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**HEAD
OVER HEELS**

Prince Philip's pet name for Elizabeth was "Cabbage," which some speculate came from the French term of endearment "mon petit chou," or "my little cabbage."

THE LOVE OF HER LIFE

FALLING FOR PHILIP

ELIZABETH WAS SMITTEN WHEN SHE MET HER DASHING DISTANT COUSIN, PRINCE PHILIP OF GREECE. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

QUEEN ELIZABETH II HAS SAID THAT she doesn't recall her initial meeting with her future husband, Prince Philip, but the pair first encountered each other at a family wedding in 1934, where Philip's cousin Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark wed Elizabeth's uncle, Prince George, Duke of Kent. The princess was just 8 at the time and Philip was 13. They crossed paths again at King George VI's coronation in 1937. But it wasn't until 1939, when the third cousins—both great-great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria—spent more time with each other, with Philip making a lasting impression on the princess. Elizabeth was on a trip with her parents to Britain's Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, where Philip was a cadet. The 18-year-old was tasked with watching over Elizabeth, 13, and her younger sister, Margaret, 9, while the king and queen attended to official business.

Elizabeth was immediately smitten with the tall, athletic and handsome Philip, who was an extrovert with a quick wit and appeared quite worldly to the young princess. He had lived in Greece, France, Germany and the

U.K., while she had only lived in England, where she was homeschooled. (Born Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, he and his family had been exiled from the Mediterranean country when he was just 18 months old.)

Young Elizabeth "was truly in love from the very beginning," her cousin Margaret Rhodes wrote in 2012's *The Final Curtsey: A Royal Memoir by the Queen's Cousin*. Elizabeth's governess Marion Crawford confirmed this in her 1950 memoir *The Little Princesses*, declaring that Elizabeth was drawn to Philip's striking "Viking" looks, "she never took her eyes off of him" and that she would turn "pink-faced" every time she saw him. Meanwhile, Crawford noted that Philip, five years Elizabeth's senior, "did not pay her special attention" at the time of the Dartmouth meeting.

Soon after, though, Philip and Elizabeth began writing letters to each other while he was serving in the Mediterranean and Pacific fleets during World War II. Love was blossoming. Elizabeth kept Philip's photo on her mantel, while the first lieutenant carried her picture with him during the war.

During shore leave, Philip came to visit Elizabeth at Windsor Castle and Balmoral, the royal family's estate in the Scottish Highlands. Once the war ended, Philip returned to London for good in March 1946 and frequently visited Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.

During the summer of 1946, things turned more serious. While Philip was on a monthlong visit with the princess' family at Balmoral, he proposed to Elizabeth, and she said "yes" immediately. King George VI gave his blessing to the marriage—even though he and wife Queen Elizabeth both felt their daughter was still too young to marry—on the condition that they kept their engagement a secret and announced it after her 21st birthday, the following April. The long-delayed engagement announcement came on July 9, 1947, followed by the couple's formal introduction to society the next day at a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Just days before their wedding, King George VI bestowed upon his future son-in-law the titles Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich. But he would remain most popularly known as Prince Philip.

While the king liked Philip, even remarking—according to biographer Sally Bedell Smith—that he was "intelligent, has a good sense of humor and thinks about things in the right way," other members of the royal family didn't look at the future royal consort quite as favorably. Clive Irving, the author of 2020's *The Last Queen: How Queen Elizabeth II Saved the Monarchy*, told NBC News, "Before they got married, there was a lot of hesitancy in the court and palace about whether he was the right match."

Philip did not have the titles seen as a prerequisite for marrying a future queen. He was seen as a foreign interloper—and a penniless one at that. His Danish royal family that had ruled in Greece was predominantly German, which was decidedly unfavorable during and shortly after World War II. On top of that, three of Philip's older sisters had married German aristocrats, some of whom had later joined the Nazi party. His mother, Princess Alice, was committed to a sanatorium with schizophrenia when Philip was 9, later becoming a nun, while his father, Prince Andrew, lived in Monte Carlo with a mistress. Philip also had no real

money to his name. In fact, when his father died in 1944, he left him only personal affects, the most valuable of which (both monetarily and sentimentally) was a signet ring that Philip would wear for the rest of his life.

But Elizabeth didn't care what others thought of Philip—she knew she had made the right decision. Years later, at a luncheon celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in London on Nov. 20, 1997, she gave her husband the accolades she thought he more than deserved. "He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments, but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know."

In a toast to his wife at the same event, the duke said, "I think the main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient in any happy marriage...you can take it from me, the queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance."

They were devoted companions during their 73 years of marriage, right up until Philip died on April 9, 2021. ♦

{ HER SOLEMN VOW }

Ironically, Queen Elizabeth II gave her most-quoted speech while she was still a princess. It occurred seven years after her first royal radio speech during World War II and five years before she became queen. At the time, the speech was thought to have been given live from Cape Town, South Africa, where Elizabeth was on tour with her parents and sister, and broadcast to thousands on BBC radio. But according to Robert Hardman, author of *Queen of the World*, it was actually prerecorded in what is now Zimbabwe and then aired a week later on her 21st birthday—April 21, 1947.

Regardless, the speech she gave—declaring her dedication to her future role as head of the Commonwealth—was an

overwhelming success. As she thanked people around the world for their birthday wishes, the future monarch said, "This is a happy day for me; but it is also one that brings serious thoughts, thoughts of life looming ahead with all its challenges and with all its opportunity." Then came her most memorable and often quoted line: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

The speech—written by journalist Dermot Morrah—not only brought the then-princess to tears but is even said to have done the same to the formidable British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



Philip secretly proposed. "I don't think he even sought permission from the king first, he did it afterwards," said royal biographer Robert Jobson.

OFFICIAL PORTRAIT

While they looked serious, film from their photo shoot showed the royals laughing with Philip.

