

Powerless

Den afmægtige - en biografi om Christian den 7.

by Ulrik Langen



SPECIFICATIONS

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Christian VII has largely been portrayed as a rather comical minor figure in Danish history. But how much do we really know about the king? *Powerless* is the first book to offer a vivid insight into the life of the highly gifted and quick-witted monarch, as he spiralled from dazzling beginnings and great promise into loneliness and fear.

Christian VII was not yet seventeen when he ascended the throne in 1766. Behind him lay an upbringing marred by cruelty and abuse, while ahead lay life as the absolute ruler of a complex kingdom. His greatest challenge was to keep a cool head in a court riven by power struggles, intrigues and animosity. In the space of a few short years, a series of dramatic events changed the course of the young king's life, the affair between Queen Caroline Matilda and the royal physician Struensee being only one of them.

Powerless is the first book to offer a vivid insight into the life of the highly gifted and quick-witted king, as he spiralled from dazzling beginnings and great promise into an existence characterised by profound loneliness and fear.

Ulrik Langen, PhD, is a professor of history at the University of Copenhagen. His books include *Shadows of the Revolution: French Emigrants and Other Peoples in Copenhagen, 1789–1914* (*Revolutionens skygger: Franske emigranter og andre folk i København, 1789–1914*) (2005), which was awarded the History Book of the Year prize.

In 2010 he received, in collaboration with Peter Henningsen, the 2010 History Book of the Year prize for *The Dog-Killer of Vimmelskiftet*, and *Other Stories from Eighteenth-Century Copenhagen* (*Hundemordet i Vimmelskiftet – og andre fortællinger fra 1700-tallets København*) (2010). Ulrik Langen is also well known for hosting 'The History Quiz' for The Danish National TV and in 2012 he worked as a consultant on the hugely successful Oscar and Golden Globe nominated movie *A Royal Affair* (2012) which was sold to almost 80 countries.