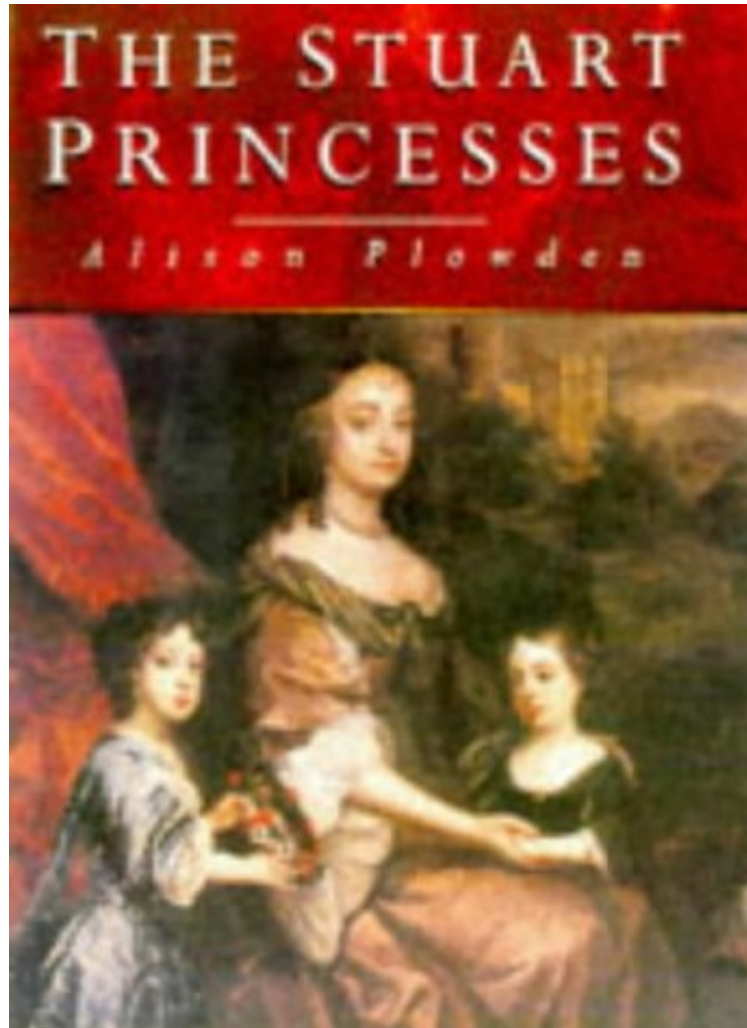


## The Stuart Princess

*Alison Plowden*

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**Alison Plowden : The Stuart Princess** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stuart Princess:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The highs and lows of royal fortune over 100 yearsBy K. MaxwellThis book covers roughly one hundred years of later royal Stuart history, concentrating on the daughters of the dynasty. It starts with the birth of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James 1st and continues through to the reign of Queen Anne, the last Stuart sovereign.We are told something of the lives of most of the women in the Stuart family from 1596 to 1714, however the biographies concentrate on Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, who is better known to history as the Winter Queen, the daughters of Charles 1st, Mary, Princess of Orange, Elizabeth (who died young) and Henriette-Anne (usually known as Minette), favourite sister of Charles II and last of all Queens Mary and Anne, the

last of their house. We are not given individual separate biographies, instead the author has woven the stories of all these royal women in and out of each other as the times changed and their lives intersected. This has resulted in some small loss of detail in some of these lives, but the reigns of Queens Mary and Anne are the most noticeable in only giving you a sketch of their lives on the throne. The lives of the Queen of Bohemia and Minette are probably the best written in detail in this book. Although it may help if you have read something of this period before as the author appears to have made a few assumptions on prior knowledge of basic 'big events' of the period discussed, this is overall a great introduction to the lives of these women, and it is one of the few modern books where you will find biographies of these various ladies all in one place. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A look across the generations

By A Customer  
As a real history buff - especially interested in the Tudors and Stuarts - I really couldn't wait for this book to arrive. I wasn't disappointed! The book is well written, sympathetic without being cloying and a good basis of understanding for these girls and women. I would highly recommend this book for someone interested in history...or anxious to help a sister, daughter or niece become interested!

Written by an established royal biographer, this is a fresh study of the lives of the six princesses of the House of Stuart who lived through the violent, social and political upheavals of the 17th century. One is the direct ancestress of the present British royal family, one was the mother of a king of England, and one died in prison at the age of 14. Another became Madame de France and two were English queens regent. Elizabeth, daughter of James VI and I, at the age of nine attracted the unwelcome attentions of the Gunpowder plotters, who planned to use her as their puppet queen. Later, she and her husband, Frederick, Count Palatine of the Rhine, were crowned King and Queen of Bohemia in the cathedral at Prague, but within a year - in what was to prove the opening engagement of the Thirty Years War - the Imperial Habsburg army drove them into ignominious flight. Known as the "Winter Queen", Elizabeth bore 13 children - among them the famous Cavalier commander Rupert of the Rhine - while her youngest daughter became the mother of the future King George I. Her brother Charles I and his queen, Henrietta Maria, had three surviving daughters. Mary, the eldest, left England at an early age to be married to the Prince of Orange: her only child would one day be King William III. The second girl, Elizabeth, together with the little Duke of Gloucester, fell into the hands of the Parliamentary party early in the Civil War and they were the only members of the family able to say goodbye to their father on the eve of his execution. Henrietta Anne, or Minette, the youngest child, was smuggled out of England disguised as a boy and brought up as a Catholic at the French court. Pretty, clever and popular, she married the unpleasant brother of Louis XIV and was deeply involved in the secret negotiations leading to the Treaty of Dover, before her tragic death at the age of 26. Mary and Anne, the daughters of James II and his first wife, Anne Hyde, were prudently raised as Protestants by their uncle Charles. Mary shed bitter tears when first presented with her cousin and future husband, William of Orange, but soon fell deeply in love and together the couple ruled England after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Anne, the last Stuart sovereign, married George of Denmark but, like her sister, failed to produce an heir, thus leaving the way open for the Winter Queen's German grandson.

"Plowden deploys her extensive knowledge of Tudor and Stuart times to provide a series of skillfully written studies." -- Antonia Fraser, *The London Times*

About the Author  
Alison Plowden worked as a script editor for the BBC before writing many historical biographies, including *Tudor Women*, *Women All on Fire* and *Henrietta Maria*. She lives in Oxfordshire.