



Full colour jacket commissioned based on this (tinted) portrait

# CHARLOTTE & LEOPOLD

## A REGENCY ROMANCE



AUTHOR: JAMES CHAMBERS  
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Praise for *Palmerston, The People's Darling*:

“A rollicking biography, weaving raunchy with realpolitik, told with the bold swagger of Palmerston himself”

Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Daily Telegraph*

- \* The moving, fascinating love story of Leopold and Charlotte – the original “People’s Princess”
- \* *Palmerston, The People's Darling* (John Murray, 2004) received universal critical acclaim
- \* *The Daily Telegraph History of the British Empire* (1997) sold over 250,000 copies

The tragic story of the doomed romance between Charlotte, heir to the English throne, and Leopold, uncle of Queen Victoria and first King of the Belgians. A story that Jane Austen famously declined to tell, declaring: “I could no more write a romance than an epic poem.” Charlotte was the only legitimate royal child of her generation, and her death in childbirth – the result of medical incompetence and ill-fortune – was followed by an unseemly scramble to produce a substitute heir. Queen Victoria was the product.

Chambers masterfully demonstrates how the personal and the political inevitably collide in scheming post-Napoleonic Europe, offering a vivid and sympathetic portrait of a couple whose lives are in many ways not their own. From the day she was born, Charlotte won the hearts of her subjects and yet behind the scenes she was used, abused and victimised by rivalries - between her parents; between her Father (the Prince Regent, later George IV) and (Mad King) George III; between her tutors, governesses and other members of her discordant household; and ultimately between the Whig opposition and the Tory government.

Set in one of the most glamorous eras of British history, against the background of a famously dysfunctional royal family, *Charlotte & Leopold – A Regency Romance* is a moving, sometimes funny and always entertaining royal biography with an alluring contemporary resonance.

“Elegant, ironic...even those who would not normally read political biography will enjoy [*Palmerston*] for the quality of its writing and the exuberance of its hero.” Andrew Roberts, *Sunday Telegraph*

James Chambers was born in Northern Ireland and educated at Oxford. He has written many books, including *Palmerston, The People's Darling*, *The English House*, *The Daily Telegraph History of the British Empire* and *The Devil's Horsemen*. He has also written extensively for TV (*Flying Through History*, *Secrets of the Landscape*, *Ghenghis Khan* and others) and made countless appearances on TV and Radio. He also captained the British Fencing Team and represented Britain at The Olympic Games.

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