and permission having been given a few days before to illuminate the houses, the inhabitants vied with each other in doing this, as well as the short notice would admit of, and in demonstrating their joy in every other manner they could. The foreign ministers, nobility, etc., attended at the palace of Christiansborg in order to pay their compliments upon this happy occasion, which the King was pleased to receive, after he had made a short visit to the Dowager-Queens."1 Thus did Denmark welcome home her prodigal son. Queen Matilda had spent the greater part of the time since the King left her at Frederiksborg,2 some twenty miles from Copenhagen. Frederiksborg was the most magnificent of the country palaces of the Danish King, and has well been called the "Versailles of Denmark ." It stands to this day, and the site is one of the most picturesque in Europe; the buildings cover three islands in a lake, connected by bridges, the palace proper occupying the third island. The exterior is...

Matilda

A life of Matilda--empress, skilled military leader, and one of the greatest figures of the English Middle Ages Matilda was a daughter, wife, and mother. But she was also empress, heir to the English crown--the first woman ever to hold the position--and an able military general. This new biography explores Matilda's achievements as military and political leader, and sets her life and career in full context. Catherine Hanley provides fresh insight into Matilda's campaign to claim the title of queen, her approach to allied kingdoms and rival rulers, and her role in the succession crisis. Hanley highlights how Matilda fought for the throne, and argues that although she never sat on it herself her reward was to see her son become king. Extraordinarily, her line has continued through every single monarch of England or Britain from that time to the present day.

Queen of the Conqueror

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Around the year 1049, William, Duke of Normandy and future conqueror of England, raced to the palace of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders. The count's eldest daughter, Matilda, had refused William's offer of marriage and publicly denounced him as a bastard. Encountering the young woman, William furiously dragged her to the ground by her hair and beat her mercilessly. Matilda's outraged father immediately took up arms on his daughter's behalf. But just a few days later, Baldwin was aghast when Matilda, still recovering from the assault, announced that she would marry none but William, since "he must be a man of great courage and high daring" to have ventured to "come and beat me in my own father's palace." Thus began the tempestuous marriage of Matilda of Flanders and William the Conqueror. While William's exploits and triumphs have been widely chronicled, his consort remains largely overlooked. Now, in her groundbreaking *Queen of the Conqueror*, acclaimed author and historian Tracy Borman weaves together a comprehensive and illuminating tapestry of this noble woman who stood only four-foot-two and whose role as the first crowned Queen of England had a large and lasting influence on the English monarchy. From

a wealth of historical artifacts and documents, Matilda emerges as passionate, steadfast, and wise, yet also utterly ruthless and tenacious in pursuit of her goals, and the only person capable of taming her formidable husband—who, unprecedented for the period, remained staunchly faithful to her. This mother of nine, including four sons who went on to inherit William's French and English dominions, confounded the traditional views of women in medieval society by seizing the reins of power whenever she had the chance, directing her husband's policy, and at times flagrantly disobeying his orders. Tracy Borman lays out Matilda's remarkable story against one of the most fascinating and transformative periods in European history. Stirring, richly detailed, and wholly involving, *Queen of the Conqueror* reveals not just an extraordinary figure but an iconic woman who shaped generations, and an era that cast the essential framework for the world we know today. Praise for *Queen of the Conqueror* "[Tracy Borman] brings to life Queen Matilda's enormous accomplishments in consolidating early Norman rule. Alongside her warrior husband, William I, Matilda brought legitimacy, a deeper degree of education, diplomatic savvy and artistic and religious flowering to the shared Norman-English throne. Borman . . . the chief executive of Britain's Heritage Education Trust, fleshes out the personality of this fascinating woman, who set the steely precedent for subsequent English female sovereigns by displaying great longevity and stamina in a rough, paternalistic time. . . . A richly layered treatment of the stormy reign that yielded the incomparable Bayeux Tapestry and the Domesday Book."—Kirkus Reviews "Tracy Borman tells this story with a steady eye and a steady hand, tracing what can be known of Matilda's part in the events that were to change the course of English history."—Helen Castor, *Literary Review*

