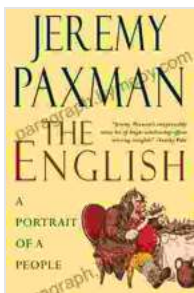# The English Portrait of People: Capturing the Spirit of a Nation

The English have a long and rich tradition of portraiture, dating back to the Middle Ages. Over the centuries, English artists have captured the faces and figures of kings and queens, nobles and commoners, men and women from all walks of life. These portraits offer a unique window into the history of England, and they provide a fascinating glimpse into the ways in which the English have seen themselves and each other.

The English: A Portrait of a People by Jeremy Paxman

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 764 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 317 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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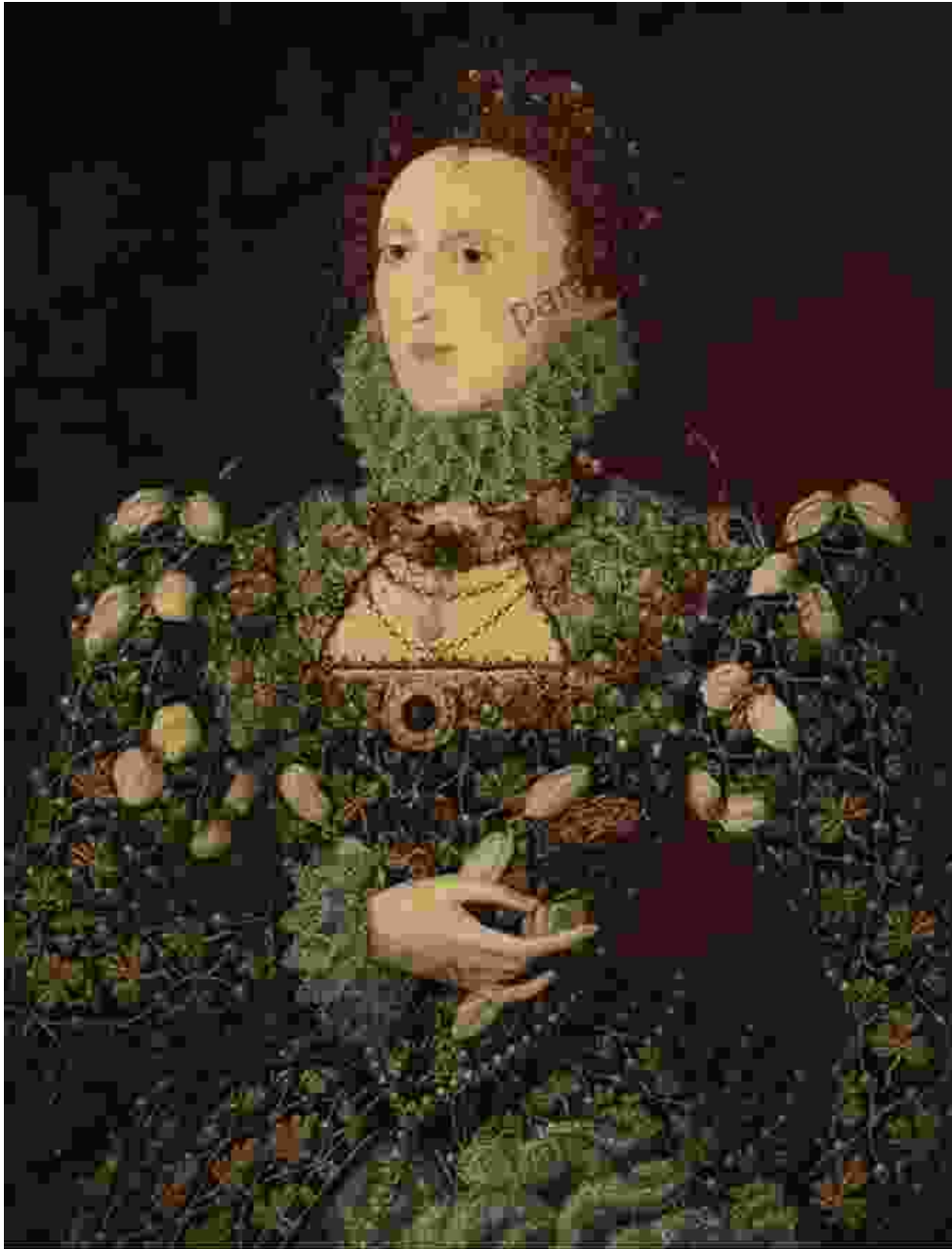## The Tudor Period

The Tudor period (1485-1603) saw the rise of a new style of portraiture in England. This style was characterized by its realism and attention to detail. Artists such as Hans Holbein the Younger and Nicholas Hilliard produced iconic portraits of the Tudor monarchs and their courtiers. These portraits

captured the power and majesty of the Tudor dynasty, but they also revealed the human side of its members.

Portrait of Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard, c. 1575.

The Stuart Period

The Stuart period (1603-1714) saw a continuation of the realist style of portraiture that had developed during the Tudor period. However, Stuart artists also began to experiment with new techniques and styles. Artists such as Anthony van Dyck and Peter Lely produced elegant and sophisticated portraits of the Stuart monarchs and their courtiers. These portraits reflected the growing wealth and power of the English aristocracy.

The Georgian Period

The Georgian period (1714-1830) saw a change in the style of portraiture in England. Artists such as Thomas Gainsborough and Joshua Reynolds began to produce more naturalistic and informal portraits of their subjects. These portraits captured the warmth and humanity of their subjects, and they reflected the growing emphasis on individualism in Georgian society.

Portrait of Georgiana Cavendish by Thomas Gainsborough, c. 1785.

The Victorian Period

The Victorian period (1837-1901) saw a return to a more formal style of portraiture in England. Artists such as John Everett Millais and George Frederic Watts produced grand and imposing portraits of their subjects. These portraits reflected the Victorian era's emphasis on respectability and social status.
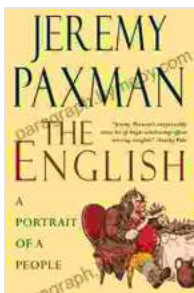
The 20th Century

The 20th century saw a radical change in the style of portraiture in England. Artists such as Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud produced portraits that were often raw and unflinching. These portraits challenged traditional notions of beauty and perfection, and they reflected the tumultuous events of the 20th century.

Portrait of Francis Bacon by Lucian Freud, c. 1976.

The English Portrait of People is a fascinating exploration of the unique ways in which English artists have depicted their fellow countrymen and women over the centuries. From the iconic portraits of the Tudor period to the groundbreaking works of the 20th century, this book offers a comprehensive overview of the development of English portraiture. With insightful essays by leading scholars and stunning reproductions of key works, The English Portrait of People is a must-have for anyone interested in the history of art or English culture.
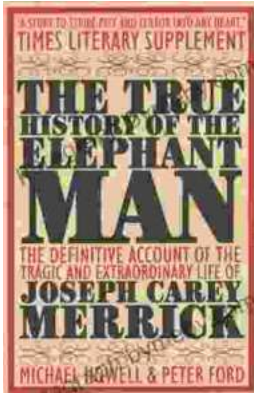
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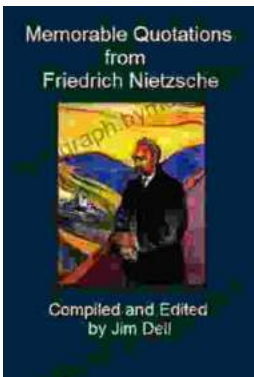|	
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