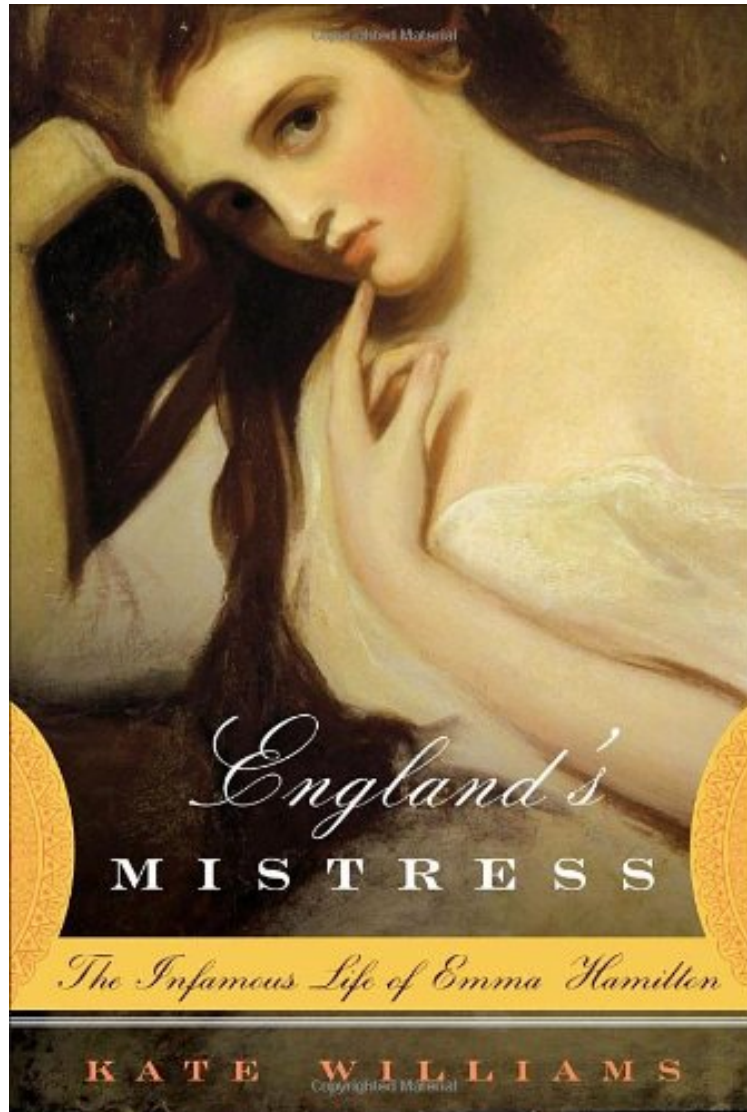


(Free) England's Mistress: The Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton

England's Mistress: The Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton

Kate Williams

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Kate Williams : England's Mistress: The Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised England's Mistress: The Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Poor EmmaBy Debbie OThis book was a very good read. The life of Emma Lady Hamilton is really amazing. To come from the lowest and poorest of English society and to raise herself up as she did is unbelievable. She must have been a remarkable woman. The Author keeps a brisk pace, and the story of humble Amy Lyon unfolds without dragging in any area. We meet Amy as child of a poor Blacksmith who lives in one of the most depressing places on Earth, let alone England. She goes into service, that doesn't last long, and before

you know it 12 or 13 year old Amy is a "lady of the town", works in a high class brothel, becomes a spoiled nobelman's mistress, gets pregnant, becomes another nobelman's mistress, a famous artist's favorite model, winds up going to Naples becoming the Ambassador's mistress, and ultimately his wife..Her husband, Sir William Hamilton was the English Ambassador to Naples, really not a big important assignment, but a really fun one. Emma bloomed in this environment, and was a great help to her husband. She became bff's with the Queen of Naples, Maria Carolina, a Hapsburg Archduchess, and sister to the tragic French Queen Marie Antionette. As the Queen's confidant and friend, she was able to assist her husband with the most delicate of political situations that developed with the fall of the French monarchy and the rise of Bonaparte. Then along comes Nelson. She and he really hit it off, but at first it's mutual admiration, then liking turns to lust and then love. Emma was very desirable to 18th Century men, although looking at her pictures, she looks like a very big woman. There's one portrait of her reclining seductively on a leopard skin and she looks enormous, even her feet look fat. Men were driven crazy with desire by her. She used to do an entertainment called "Attitudes" where she posed as women from the past, draping herself in shawls, showing side boob with a come hither look on her face. It's hard to imagine in this day and age that such things would be so wildly popular, but of course, it was a much simpler time. According to the Author, her detractors claimed she learned these "skills" when she worked in the brothel, where the ladies struck sexy poses for the clients. She and Nelson had a big scandalous love affair that resulted in a daughter, Emma's second child. They also lived 'atris with her husband when they returned to England. Descriptions of Admiral Nelson, do not paint a picture of a very attractive person either physically, (he was a tiny man with one eye missing as well as an arm and most of his teeth gone) or personality wise, (nervous, needy and attention starved). But regardless, he was the rock star of his day, so Emma had really landed a trophy. They really seem to have been madly in love. Then comes Trafalgar, and that it. It's all downhill for poor Emma she dies almost friendless and destitute in Calais, buried in a pauper's grave. Unfortunately for Emma, neither she, her deceased husband or her lover had any common sense regarding money. All three of these individuals had no concept of effective money management, and neither of the men in her life did anything to ensure that Emma would have financial stability. As a result, the end of her life was terrible. The only thing I didn't like about this book was the Author's propensity to make unprovable facts actual facts. She turns too many things that no one really knows are true into historic facts. Like things about her father and her early life. There is really no way to ever know the facts there, the poor were undocumented, faceless masses. Also, she says that Emma worked in the famous Temple of Health, but according to other sources, Emma would have been too young. The Author also claims that ladies of the aristocracy thought posing as goddesses or women from the classical past was immoral. This statement is contradicted later, and at any rate is untrue. Example, the famous Duchess of Devonshire. Things like that are annoying, but this really is a very enjoyable book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great History Lesson By Bren If you are confused and fascinated by the times and mores of the popular Jane Austen movies of the past decade this wonderful book will enlighten you to how it really was for women in the 18th century. Emma was a woman who in today's world would have risen to great heights based on her wits, courage and cunning and though achieved so much by the same she sadly remained at the mercy of powerful and reckless men. The author's extensive and comprehensive research is evident and I could not put this book down many times. It will be one I remember often not only as a great read but as a valuable historical resource about a very interesting period of time and a fascinating, if not frequently despicable, group of people. Truth and history are always more interesting and incredible than fiction in my mind and this work proves it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Microscopic font size By Wicked Twister I love Late Williams' style of writing and the topic is very interesting, but what is keeping the five star rating at bay is the unbelievably teeny tiny font size. Be prepared to bust out your magnifying glass, readers!!

