



Reading Guide: *A Royal Experiment: Love and Duty, Madness and Betrayal—the Private Lives of King George III and Queen Charlotte* by Janice Hadlow

1. The ancestors of King George III famously did not get along with each other. How did George III attempt to alter this fate with his own immediate family?
2. What word would you use to describe this extended family? Dysfunctional? Misunderstood? Normal? Explain.
3. We often hear about the kings, the Georges, at this time period but what about the wives and queens who played a role in the shaping of this family's dynamic?
 - a. Sophia Dorothea of Celle, George I's estranged wife
 - b. Queen Consort Caroline of Ansbach, George II's wife
 - c. Princess of Wales Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, George III's mother
 - d. Queen Consort Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, George III's wife
 - e. Queen Consort Caroline of Brunswick, George IV's wife
4. What was the Hanoverian attitude to marital fidelity? Who were some of the unfortunate casualties of these attitudes, edicts, and conventions?
5. Are there any families today that could compare to George III and his Hanoverian family?
6. In what ways were George III and Charlotte determined to be different from their predecessors?
7. What role does religion, or faith, play in this family dynamic?
8. Why is this book called *A Royal Experiment*...?
9. What books, philosophers, and social changes influenced child rearing in 18th-century Britain?
10. Do you think there were any "successes" in George and Charlotte's "royal experiment"?

Author Biography

Janice Hadlow has worked at the BBC for more than twenty years. In the last ten years, she managed the BBC Two and BBC Four, the major television channels for the broadcaster. She went to school in Kent and graduated with a first-class history degree from King's College in London. She lives in Bath; *A Royal Experiment* is her first book.

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