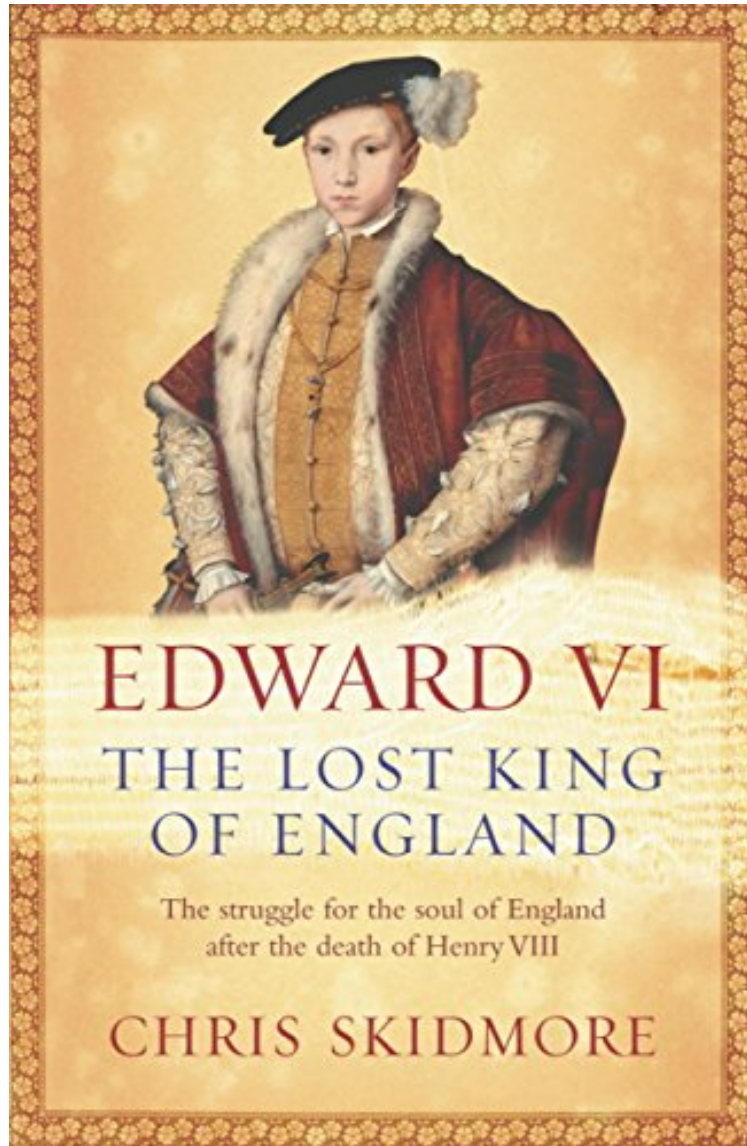


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## Edward VI: The Lost King of England (English Edition)

Von Chris Skidmore

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**Von Chris Skidmore : Edward VI: The Lost King of England (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edward VI: The Lost King of England (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Lost King? Not any longer after having read this book: Edward VI restored to his rightful place in historyVon AmelrodePopular views of the Tudor history seem to regard the 5 years reign of Edward VI as a mere transitional

