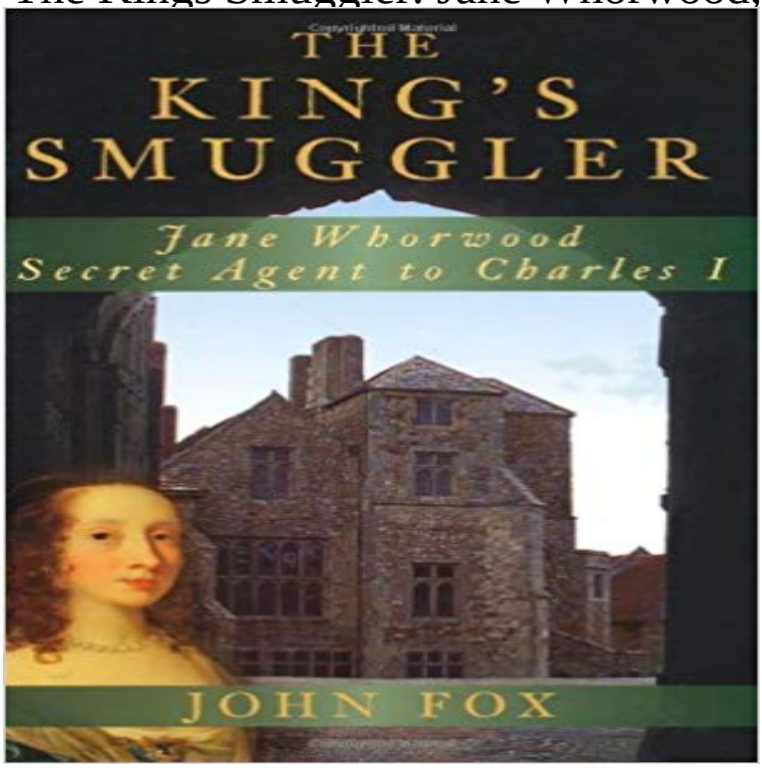
The Kings Smuggler: Jane Whorwood, Secret Agent to Charles I



Jane Whorwood was one of Charles Is closest confidantes. The wife of an Oxfordshire squire, when the court moved to Oxford in 1642, at the start of the Civil War, she helped the royalist cause by spying for the king, and smuggling gold (perhaps as much as 1,000 kg) to help pay for his army. When Charles was held captive by the Parliamentarians, from 1646 to 1649, she organized money, correspondence, several escape attempts, astrological advice, and a ship for him. New evidence even suggests that they may have had a brief affair. After his execution in 1649, Janes marriage collapsed in the one of the most public and acrimonious cases of the seventeenth century. John Fox describes the life of this fascinating woman, and the important role she played in the English Civil War.

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