The History of Her Ring

Queen Elizabeth II has access to the most exquisite jewels in the world, but the one ring she has worn the most often—and rarely takes off—is her beloved 3-carat round-diamond engagement ring given to her by Philip in 1946. The beautiful center stone, and 10 smaller pavé diamonds flanking it, were all originally set in a tiara owned by Prince Philip's mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, who had been gifted the tiara on her wedding day in 1903 by her cousin Czar Nicholas II and Czarina Alexandra of Russia, who was her aunt. Philip worked closely with London jeweler Philip Antrobus to repurpose the diamonds for the ring—and a bracelet that he gave to the future queen as a wedding gift.



A HAPPY DAY

FAIRY-TALE WEDDING

TWO HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TUNED IN TO HEAR THE COUPLE SAY “I DO.” *By Patty Adams Martinez*

THE WEDDING OF PRINCESS ELIZABETH and Prince Philip may have only taken place two years after the end of World War II, but it was anything but an understated affair—with 2,000 people in attendance at Westminster Abbey the morning of Nov. 20, 1947; thousands of well-wishers lining the streets of London to celebrate their nuptials; and more than 200 million people on six continents listening to the royal ceremony on BBC radio.

Elizabeth and her father, King George VI, arrived in an Irish State Coach, waving to the crowd. “It was

an entrance of drama and beauty that no Hollywood fantasia could equal as King George, in naval uniform, and Princess Elizabeth, in her lovely white and gold wedding gown, stood framed in the doorway,” *The New York Times* reported.

The bride’s breathtaking, long-sleeve gown was designed by royal couturier Norman Hartnell and made out of ivory duchess satin with a fitted bodice and heart-shaped neckline. It was exquisitely covered in 10,000 seed pearls imported from America, and innumerable sequins and crystals hand-embroidered

{ POSTWAR WEDDING WOES }

At the time Elizabeth was planning her wedding, the U.K. was still recovering from the devastation caused by World War II. Everyone was getting by on ration coupons for food and clothing (in a sign of the times, the U.S. shipped 50,000 food packages to the couple in honor of their wedding that were distributed to war widows and families in need). Hundreds of citizens sent the bride-to-be their own coupons to help pay for her dress. However, it would have been illegal for her to use them, so they were all returned. Elizabeth (pictured with her gown on her diamond wedding anniversary in 2007) is said to have stockpiled her coupons and was given a bit of special treatment and granted an extra 200 coupons by the government to pay for a gown worthy of a princess.



LOVE AND HONOR

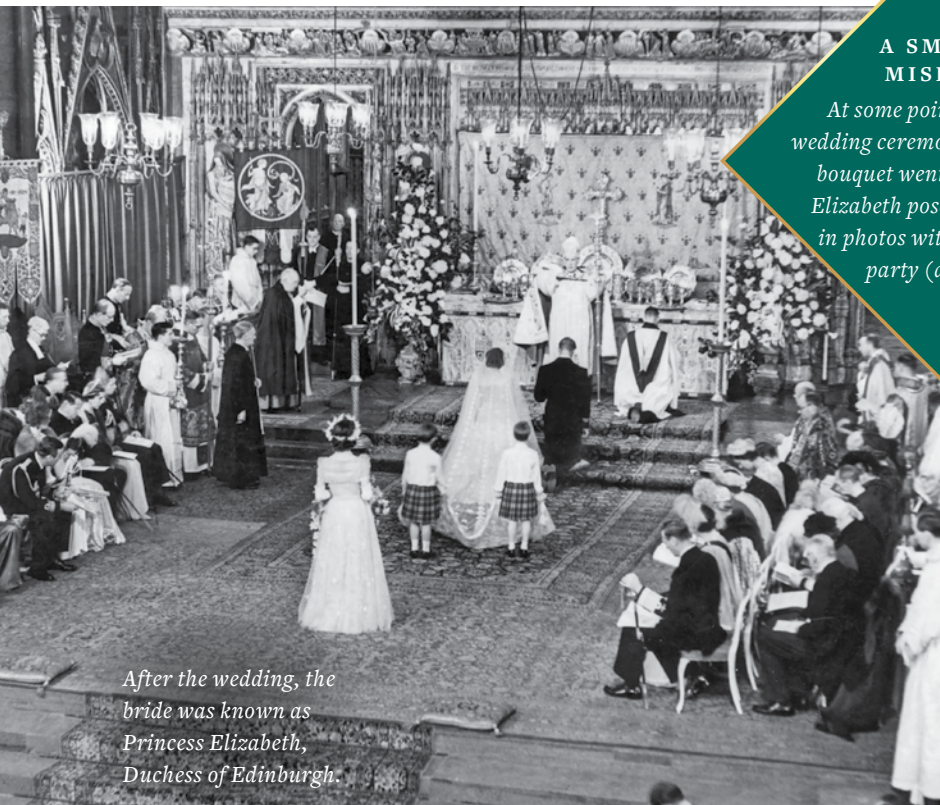
“He told me his job, first, second and last, was never to let her down,” Philip’s private secretary said.