period between the monumental rule of his father Henry VIII, the disastrous rule of his elder half-sister (Bloody) Queen Mary and the Golden Age of his younger half-sister Elisabeth. Edward seems to be disappearing - in so far as the subtitle the lost King of England justified - and dismissed as the sickly boy king for whose birth the kingdom was turned upside down. Some might remember Mark Twain's novel, *The Prince and the Pauper*, in which the young Edward VI and a pauper boy of identical appearance accidentally replace each other. Was that really the case? Here Chris Skidmore wants us to rethink and see Edward as an educated, quite brilliant, very serious young man who had all the Tudor tracts and had the qualities to be a great king. A bit one is dealing with the big "if-question" .... if he would have lived, what would have been.... Well, that is usually the question asked about the heirs to the throne who died before their accession. But Edward was king. That is a crucial difference. So there is more to judge Edward upon. Our thinking about this child-king is corrupted by hindsight. Because he died young one seems to believe he was always sick, and a mere pawn of his advisers. But this is very wrong. Before his final illness there is no serious history of illness. His reign marked the final transition to Protestantism. While Henry VIII had left the country in a religious limbo, Edward became the first protestant king, a development that the reign of Queen Mary could not revise and was finalized by Elisabeth. Edward was fully behind this. He was a "hard-core" protestant. Even his sombre, highly developed sense of duty and what seems like an impersonal coolness in his dealings with other people proves this. Of course his regents - the Dukes of Somerset and Northumberland - were the driving actual forces, but the king backed and supported this. Too young to assume the day-to-day work of government, did not mean for Edward to delegate the workings of his conscience. Therefore, the famous Device for the Succession which left the crown not to his half sisters but to his very protestant Cousin Lady Jane Grey is not that surprising. While the debate is not yet solved whether the Device originated with the Duke of Northumberland or the king himself, there is a huge possibility that the king was all behind it. At least he signed it and that meant something. Chris Skidmore's book is a balanced and lively account of Edward's reign and personality. He guides the reader through the web of Tudor court politics and the serious religious disputes of the time. After having read this book one can not dismiss this king any longer as the sickly boy king, but sees indeed a man of much conviction and determination. He was after all a Tudor. His determination is however equally dangerous as the one of his half-sister Mary - him for Protestantism, she for Catholicism. Both do not have the greatness of their half-sister Elisabeth. In my assessment both would have never said a line like Elisabeth: There is only one God. The rest is trifle. Religious tolerance would not have been a trademark of Edward's reign had he lived as it was not a sign of Bloody Mary's rule. All in all, after having read Skidmore's book one will never talk about a "lost king". It is great read - lively and engaging, painting a fully rounded picture of Edward VI.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The struggle for the soul of England after the death of Henry VIII In the death of Henry VIII, the crown passed to his nine-year-old son, Edward. However, real power went to the Protector, Edward's uncle, the Duke of Somerset. The court had been a hotbed of intrigue since the last days of Henry VIII. Without an adult monarch, the stakes were even higher. The first challenger was the duke's own brother: he seduced Henry VIII's former queen, Katherine Parr; having married her, he pursued Princess Elizabeth and later was accused of trying to kidnap the boy king at gunpoint. He was beheaded. Somerset ultimately met the same fate, after a coup d'etat organized by the Duke of Warwick. Chris Skidmore reveals how the countrywide rebellions of 1549 were orchestrated by the plotters at court and were all connected to the (literally) burning issue of religion: Henry VIII had left England in religious limbo. Court intrigue, deceit and treason very nearly plunged the country into civil war. Edward was a precocious child, as his letters in French and Latin demonstrate. He kept a secret diary, written partly in Greek, which few of his courtiers could read. In 1551, at the age of 14, he took part in his first jousting tournament, an essential demonstration of physical prowess in a very physical age. Within a year it is his signature we find at the bottom of the Council minutes, yet in early 1553 he contracted a chest infection and later died, rumours circulating that he might have been poisoned. Mary, Edward's eldest sister, and devoted Catholic, was proclaimed Queen. This is more than just a story of bloodthirsty power struggles, but how the Church moved so far along Protestant lines that Mary would be unable to turn the clock back. It is also the story of a boy born to absolute power, whose own writings and letters offer a compelling picture of a life full of promise, but tragically cut short. From Publishers Weekly Skidmore, a Ph.D. candidate in Tudor history and adviser to the British shadow secretary for education, provides a revealing glimpse into the tumultuous six-year reign of Edward VI, who ascended to the English throne in 1547, at the age of 10, following the death of his father, Henry VIII. Edward's youth and brilliant precocity led many to hope his reign would be kinder and gentler than Henry's, and the young monarch was likened to the biblical King Josiah, who dramatically reformed Judah after the tyranny of King Manasseh. Young Edward was scholarly, studied theology and left more than 100 essays, one of them denouncing the papacy. During his reign the Church of England continued to flourish and grow. But Edward's rule was also a time of political, economic and religious crisis marked by intrigue and deceit. His own uncle and adviser, Thomas Seymour, was sent to the block for attempting to kidnap Edward, and his sister Mary

refused to give up the banned Catholic mass. Skidmore's fast-paced biography, which draws on Edward's journals and correspondence, brings this king and his brief reign to vivid life. 16 pages of color photos. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Henry VIII's longed-for son, who was crowned in 1537 at age nine and died just six years later, has always been lost in the shadows behind his father and his sisters, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Edward's own diary is one of the sources Skidmore employed for this account, but the book is really more about the deadly power struggle that characterized the boy-king's reign than it is about the boy himself. Readers are taken through a dense Tudor maze of conspiracy and treachery, beginning with a possible forgery regarding Henry's will. Chief among the players was Edward's controversial uncle Edward Seymour, who managed to have power transferred to himself as Protector of the Realm upon Henry's death, only to end up on the chopping block. So what kind of person was Edward VI? "The most gifted of all his siblings," he loved hunting and other sports, he was a good student, and he was devoted to the cause of religious reform. But he remains in the shadows, since his life was so short. Quinn, Mary Ellen