Matilda

Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, was the first woman to be crowned Queen of England and formally recognised as such by her subjects. Beyond this, however, little is known of her. No contemporary images of her remain, and the chroniclers of her age left us only the faintest clues as to her life. Who was this spectral queen? In this first major biography, Tracy Borman sifts through the shards of evidence to uncover an extraordinary story. Matilda was loving and pious, possessed strength, ambition and intelligence, and was fiercely independent. All of these attributes gave her unparalleled influence over William. But although Matilda would provide an inspiring template for future indomitable queens, it led to treachery, revolt and the fracturing of a dynasty. *Matilda: Queen of the Conqueror* takes us from the courts of Flanders to the opulence of royal life in England. Alive with intrigue, rumour and betrayal, it illuminates for the first time the life of an exceptional, brave and complex queen pivotal to the history of England. 'Tracy Borman tells this story with a steady eye and a steady hand, tracing what can be known of Matilda's part in the events that were to change the course of English history' *Literary Review* 'Borman shows that Matilda was a capable regent and political operator... Matilda remains relevant: one legacy is her bloodline, which still rules in Britain today' *Sunday Times* 'Borman moves deftly between the difficult written sources... The often scanty details of Matilda's life are given more rounded form by viewing them in context' *History Today*

Handbook for Dragon Slayers

Like Gail Carson Levine's books, Merrie Haskell's middle grade fantasy adventure *Handbook for Dragon Slayers* mixes magic, mythical creatures, thrilling action, and a wonderful cast of characters. Political upheaval sends Princess Tilda fleeing from her kingdom in the company of two hopeful dragon slayers. The princess never had any interest in chasing dragons. The pain from her crippled foot was too great, and her dream was to write a book. But the princess finds herself making friends with magical horses, facing the Wild Hunt, and pointing a sword at fire-breathing dragons. While doing things she never imagined, Tilda finds qualities in herself she never knew she possessed. *Handbook for Dragon Slayers* is a deeply satisfying coming-of-age tale wrapped in a magical adventure story.

The Accidental Princess

Inside the lilac hedge, two sets of glittering emerald eyes observed Matilda through the heart-shaped leaves. 'It is the princess!' whispered a tiny voice . . . When the pixies and fairies of the lilac hedge mistake Matilda for royalty, she is drawn into a wondrous world. But evil forces threaten the hedge and its folk, and Matilda must fight to save her new friends. She can't do it alone, but could it mean losing her sister forever? Fans of *The Magic Faraway Tree* and the *Narnia* series won't be able to resist *The Accidental Princess*!

Lady Of The English

Two very different women . . . Linked by destiny and a power struggle for the English crown. Empress Matilda, daughter of Henry I, is determined to win back her crown from Stephen, the usurper king, against all odds and despite all men. Adeliza, Henry's widowed queen and Matilda's stepmother, has always been on Matilda's side but now she is married to William D'Albini, a warrior of the opposition. In a world where a man's word is law, how can Adeliza obey her husband while supporting Matilda, the rightful queen? What does it cost to be 'Lady of the English'?

Princess MATILDA

This notebook is designed for your adorable daughter as it can be for your sister, niece, girlfriend or anyone you love. It can be used at school or at home. It is also a birthday and holiday gift, perfect for family, friends and loved ones.

The Pop Princess (Hello Kitty and Friends, Book 4)

Everyone's favourite world-famous fashion icon, HELLO KITTY, is starring in her very own fiction series, available as a full-colour ebook!

Harper's Young People

The story of the twelfth-century rivalry for the throne between the daughter and the nephew of Henry I—a battle that tore England apart for over a decade. The Anarchy was the first civil war in post-Conquest England, enduring throughout the reign of King Stephen between 1135 and 1154. It ultimately brought about the end of the Norman dynasty and the birth of the mighty Plantagenet kings. When Henry I died having lost his only legitimate son in a shipwreck, his barons had sworn to recognize his daughter Matilda, widow of the Holy Roman Emperor, as his heir, and remarried her to Geoffrey, Count of Anjou. But when she was slow to move to England upon her father's death, Henry's favorite nephew, Stephen of Blois, rushed to have himself crowned, much as Henry himself had done on the death of his brother William Rufus. Supported by his brother Henry, Bishop of Winchester, Stephen made a promising start, but Matilda would not give up her birthright and tried to hold the English barons to their oaths. The result was more than a decade of civil war that saw England split apart. Empress Matilda is often remembered as aloof and high-handed, Stephen as ineffective and indecisive. By following both sides of the dispute and seeking to understand their actions and motivations, Matthew Lewis aims to reach a more rounded understanding of this crucial period of English history—and ask to what extent there really was anarchy.

Stephen and Matilda's Civil War

'You're not Mia Thermopolis any more, honey,' Dad said. 'You're Amelia Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo. Princess of Genovia.' A PRINCESS?? ME??? Yeah. Right. One minute Mia's a totally normal Manhattan fourteen-year-old. Next minute she's heir to the throne of Genovia, being trailed by a bodyguard, taking princess lessons with her uncontrollable old grandmere, and having a makeover with someone called Paolo. Well, her dad can lecture her till he's royal blue in the face, but no way is Mia going to turn herself into a style-queen. And they think she's moving to Genovia? Er, hello? Meg Cabot's *The Princess Diaries* inspired the feature film starring Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews. This beloved series continues in the second book, *A Royal Disaster*.