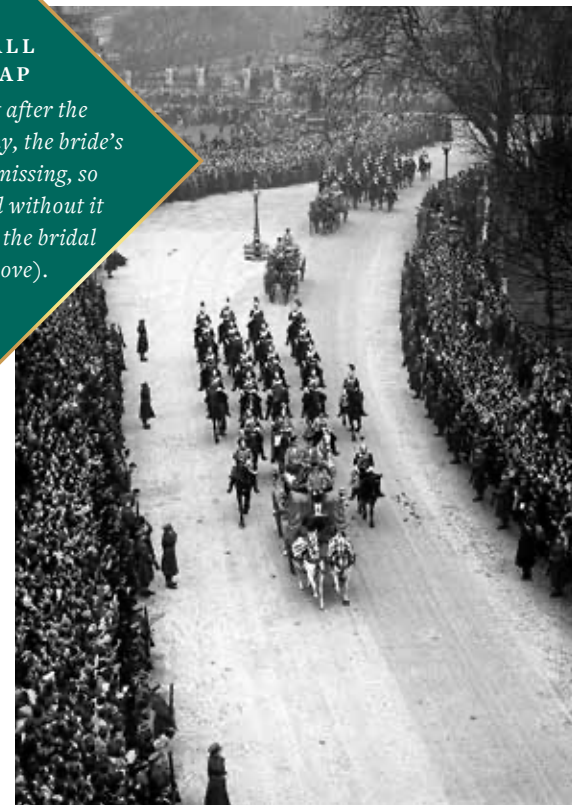


A SMALL MISHAP

At some point after the wedding ceremony, the bride's bouquet went missing, so Elizabeth posed without it in photos with the bridal party (above).



After the wedding, the bride was known as Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh.



They headed to their honeymoon in a horse-drawn carriage.



There was no kiss on the balcony at the palace.

to cover the dress and 15-foot train. It took 350 seamstresses and embroiderers nearly two months to create the masterpiece that was said to be inspired by Botticelli's painting "Primavera."

The designer wanted the silver and gold embroidered star lilies, roses, orange blossoms and ears of wheat to symbolize rebirth, renewal and growth—a sign of hope for the recovering postwar country. Hartnell also added in a special embellishment, a four-leaf shamrock on the skirt, so Elizabeth, 21, could rest her hand on it for good luck. The groom, 26, wore his naval uniform.

Following in royal tradition, Elizabeth's "something borrowed" was a tiara from her grandmother Queen Mary, which was fashioned from diamonds given to her by Queen Victoria as a wedding present in 1893. But while Elizabeth was getting ready at Buckingham Palace the morning of her wedding, the tiara snapped. Luckily, Gerrard, the royal jeweler, was on hand. With only two hours till the ceremony, the tiara was rushed to the jeweler's workshop to weld it back together. If you look closely at wedding photos, though, you can see evidence of the break, as there is more space to the right of the center stone than to the left.

Unfortunately for the couple, that wasn't the only wedding mishap. Elizabeth also realized she had left two strands of pearls—wedding presents from her parents that once belonged to Queen Anne and Queen Caroline—at St James's Palace, where more than 2,500 of their wedding gifts were being displayed. Elizabeth's private secretary was tasked with retrieving the necklaces, which matched the princess' pearl-and-diamond earrings. He took off by car, but when crowds were too overwhelming to navigate, he had to run by foot to secure them in time.

The princess' eight bridesmaids—dressed in white silk and silver lamé gowns and flower crowns—feared there was a third fiasco when the bride's bouquet of white orchids with a sprig of

myrtle (a royal tradition dating back to Queen Victoria) appeared to go missing. But instead, it was just put in a chiller to prevent the flowers from wilting. The day after the wedding, the flowers were transported back to Westminster Abbey where they were laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (a royal tradition carried out to this day).

Prince Philip wasn't spared from the wedding chaos—he had his own mishap when he was pulled over in central London for speeding the day of the wedding rehearsal. The prince reportedly apologized to the police officer and told him that he had to hurry as he had an "appointment with the Archbishop of Canterbury."

The ceremony, officiated by the archbishop, Geoffrey Fisher, and the Archbishop of York, Cyril Garbett, included the hymns "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" and "The Lord's Prayer," and featured a 91-person choir. But the service was not without controversy—some thought the future queen should not have vowed to "obey" her husband when she was the one in line for the throne, not him.

But once Philip placed the wedding band on Elizabeth's left hand, made out of a nugget of Welsh gold (an ongoing royal tradition), and the two were pronounced man and wife, all was well. After the service, the newlyweds were joined by 150 guests at Buckingham Palace for a lavish breakfast served at lunchtime in the Ball-Supper Room—featuring Filet de Sole Mountbatten, Partridge Casserole and Bombe Glacée Princess Elizabeth. The couple received 11 cakes from well-wishers, but the official four-tier, 9-foot-high cake was created by McVitie & Price. The decadent dessert (pictured far left) was made from ingredients sourced around the world, including sugar all the way from Australia, which helped earn its nickname "The 10,000 Mile Cake."

Decorated with both family's coats of arms and the monograms of the bride and groom, the cake was cut using the prince's Mountbatten sword, a gift from

his new father-in-law. Rather than give a long speech, King George VI kept his comments brief at the breakfast, declaring his daughter "was marrying the man that she loves." He later sent Elizabeth a more in-depth letter, writing, "I was so proud of you and thrilled at having you so close to me on your long walk in Westminster Abbey, but when I handed your hand to the Archbishop I felt that I had lost something very precious. You were so calm and composed during the service and said your words with such conviction, that I knew everything was all right." ♦

Sacrifices for Love

While Philip appeared to relish his position as consort to Queen Elizabeth II for seven decades, he had to give up a number of things in order to marry her. He relinquished his title as Prince of Greece and Denmark and his place in the line of succession to the Greek throne. He was also naturalized as a British citizen, taking his maternal grandparents' surname Mountbatten, and was confirmed in the Church of England after being baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. He wasn't even allowed to invite his three surviving sisters to his wedding (as they were married to German aristocrats, some of whom had ties to the Nazi party). The one thing he voluntarily gave up? Smoking, on the day of his wedding, because Philip knew that his new bride was not a fan of her father's bad habit. All small sacrifices for the love of his life.



