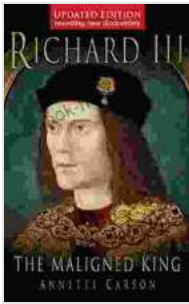


# Richard III: The Maligned King Unveiled



For centuries, the name Richard III has been synonymous with treachery, tyranny, and deformed physicality. Shakespeare's infamous play "Richard III" has cemented a widely held image of the king as a murderous hunchback driven by unquenchable ambition.



## Richard III The Malignant King by Annette Carson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5384 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Lending	: Enabled
Print length	: 481 pages



However, modern scholarship has painted a more nuanced picture of this complex and enigmatic figure. Through careful analysis of historical evidence and contemporary accounts, we can peel back the layers of myth and legend to reveal the true nature of Richard III.

### The Physical Appearance Conundrum

One of the most enduring myths surrounding Richard III is his supposed physical deformity. Historical records describe him as having a "crooked back," but the extent and nature of this affliction remain uncertain.

Some historians believe Richard suffered from scoliosis, while others posit a more severe condition such as kyphosis or lordosis. However, recent examinations of his remains have revealed no evidence of a significant spinal curvature.

It is possible that Richard's hunchback was exaggerated for political reasons by his Tudor successors. They sought to discredit and delegitimize

his reign, painting him as a monstrous villain to justify their own claims to the throne.

## The Wars of the Roses and the Battle of Bosworth

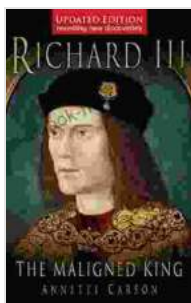
Richard III's reign was marked by the bloody turmoil of the Wars of the Roses, a bitter dynastic conflict between the House of York and the House of Lancaster. Richard himself was a Yorkist, and his rise to power was paved with battle and intrigue.

In 1485, Richard faced his greatest challenge at the Battle of Bosworth Field. His forces were outnumbered and outmaneuvered by those of Henry Tudor, the Lancastrian claimant to the throne. Richard died in the battle, becoming the last English king to fall in combat.

## The Disputed Legacy

Following his defeat and death, Richard III faced a damning condemnation from the Tudor victors. He was portrayed as a usurper, tyrant, and murderer, and his reputation suffered irrevocably.

However, modern histori



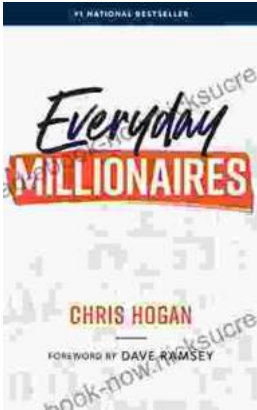
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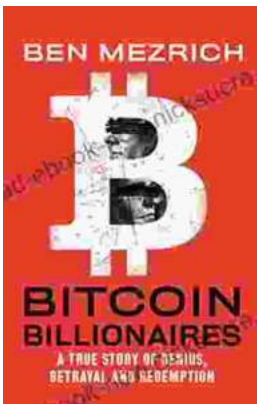
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