



# Lionheart: The True Story of England's Crusader King

*Douglas Boyd*

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**Lionheart: The True Story of England's Crusader King** Douglas Boyd  
**A revealing look at the dark side of England's most celebrated monarch**

When people think of Richard the Lionheart they recall the scene at the end of every Robin Hood epic when he returns from the crusade to punish his treacherous brother John and the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham. In reality Richard detested England and the English, was deeply troubled by his own sexuality and was noted for greed, not generosity, and for murder rather than mercy. In youth Richard showed no interest in girls, but a taste for cruelty and a greed for gold that would literally be the death of him. To save his own skin, he repeatedly abandoned his supporters to an evil fate, and his lack of interest in women saw the part of queen at his coronation played by his formidable mother, Queen Eleanor. His brief reign bankrupted England twice, destabilized the powerful empire his parents had put together and set the scene for his brother's ruinous rule. So how has Richard come to be known as the noble Christian hero associated with such bravery and patriotism? *Lionheart* reveals the scandalous truth about England's hero king—a truth that is far different to the myth that has endured for eight centuries.

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