MARRY ME

HERE COME THE BRIDES

A LOOK BACK AT ROYAL WEDDINGS—AND GOWNS—THROUGH THE YEARS. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

Prince Charles & Lady Diana Spencer

When your engagement ring is a 12-carat sapphire surrounded by diamonds, high expectations are already set for a memorable wedding. Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son, Prince Charles, 32, and Lady Diana Spencer, 20, did not disappoint! "The Wedding of the Century" took place on July 29, 1981, at St Paul's Cathedral in London, where 3,500 guests witnessed their "I do's." An estimated 600,000 well-wishers lined the processional route, and the wedding was broadcast in 74 countries and watched by 750 million people. With all eyes on her, Diana—dressed in a custom taffeta creation with a stunning 25-foot train by husband-and-wife designers David and Elizabeth Emanuel—was so nervous that during her vows she mixed up Charles' lengthy name, Charles Philip Arthur George by putting "Philip" in front of "Charles." Unlike the queen, she opted to omit the word "obey" in her wedding vows. At the reception, the couple had 27 wedding cakes, including a multi-tiered fruit cake (a royal family favorite) that stood 5-feet tall and weighed 255 pounds. After welcoming their two sons, Princes William and Harry, the future king and the Princess of Wales split in 1992, finalizing their divorce almost four years later. Charles went on to wed former girlfriend Camilla Parker Bowles in a civil ceremony in April 2005.

TO OBEY OR NOT OBEY
Diana was the first royal bride to omit the word "obey" from her vows; Kate and Meghan did the same.



Prince William & Kate Middleton

On their big day, April 29, 2011, two billion (yes, billion!) people around the world cheered on college sweethearts, Prince William, 28, and Kate Middleton, 29, as they were married at Westminster Abbey in London. Kate arrived in a 1997 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI with her father, Michael Middleton, then walked down the aisle in front of 1,900 guests (including Elton John, David and Victoria Beckham, and Guy Ritchie) in a long-sleeve, lace-covered organza-and-tulle dress with an almost 9-foot train, designed by Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen. Kate's "something borrowed" was the queen's Cartier Halo tiara, a gift from the Queen Mother on Elizabeth's 18th birthday. William looked dashing in a vibrant red Irish Guards Mounted Officer's uniform. After the ceremony, the couple enjoyed a luncheon at Buckingham Palace with 600 guests and took to the balcony to witness a Royal Air Force flyover, wave to well-wishers, and kiss—not once but twice—for the assembled crowds.

Prince Harry & Meghan Markle

Because Thomas Markle Sr. was not in attendance at his daughter's wedding on May 18, 2018, Meghan Markle, 36, walked herself down the first half of the aisle in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle (a first for a royal bride). Midway, her future father-in-law, Prince Charles, met her and escorted her to the altar. British-born Givenchy designer Clare Waight Keller created the bride's understated three-quarter-sleeve silk gown with an elegantly draped boat neck, which she paired with a 16-and-a-half-foot veil covered in flowers that also incorporated a piece of blue fabric from the dress she wore on her very first date with Prince Harry. Meghan borrowed the Queen Mary Bandeau tiara from Queen Elizabeth, which hadn't been worn in public in over half a century. The groom, 33, was granted special permission by his grandmother to wear his Blues and Royals military uniform—which is usually reserved for active servicemen only—and a beard, which is never allowed to be worn while in uniform.





Princess Margaret & Antony Armstrong-Jones

When Princess Margaret, 29, wed photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones, 30, on May 6, 1960, they made history as the first royal wedding to be televised. The younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II was married at Westminster Abbey in front of 2,000 guests, with a reported 300 million viewers watching on TV. Since her father, King George VI, had passed away in 1952, Margaret's brother-in-law Prince Philip escorted her down the aisle. The princess' Norman Hartnell silk organza gown with long sleeves and a full skirt paired well with the Poltimore tiara she purchased at auction, as well as a cathedral-length veil, a rivière necklace of 34 diamonds given to her by her grandmother Queen Mary, and a bouquet of white orchids and lily of the valley. The groom wore a traditional morning suit. Unfortunately, the Countess and Earl of Snowdon didn't get their happily ever after. In 1976, they separated after 16 years and two children. Two years later, the pair made history again by becoming the first royals to divorce since Henry VIII in 1540.

Princess Anne & Captain Mark Phillips

In front of 1,500 guests and 500 million TV viewers worldwide, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Princess Anne, 23, married British Army Captain Mark Phillips, 25, on Nov. 14, 1973 (which also happened to be her older brother Prince Charles' 25th birthday). The Princess Royal's embroidered Tudor-style gown—designed by Maureen Baker, chief designer for Susan Small—had a high collar, high waist, trumpet sleeves and a 7-foot train. The gown was accessorized with diamond cluster earrings and atop a parted beehive updo sat the Queen Mary Fringe tiara (which her mother also wore on her big day). Phillips, meanwhile, wore the full red-and-blue dress uniform of his regiment, the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The fellow equestrians met at a horse-riding event in Mexico City in 1968. So, it's no surprise that their hexagon-shaped wedding cake was topped with a statue of a female jockey leaping a fence. Nearly 16 years later, in April 1989, the marriage was rocked when Anne's love letters from Timothy Laurence—a commander in the Royal Navy, who served as an equerry, or aide, to the queen from 1986 to 1989—were stolen from her briefcase and sold to *The Sun* newspaper. Anne and Mark announced their separation in August 1989, before divorcing in 1992. She and her new love wed in Scotland (where the church allows second marriages for divorcees) on Dec. 12, 1992, in front of 30 guests with Anne dressed modestly in a white dress and suit jacket.