The Princess Diaries

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The Secret Garden

A captivating, curl-up-on-the-sofa debut about the magic of books and the power of the imagination.

Pages & Co.: Tilly and the Bookwanderers (Pages & Co., Book 1)

Set against the turbulent backdrop of 12th-century England, "The Forgotten Queen" is the tale of a warrior, Empress Matilda, daughter of King Henry I of England and granddaughter of William the Conqueror and her struggle to overcome political intrigues, prejudice, and the lover who steals her crown. Available now.

The Forgotten Queen

Ten-year-old Fay learns to cope with her parents' divorce after she invites Jesus into her life.

Daddy Isn't Coming Home

"A sweet, self-esteem-building pas de deux" Kirkus Reviews Princess Skye is SO clumsy. There's no way she can dance at Queen Elsie's birthday ball with all her friends! But waiting for her at Mrs Paws' Magic Pet Shop is a pet who might just change her mind . . . Pandarina is a magical panda who LOVES to dance. Can Pandarina help Princess Skye find her feet? From the creators of Pugicorn comes a sparkling picture book about trying your best and never giving up! *WITH A SPECIAL GLITTERY COVER* Discover other books in the Magic Pet Shop series: Pugicorn Pugicorn and the Christmas Wish Starwhal La-La-Llama

Pandarina

BONUS: This edition contains a Captive Queen discussion guide and an excerpt from The Lady Elizabeth. Nearing her thirtieth birthday, Eleanor of Aquitaine has spent the past dozen frustrating years as wife to the pious King Louis VII of France. But when Henry of Anjou, the young and dynamic future king of England, arrives at the French court, he and the seductive Eleanor experience a mutual passion powerful enough to ignite the world. Indeed, after the annulment of Eleanor's marriage to Louis and her remarriage to Henry, the union of this royal couple creates a vast empire that stretches from the Scottish border to the Pyrenees—and marks the beginning of the celebrated Plantagenet dynasty. But Henry and Eleanor's marriage, charged with physical heat, begins a fiery downward spiral marred by power struggles and bitter betrayals. Amid the rivalries and infidelities, the couple's rebellious sons grow impatient for power, and the scene is set for a vicious and tragic conflict that will threaten to engulf them all.

Captive Queen

This is the first comprehensive and fully documented study of the Empress Matilda to be published in English. Much of the serious work on her life and historical importance has never been translated from German, and almost all has concentrated on the years of her struggle with Stephen for the English crown. This book examines her career as a whole, including the years as consort of the Emperor Henry V and as regent in Normandy for her son Henry II. It illustrates the problems of female succession in the early twelfth century, and gives a balanced assessment of Matilda's character and achievements in the context of her own times.

The Empress Matilda

The exciting true story of the first heiress to the throne of England! Born in 1102 to King Henry of England and Queen Matilda of Scotland, Matilda's uniquely royal Norman, Saxon, and Scottish heritage was meant to unify an England still divided by her grandfather's conquest in 1066. When the 1120 White Ship Disaster made her the only surviving child of her parents, Matilda suddenly became heiress to the English throne in a time when the old Saxon Witan, not the king's Will, still decided the succession. Adapted from the narrative biography of the same name, this five act drama takes audiences across medieval Christendom to explore the fascinating life of the Angevin dynasty's forgotten princess royal.

Empress Matilda of England

Enchanted meets BMX in this hilarious, spellbinding adventure! Trust me, the fairy tales have it so wrong. Dingy towers and wicked step-mums are the least of my worries: it's the boredom that will kill me. Thank the good goblin I discovered BMX. If it wasn't for BMX, nothing would have changed ...

Princess BMX

The love story of Theo and Matilda spans nearly 2000 years, changing time but never place. Abbeyfields is initially a monastery where the couple first meet, then becomes a Victorian house, a psychiatric hospital and a complex of twenty-five new homes. Their relationship is charted through four windows into history.

Theo and Matilda

'There is some kind of magic in you somewhere.' This beautiful edition of Matilda, part of The Roald Dahl Classic Collection, features official archive material from the Roald Dahl Museum and is perfect for Dahl fans old and new. So, enter a world where invention and mischief can be found on every page and where magic might be at the very tips of your fingers . . . The Roald Dahl Classic Collection reinstates the versions of Dahl's books that were published before the 2022 Puffin editions, aimed at newly independent young readers.