She was the most famous woman in England the beautiful model for society painters Joshua Reynolds and George Romney, an icon of fashion, the wife of an ambassador, and the mistress of naval hero Horatio Nelson. But Emma Hamilton had been born to the poverty of a coal-mining town and spent her teenage years working as a prostitute. From the brothels of London to the glittering court of Naples and the pretentious country estate of the most powerful admiral in England, British debut historian Kate Williams captures the life of Emma Hamilton with all its glamour and heartbreak. In lucid, engaging prose, Williams brings to life a complex and intelligent woman. Emma is sensuous, generous, artistic, at once shamelessly seductive and recklessly ambitious. Willing to do anything for love and fame, she sets out to make herself a star and she succeeds beyond even her wildest dreams. By the age of twenty-six, she leaves behind the precarious life of a courtesan to become Lady Hamilton, wife of Sir William Hamilton the aging, besotted, and probably impotent British ambassador to the court of Naples. But everything changes when Lord Nelson steams into Naples harbor fresh from his triumph at the Battle of the Nile and literally falls into Emma's adoring arms. Their all-consuming romance conducted amid the bloody tumult of the Napoleonic Wars makes Emma an international celebrity, especially when she returns to England pregnant with Nelson's baby. With a novelist's flair and an historian's eye for detail, Williams conjures up the world that Emma Hamilton conquered by the sheer force of her charisma. All but inventing the art of publicity, Emma turned herself into a kind of flesh-and-blood goddess celebrated by wits and artists, adored by thousands, and, for a time, very rich. Yet Emma was willing to throw it all away for the man she

adored. After four years of archival research and making use of hundreds of previously undiscovered letters and documents, Kate Williams sets the record straight on one of the most fascinating and ravishing women in history. *Englands Mistress* captures the relentless drive, the innovative style, and the burning passion of a true heroine.

From Publishers Weekly In this absorbing, well-crafted biography, British historian, lecturer and TV consultant Williams charts the rise of 18th-century England's most celebrated sex symbol, best known as Admiral Nelson's mistress. Setting the rags-to-riches story of Emma Hamilton (1765-1815) in social and historical context, Williams vividly evokes her impoverished childhood and struggle to survive in London as a servant, theater maid and dancer. Williams details the debacle of Emma's life as a high-class courtesan, rescued while pregnant at age 16 by a calculating young aristocrat, Charles Greville, who transformed Emma into a trendsetting star by commissioning a fashionable artist to produce ravishing portraits of her. Creating a convincing psychological portrait of a seductive, ambitious Emma, Williams entertains with an intimate portrayal of her subject's marriage to William Hamilton, British envoy to Naples (and Greville's much older uncle), who shocked high society by making her his wife. Describing Emma's stage-managed seduction of Nelson, and the pair's passionate affair (which was famously tolerated by William Hamilton), culminating in a love child and a shared residence, Williams conveys the fickle nature of Emma's acceptance by high society. Williams's biography is well paced and pitch perfect, as competent in its storytelling as it is in its authoritative analysis of 18th-century class distinctions. Color photo insert. (Oct. 17) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Historian and TV consultant Williams has fashioned a biography of the ever-intriguing Emma Hamilton that reads like a piece of fiction. This dazzling rags-to-riches tale details the life of eighteenth-century England's most beloved and infamous mistress. Born the daughter of a blacksmith in a poor English mining town, the determined Emma brokered her beauty into a life of luxury and notoriety. Climbing up through society's ranks, she became a desired courtesan, eventually catching the eye of Lord Hamilton, British envoy to Naples. Gaining a modicum of respectability after her marriage to Hamilton, Emma was swept up into a passionate liaison with British naval hero Admiral Nelson. The most publicized affair of their era, the Hamilton-Nelson love affair captured the imagination of an entire generation, catapulting Emma into the public eye in an unprecedented manner. Thanks to her strong background in television production, Williams displays a knack for presenting a sweeping historical story in a vivid and digestible format. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This rich and bouncy biography of a driven woman mad for fashion, mad on passion makes *Posh* look like a novice. Good Housekeeping Sparkling like Emmas pawned diamonds. Finally makes us understand why Nelson had to be prized out of Emmas embrace to fight Napoleon. Daily Mail *Englands Mistress* is a wonderful, sparkling biography by the equally wonderful and sparkling Miss Kate Williams. Emma Hamiltons beauty has survived the ages thanks to Romneys obsessive portraits. But now, Kate Williams has also given us Emmas heart and soul, revealing why she captured the fascination of a generation. Amanda Foreman, author of *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire*