

PRESS RELEASE

Samuel Pepys and the Strange Wrecking of the Gloucester

Nigel Pickford

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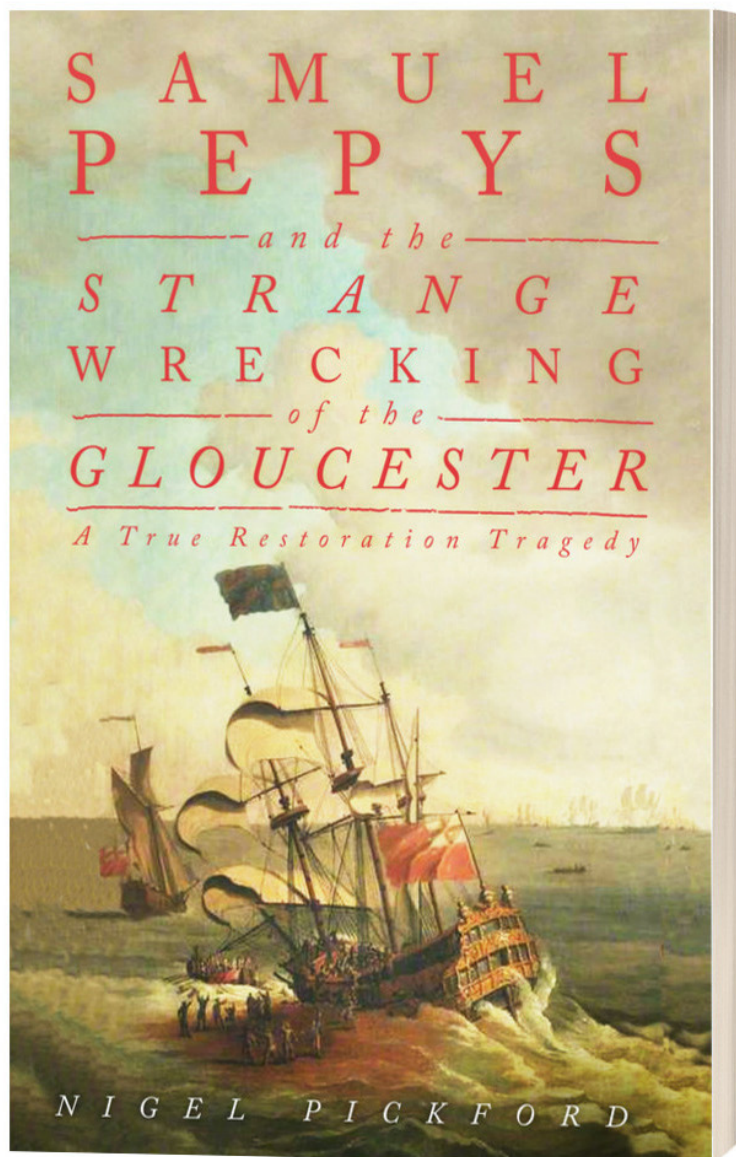
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The true story of royal intrigue and a fatal shipwreck on the shores of Restoration Britain

In 1682, **Charles II** invited his scandalous younger brother, **James, Duke of York**, to return from exile and take his rightful place as heir to the throne. To celebrate, the future king set sail in a fleet of eight ships destined for Edinburgh, where he would reunite with his young pregnant wife. Yet disaster struck en route, somewhere off the Norfolk coast. The royal frigate in which he sailed, the **Gloucester**, sank, causing some 200 sailors and courtiers to perish.



The diarist **Samuel Pepys** had been asked to sail with James but refused the invitation, preferring to travel in one of the other ships. Why? What did he know that others did not? **Nigel Pickford's** compelling account of the catastrophe draws on a richness of historical material including letters, diaries and ships' logs, revealing for the first time the full drama and tragic consequences of a shipwreck that shook **Restoration Britain**.

Nigel Pickford is a maritime historian and works as a consultant for salvage companies, helping to locate shipwrecks and recover lost cargo and treasure. His previous books include *Lady Bette* and *the Murder of Mr Thynn*.

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