Matilda

It is Midsummer's Eve and you are all invited to the spectacular princess palace for a special ball. Come and explore the splendid Honeysuckle Hall and try out your dance steps in the glittering Rose Ballroom. With six elaborate rooms and a maze of secret passages to discover, it's time to follow the fairies and dance the night away. With a real little staircase, wardrobes to hang clothes in, and a pop-up loo, this has to be the ultimate fairy extravaganza. The book contains 14 press-out fairies and is fastened with a pink ribbon.

My Fairy Princess Palace

Shaggy Beard wishes to take me to wife! What a monstrous joke. That dog assassin whose breath smells like the mouth of Hell, who makes wind like others make music, who is so ugly and old! Catherine's in trouble. Caught between a mother who is determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady and a father who wants her to marry her off to much older and utterly repulsive suitor. Luckily, Catherine has a plan. She has experience outwitting suitors and is ready to take matters into her own hands. A fun and vibrant coming-of-age novel about a 14-year-old girl's fight for freedom and right to self-determination.

Catherine, Called Birdy

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl in magnificent full colour. James Henry Trotter lives with two ghastly hags. Aunt Sponge is enormously fat with a face that looks boiled and Aunt Spiker is bony and screeching. He's very lonely until one day something peculiar happens. At the end of the garden a peach starts to grow and GROW AND GROW. Inside that peach are seven very unusual insects - all waiting to take James on a magical adventure. But where will they go in their GIANT PEACH and what will happen to the horrible aunts if they stand in their way? There's only one way to find out . . . Look out for new Roald Dahl apps in the App store and Google Play- including the disgusting TWIT OR MISS! inspired by the revolting Twits. "A true genius . . . Roald Dahl is my hero" David Walliams

James and the Giant Peach (Colour Edition)

Trieste Publishing has a massive catalogue of classic book titles. Our aim is to provide readers with the highest quality reproductions of fiction and non-fiction literature that has stood the test of time. The many thousands of books in our collection have been sourced from libraries and private collections around the world. The titles that Trieste Publishing has chosen to be part of the collection have been scanned to simulate the original. Our readers see the books the same way that their first readers did decades or a hundred or more years ago. Books from that period are often spoiled by imperfections that did not exist in the original. Imperfections could be in the form of blurred text, photographs, or missing pages. It is highly unlikely that this would occur with one of our books. Our extensive quality control ensures that the readers of Trieste Publishing's books will be delighted with their purchase. Our staff has thoroughly reviewed every page of all the books in the collection, repairing, or if necessary, rejecting titles that are not of the highest quality. This process ensures that the reader of one of Trieste Publishing's titles receives a volume that faithfully reproduces the original, and to the maximum degree possible, gives them the experience of owning the original work. We pride ourselves on not only creating a pathway to an extensive reservoir of books of the finest quality, but also providing value to every one of our readers. Generally, Trieste books are purchased singly - on demand, however they may also be purchased in bulk. Readers interested in bulk purchases are invited to contact us directly to enquire about our tailored bulk rates.

Spenser and the Faery Queen

'Nothing happens by coincidence, it's all meant to be'. In the magical year 2012 Selma Sevenhuijsen discovered an image of a double-tailed mermaid, traditionally a symbol of the feminine Divine, in St.

Peter's in Rome. She sits above the tomb of Matilda of Canossa, an Italian countess from the 11th century, whose funerary monument was designed by the famous sculptor Bernini. Selma wanted to know what was behind this and started on a journey. In this book she takes the reader with her on her voyage of discovery right across Italy along places where Matilda has left her traces. Matilda's life contains a surprisingly topical message for anyone who cares about the position of the feminine in religion. The makers of Matilda's tomb left a sign about this for those who have eyes to see. 'Il tempo ritorna', the time returns...

Queen of the Vatican

Queen Elizabeth Tudor's Heroic Welsh Foremother! Born in 1097 in Aberffraw Castle, Princess Gwenllïan ferch Gruffydd ap Cynan was always destined for great things. As daughter to one of Gwynedd's greatest warriors she grew up strong and passionate -- more than a match for her older brothers. At sixteen Gwenllïan's life changed forever when she fell in love with Prince Gruffydd ap Rhys, the beleaguered heir to Rhys ap Tewdur of Deheubarth. Together husband and wife fought for and ruled southern Wales, challenging the Norman Conquest of Wales and proving once and for all the nobility and courage of the Welsh people, a courage that endures across the centuries and lives in the heart of every Welsh man, woman, and child. Includes an extensive timeline covering over 400 years of English and Welsh medieval history.