Prince Andrew & Sarah Ferguson

The Queen's third child, Prince Andrew, wed Sarah Ferguson, both 26, on July 23, 1986, at Westminster Abbey. Andrew wore the ceremonial day dress uniform of a Royal Navy lieutenant, while Fergie donned a scoop-neck ivory duchesse satin gown with three-quarter puff sleeves and a full skirt designed by Lidka Cierach. It featured intricate beadwork of hearts, anchors and waves (for Andrew's sailing background), and bumblebees and thistles, taken from the Ferguson family coat of arms. (The bride's requests for teddy bears, lovebirds and helicopters were nixed by the designer.) The 17-foot train had their initials, A and S, intertwined in silver beads, and the bride topped her fiery hair with a flower crown of gardenias and a 20-foot veil. After the wedding, the new Duchess of York took off the fragrant gardenia headpiece, revealing the York tiara, a gift from her mother-in-law, the queen. Prince Edward was his older brother's best man, while Prince Charles gave a reading during the service. As the couple exchanged vows, nervous Sarah mistakenly repeated "Christian" in Andrew's long name, Andrew Albert Christian Edward. Six years later, after welcoming daughters Beatrice and Eugenie, the couple announced their separation and divorced in May 1996. The two remain close friends, with Sarah living with her husband for several years at Royal Lodge in Windsor and the pair often vacationing together.

Prince Edward & Sophie Rhys-Jones

Dubbed "the people's wedding" by the press, the queen's youngest child, Prince Edward, 35, and PR consultant Sophie Rhys-Jones, 34, wed on June 19, 1999, at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. For a more relaxed feel, the laid-back couple requested their 550 guests—who included Harry Connick Jr., John Travolta and Tom Jones—wear evening attire rather than court dress, and no hats (of course, that rule did not apply to the queen!). Sophie shined in a silk organza Samantha Shaw dress decorated with 325,000 crystals

and pearls and a black-and-white pearl cross necklace and earrings set given to her by Edward. He, in turn, wore the 18-karat gold pocket watch she gave him, along with a traditional waistcoat, yellow vest and a very non-traditional tie covered in blue-and-yellow cats. On the way out of the church, the new Earl of Wessex declined photographers' requests to kiss the new Countess of Wessex for a photo op. Instead, they waved to well-wishers and then joined a procession of carriages to the reception at St George's Hall.



Kate Middleton's bouquet with a sprig of myrtle.



5 Royal Wedding Traditions

1 | The first rule of royal weddings is that the queen is in charge. No, really. According to the Royal Marriages Act of 1772, royals must ask the monarch for permission to marry and she also has final approval over the bride's gown. The act was later changed to only apply to the first six people in line to the throne.

2 | The bridesmaids and pageboys are to be from the royal side of the family (Harry and Meghan broke this rule with the bride attended by friends' kids).

3 | All wedding bouquets are to contain a sprig of myrtle picked from a shrub planted in Queen Victoria's garden at her summer

home, Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight. When marrying Prince Albert in 1840, Victoria chose myrtle—the herb of love, fertility and innocence—for her wedding bouquet, and generations of royals have followed suit (with varying degrees of marital success).

4 | The bride's wedding bands must be made from a nugget of rare Welsh

gold, which has a rich, warmer color than regular gold. This custom was started by the Queen Mother in 1923 and has been followed by all British royal brides since. Conversely, royal men customarily do not wear wedding bands, though Charles wears a gold one on his left pinky finger, stacked with his signet ring, and Harry sports a platinum band on his left ring finger.

5 | Prince Charles and Princess Diana set a tradition for royal newlyweds to have their first public kiss as husband and wife on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for everyone to see. Andrew and Sarah and then William and Kate followed that tradition, but Harry and Meghan, who married at Windsor Castle, kissed on the steps of St George's Chapel instead. ♦

FUN IN
THE SUN

Elizabeth and Philip's
then-private secretary
said their time in Malta
was a "fabulous
period."



“
**IT'S THE
CLOSEST SHE
HAD TO A
NORMAL LIFE.**
”

*Emily Dalton, who produced a
documentary about the royal
couple's time in Malta*

NEW ADVENTURES

A NAVY WIFE

SHE WAS YOUNG AND IN LOVE AND HAVING FUN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRINCESS ELIZABETH HAD A SENSE OF FREEDOM AND
NORMALCY WITH HUSBAND PHILIP IN MALTA. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

AS THE MOST WELL-TRAVELED MONARCH in history, Queen Elizabeth II has visited more than 120 countries, yet one of the tiniest has captured her heart: Malta. The Southern European island—located in the Mediterranean about 58 miles south of Sicily and 55 miles east of Tunisia—is where Her Majesty says she spent the happiest years of her life. It is also the only

place outside of the United Kingdom that she has called home.

Elizabeth had visited Malta before—it is even suggested that Prince Charles was conceived there, according to *The Daily Telegraph*. But her affinity for the island really began in 1949 when Prince Philip was a first lieutenant on the Royal Navy destroyer HMS *Chequers*, which was stationed in Malta.

At the urging of her father, King George VI, after celebrating Prince Charles' first birthday in England, the princess left him with her parents and flew to Malta to be with her husband on their second wedding anniversary on Nov. 20. She spent her first of two Christmases on the island and lived at Villa Guardamangia in Pietà—just outside the Maltese capital of Valletta—

{ LOVE PRESERVED }

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip's Malta home is set to become a museum. Their residence from 1949 to 1951—a two-story palazzo-style palace dubbed Villa Guardamangia—is now a crumbled shell of its former self. The goal is to restore the 17,000-square-foot villa with the ground floor showing the country's historical relationship to Britain and the royal family (the country gained independence from the U.K. in 1964). Upstairs will be a replica of the royal couple's 1950s home. The restoration is expected to take at least five years and cost more than \$12 million. The Maltese government is banking on the restored property becoming a major attraction for British tourists, who account for a quarter of Malta's tourism.





“She dances quite divinely and always wanted to samba when we danced together,” Prince Philip’s uncle Lord Louis Mountbatten wrote of Princess Elizabeth in Malta.

as guests of the Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Prince Philip’s uncle and aunt (Philip later took over the lease on the property).

