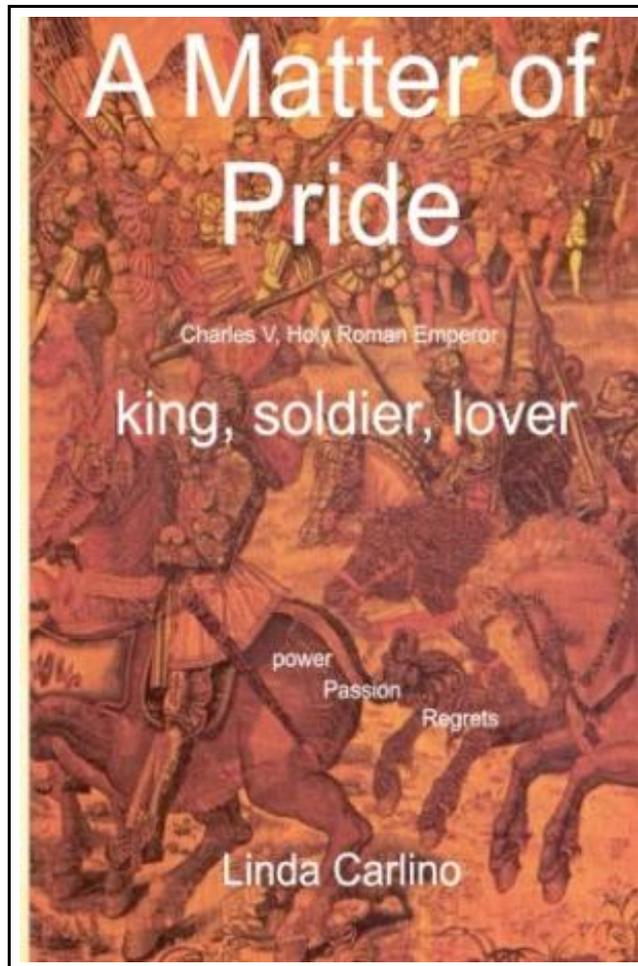


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VeritasPublishing. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 358 pages. Brief synopsisA Matter of Pride(Charles V, HRE)From the very start the all-knowing narrator brings you right into the story with a warm personal welcome, offering a few revealing and intimate details so almost immediately the reader feels like one of the characters in the novel. It is a story which is at times very sad, at others very funny. In 1557 a prematurely aged, ill, and very irritable and grumbling Charles V, HRE, (Carlos I of Spain) retires to an isolated monastery in western Spain accompanied by his lifelong friend now his major-domo, his secretary, his doctor, and a few servants. He suffers from chronic painful gout, crippling arthritis and excruciatingly painful piles. He has to be carried around in a chair and continually washed and pampered with vinegar bandages. He has lost most of his teeth and the sight of him eating was offensive to the eye and stomach. Food is sloshed and squashed about in his mouth before being sluiced down his throat with a good swilling of wine or beer. As you can imagine, murmurs the narrator, he prefers to dine alone, and his companions are more than happy when he does. Through his staff and servants and by the authors clever use of her all-knowing and very amusing narrator who gossips regularly with us we learn much more about Carlos and we begin to wonder whether this querulous, beer-swilling, belching gourmand, womaniser and egotist could possibly have been a great emperor. His temper rages at the bastard merchants, who had refused him gold and are to be taught a lesson on the rack, as well as at the son of a whore in the choir who is singing off key. He views himself as a great victorious military...



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