Works of Edmund Spenser

Scandal, politics, sex, triumphs, and tragedies abound in *The Summer Queen*, the first novel in this stunning trilogy, by New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Chadwick. Young Eleanor has everything to look forward to as the heiress to the wealthy Aquitaine. But when her beloved father suddenly dies, childhood is over. Sent to Paris and forced to marry Prince Louis VII of France, she barely adjusts before another death catapults them to King and Queen. The first in the Eleanor of Aquitaine Trilogy, *The Summer Queen* follows Eleanor through the Second Crusade to the end of her marriage to Louis VII. Faced with great scandals, trials, fraught relationships, and forbidden love at every turn, Eleanor seeks the path that will make her queen of two countries and one of the most powerful women in the world. Chadwick's meticulous research portrays the Middle Ages and Eleanor with depth and vivid imagery unparalleled in historical fiction that will keep readers riveted and wanting more. Following the legendary life of Eleanor of Aquitaine, 12th Century Queen of France, and later Queen of England, this trilogy is medieval historical fiction at its most romantic, scandalous, and intriguing. *The Eleanor of Aquitaine Trilogy: The Summer Queen (Book 1) The Winter Crown (Book 2) The Autumn Throne (Book 3)* Praise for *The Summer Queen*: "A magnificent woman's story told by a brilliant historical novelist; realistic, emotional, vibrant, exciting and unputdownable."—RT Book Reviews, July Top Pick "The Summer Queen is a fabulous novel based on the most up-to-date and meticulous research. This is historical fiction at its best and I loved every page of it."—For Winter Nights: A bookish blog

Gwenllïan Ferch Gruffydd

1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up is the perfect introduction to the very best books of childhood: those books that have a special place in the heart of every reader. It introduces a wonderfully rich world of literature to parents and their children, offering both new titles and much-loved classics that many generations have read and enjoyed. From wordless picture books and books introducing the first words and sounds of the alphabet through to hard-hitting and edgy teenage fiction, the titles featured in this book reflect the wealth of reading opportunities for children. Browsing the titles in *1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up* will take you on a journey of discovery into fantasy, adventure, history, contemporary life, and much more. These books will enable you to travel to some of the most famous imaginary worlds such as Narnia, Middle Earth, and Hogwarts School. And the route taken may be pretty strange, too. You may fall down a rabbit hole, as Alice does on her way to Wonderland, or go through the back of a wardrobe to reach the snowy wastes of Narnia.

The Summer Queen

Civil war and the battle for the English Crown dominated the reign of King Stephen, and this popular account is the only complete account of the complex and fascinating military situation. The war is examined in detail throughout the various campaigns, battles and sieges of the period, including the two major battles at the Standard and Lincoln, showing that Stephen always held more ground than his opponents and was mostly on the offensive. The nature of the warfare and the reasons for its

outcome are examined, along with comment on the strategy, tactics, technology in arms and armour, and the important improvements in fortifications. Full use has been made of the numerous detailed chronicle sources which give some indication of the horrors of twelfth-century war, the depredations which affected the ordinary people of the land, and the atrocities which sometimes accompanied it. Full of colourful characters - the likeable king, the domineering Matilda, the young and vital Henry of Anjou (later Henry II), his intelligent and effective father Geoffrey Count of Anjou, the powerful barons from Geoffrey de Mandeville to Ranulf of Chester - and illustrated with photographs, maps and manuscript illustrations, this is a fascinating story of rivalry for the English throne which throws new light on a much-neglected aspect of Stephen's reign.

1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up

From one of England's most celebrated writers, a funny and superbly observed novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading. When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely (from J. R. Ackerley, Jean Genet, and Ivy Compton-Burnett to the classics) and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large. With the poignant and mischievous wit of *The History Boys*, England's best-loved author Alan Bennett revels in the power of literature to change even the most uncommon reader's life.

Stephen and Matilda

He's a dog . . . in a unicorns' world! Every year, young princesses and princes arrive at Mrs Paws' Magic Pet shop to pick a perfect unicorn pet. But this year Princess Ava has arrived too late. There are no unicorns left . . . only PUGICORN. He's short and hairy. He can't sit still or gallop gracefully - and he certainly can't leap over rainbows. Can a pugicorn ever be a princess's best friend? The trend for pugicorns is taking off - and you'd be barking mad to miss it!

Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark, 1751-75

'Impeccably researched and beautifully written, this book offers a fresh perspective on one of the most controversial queens in history. Not to be missed.' Tracey Borman

The Uncommon Reader

Pugicorn