Built in the mid-18th century, the neoclassical palace with 18 bedrooms had picturesque views of the Marsamxett Harbor and the sea beyond, immaculate gardens, orange trees, stables and a spacious roof terrace the couple enjoyed spending time on. Elizabeth and Philip loved staying at the villa, as it was near the sea as well as the horse racing track and golf course in Marsa.

According to Philip’s cousin Lady Pamela Hicks—who served as one of the queen’s bridesmaids and as a lady-in-waiting—the then-princess’ time was filled with “magical” days of endless picnics, sunbathing and waterskiing. “She was able to lead a normal life,” said Hicks. “It was the only place that she was able to live the life of a naval officer’s wife, just like all the other wives. It was wonderful for her and it’s why they have such a nostalgia for Malta.”

Between 1949 and 1951, Elizabeth often left Prince Charles, and daughter Princess Anne, at home in England for five to seven weeks at a time, while she was in Malta with her beloved husband. By 1950, Philip was promoted to lieutenant commander and was in charge of his own ship, the anti-submarine frigate HMS *Magpie*. By day, the princess would host tea parties for the other naval officer’s wives, shop, take boat trips around the archipelago with friends, and if Philip was off-duty, she’d sometimes watch him play polo at the Malta Polo Club (pictured left).

The freedom of not being followed by the British press allowed the future queen to drive whenever she wanted, often venturing around the Maltese countryside, going shopping, and visiting her local hair salon in Hamrun. During these mini adventures, it was Elizabeth’s first time handling cash herself and she had to take her time counting change to make sure she added correctly. By night, she’d enjoy doing the samba at the Hotel Meridien Phoenicia and dancing the night away at the Saddle Club Ball or attending local plays. She also celebrated her 24th and 25th birthdays in Malta.

But by the spring of 1951, it was clear that the king was ill, so the princess returned to England, leaving behind her freedom, sunshine and her husband. At the time, Lady Mountbatten—Pamela’s mother and Philip’s aunt—described Elizabeth’s return to the U.K. as “rather like putting a bird back into a very small cage.” A few months later, as the king’s health continued to deteriorate, signaling the princess would soon become queen, Philip took indefinite leave from the Royal Navy in July 1951 as his wife took on more royal duties. George VI died the following year, on Feb. 6, 1952, and the royal couple’s lives would forever be changed.

While their carefree days were behind them, the queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned to Malta several times over the years, including in 1992

for a state visit, in 2007 for their 60th wedding anniversary and in 2015 for the Commonwealth summit.

During that 2015 visit, the queen shared: “Visiting Malta is always very special for me. I remember happy days here with Prince Philip when we were first married.” During that trip then-Maltese president Marie Louise Coleiro presented the couple with a watercolor of Villa Guardamangia, their Malta home. It was a lovely reminder of some of their most romantic times as a couple. ♦

Missing Mummy

Between wanting to be with her husband as much as possible—and her many royal obligations—Princess Elizabeth was not around as much for her son, Prince Charles, and he missed his mother from a very young age. The queen and Prince Philip’s eldest child is painted as a lonely boy who rarely saw his parents in 1994’s *The Prince of Wales: A Biography* by Jonathan Dimbleby. Even when Elizabeth was with her young son, she mostly only saw him after breakfast and during afternoon tea times. The princess traveled to be with her husband in Malta as often as she could between 1949 and 1951, leaving baby Charles behind. She is said to have missed his first steps but did manage to spend Charles’ first birthday with him—and then immediately left for Malta the next day for five weeks, leaving him to spend Christmas with his grandparents.

Charles frequently told his grandmother, the Queen Mother, how much he missed his parents, and she in turn wrote to her daughter to let her know. So, it was especially heartbreaking that after arriving in London after one of her long trips to Malta that Elizabeth decided to go to the races before coming to see him. And when he did finally lay eyes on her, Dimbleby wrote that Charles yelled “Mummy!” and ran straight for her. But instead of giving him a warm embrace, she patted the 2-year-old on the shoulder. Perhaps worse, three years later, after being crowned queen and going on a six-month Commonwealth tour away from Charles, 5, and daughter Anne, 3, the queen gave her kids handshakes upon her return, according to royal biographer Sally Bedell Smith. So, it’s no wonder Charles told Dimbleby that he felt “neglected and abandoned” as a child. It also explains why he so desperately clung to the Queen Mother (below with Charles and Princess Margaret’s dog Pippin) as an affectionate mother figure in his life.



THE BEST OF TIMES

FAMILY LIFE

BY THE EARLY 1960S, THE QUEEN FOUND HER STRIDE—BOTH AS A MONARCH AND A MOTHER. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

WHEN ELIZABETH BECAME QUEEN, SHE was 25 and had a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter. Needless to say, she had a lot to learn and a lot to prove—and like any working mom, she needed help. So, while her relationship with her first child, Charles, was what he calls “distant”—because the queen relied more on the Queen Mother and nannies for help—as she grew more comfortable in her position of power, she became more involved with her children.

By the time Prince Andrew came along on Feb. 19, 1960 (nearly 10 years after Princess Anne), the queen was much more confident in her role as

sovereign and could take a step back to focus more on family. Because of that, she became much “warmer and flexible” as a parent, according to royal historian Robert Lacey. Nigel Cawthorne, author of *Prince Andrew: The End of the Monarchy and Epstein*, agreed: “Earlier on in her reign, the queen was entirely concerned with ascending the throne, but by the time she had him she was much more relaxed in the role and so she lavished attention on him,” he told *The Daily Beast* in 2021.

She was able to spend more time with her third child, often referred to as her favorite, because she took a more restful 18-month maternity leave

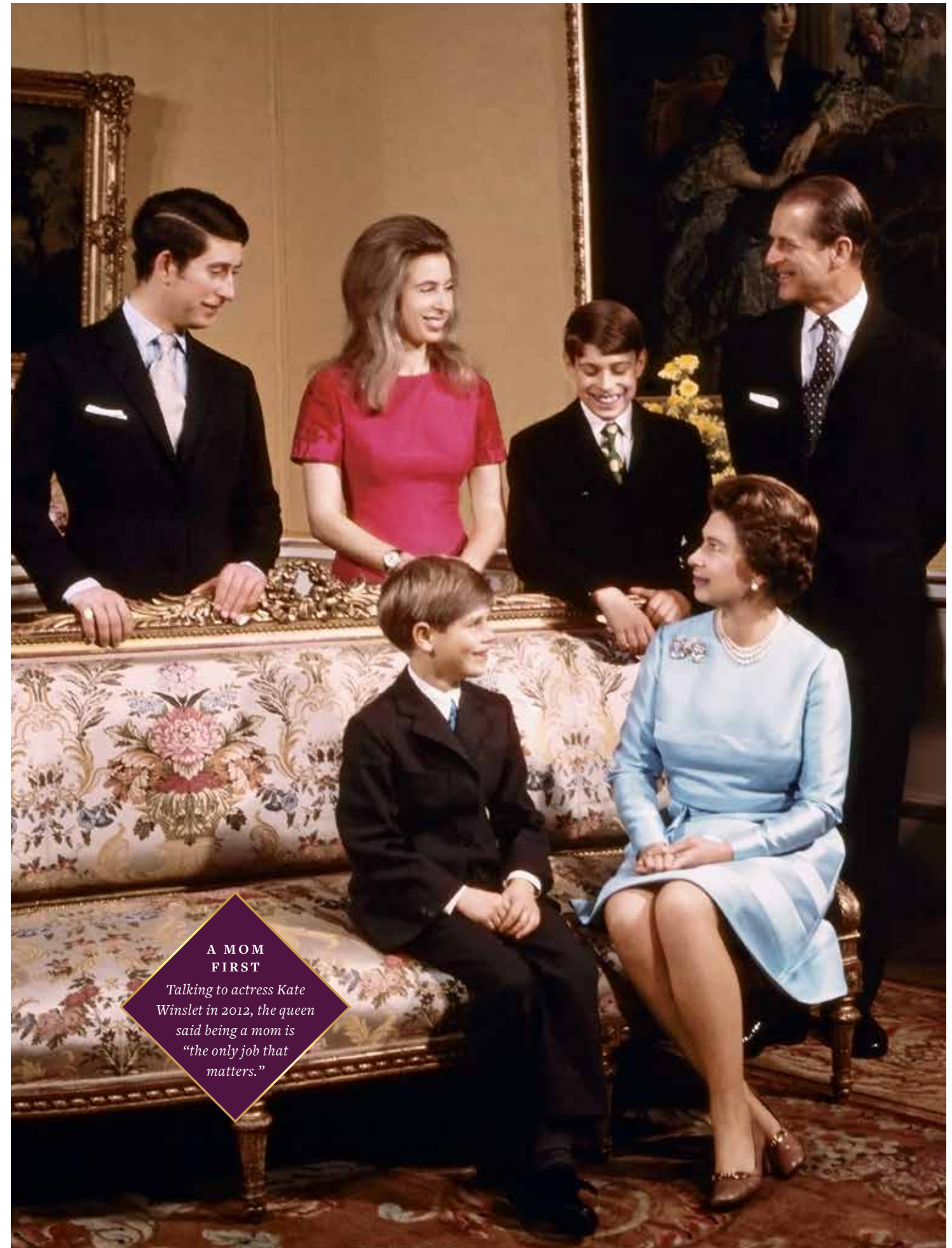
after Andrew was born (however, that didn’t stop her from hosting French President Charles de Gaulle on a state visit just two months after Andrew’s birth). That lighter schedule allowed her to really play with Andrew (the first child born to a reigning monarch since 1857). She would sit on the nursery floor with him, teach him nursery rhymes and read him bedtime stories, according to author Christopher Anderson. “She went along when he was picked up at school and turned up for sports days and other school events—things she never did for Charles or for Anne,” said Anderson.

Some speculate the queen’s relationship with Charles was different from the others because it was always known that he would one day be the king. And, because of that, he was always treated as a “little adult”—while the queen could be more of a mom rather than a monarch figure to her other children.

By the time she was ready to give birth to her fourth child, Edward, “The Queen, by then aged 37, had asked [Philip] to be there; she’d been keenly reading women’s magazines that stressed the importance of involving fathers in childbirth and had become fascinated by the idea,” said Ingrid Seward, author of *My Husband*



She celebrated her 39th birthday at Windsor with her family, including baby Edward, in 1965.



A MOM FIRST

Talking to actress Kate Winslet in 2012, the queen said being a mom is “the only job that matters.”

“
**SHE CLEARLY
 DELIGHTS IN
 THE TIME SHE
 CAN SPEND
 WITH HER
 FAMILY.**
 ”

Historian Robert Lacey

and I: *The Inside Story of 70 Years of Royal Marriage*. The duke, who'd been playing squash when his wife delivered Charles via C-section after 30 hours of labor, took his new role seriously and sweetly held his wife's hand as their youngest was born at Buckingham Palace on March 10, 1964. He later gave a champagne toast to the newborn, saying: "I am absolutely delighted."

While the queen is not often credited with being a very hands-on mom, according to Lord Mountbatten, Prince Philip's uncle, her favorite night of the week was "Mabel's night off." "When nanny Mabel was off duty, Elizabeth could kneel beside the bath, bathe her babies, read to them and put them to bed herself," he said.

The queen may have taught Princess Anne how to ride a horse and was known for her love of corny jokes, but she had not been as active with her older children when they were younger. But now, with what is often referred to as her "second family," Elizabeth would bike and playfully chase her younger children through Buckingham Palace—another first. And the whole family enjoyed picnics on the palace grounds.

Prince Philip also started to soften with each addition, and the two spent more time personally caring for their kids rather than relying so much on hired help. Private footage from the family's home movies archive shows him pushing his children on a swing set and lovingly chasing them and fol-

lowing them down a slide. The queen and her husband had always been a happy couple, but now they really looked like a happy family.

With the happy times, however, also came some personal lows. For years, there were rumors of Prince Philip's infidelity, with the press linking him to writers, cabaret singers and actresses (see page 86). Phillip finally acknowledged the rumors in 1992, telling a female reporter: "Have you ever stopped to think that, for the past 40 years, I have never moved anywhere without a policeman accompanying me? So how the hell could I get away with anything like that?"

And who's to say he even wanted to cheat on his wife? The couple's love was palpable from the beginning. "We behave as though we have belonged to each other for years," Elizabeth wrote in a letter to her parents shortly after marrying Philip in 1947.

Their love story only progressed from there. Until his death, he remained a "constant strength and guide" for her as she told Parliament in her Diamond Jubilee address in 2012. ♦

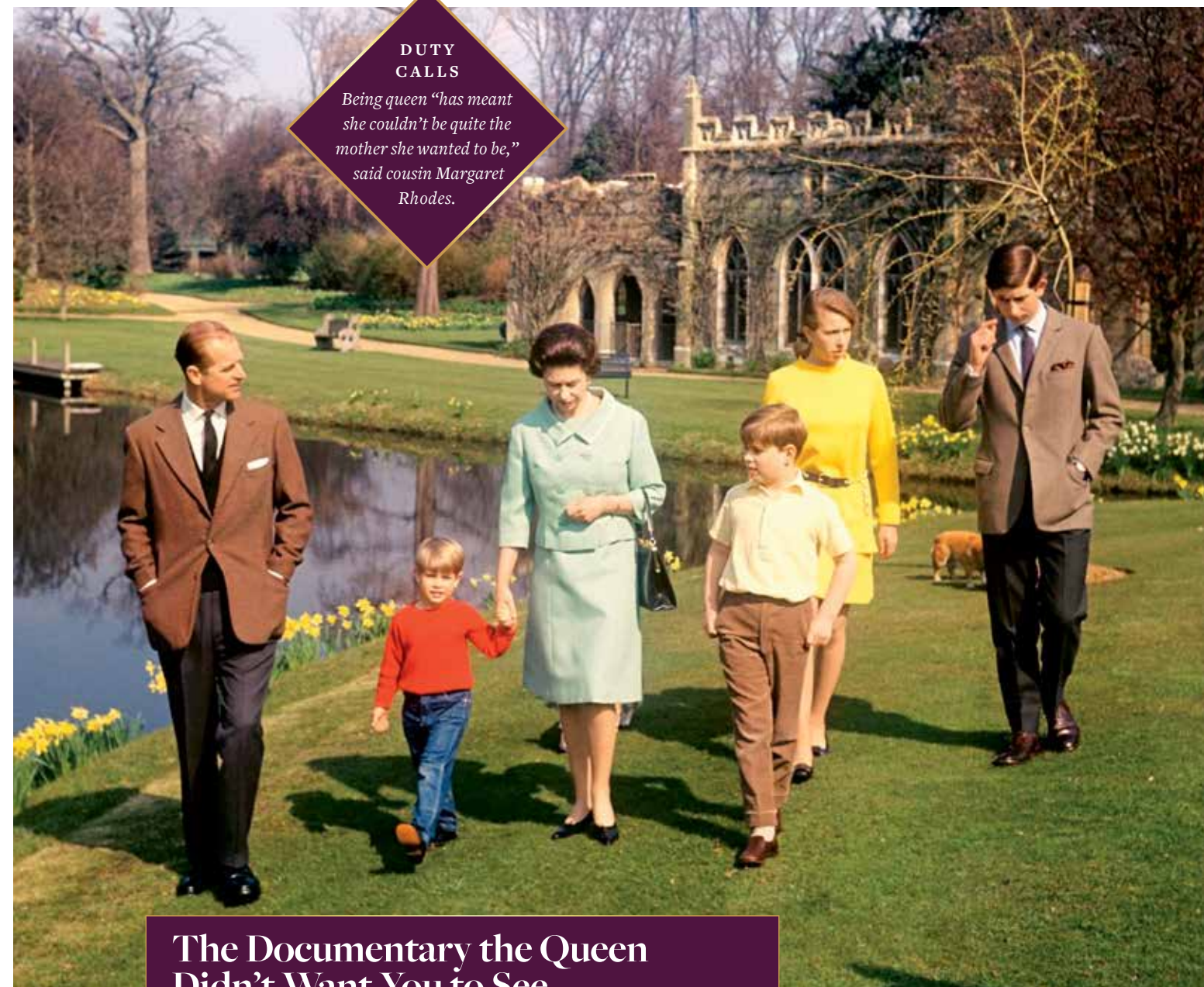
{ **A FALL FROM GRACE** }

It is said that Prince Andrew "can do no wrong" in the queen's eyes. But after his association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the world hardly agrees. Elizabeth II's second son, sometimes referred to as the "spare heir," has vehemently denied allegations that in 2001 he had sex multiple times with a 17-year-old girl trafficked by Epstein (who died by suicide in August 2019 while awaiting trial on federal charges).

Days after Andrew spoke about Epstein in a damaging BBC interview, the prince released a statement on Nov. 20, 2019 (which happened to be the queen and Prince Philip's 72nd wedding anniversary), saying his association with Epstein "has been a distraction to my family's work" and therefore he had "asked Her Majesty if I can step back from public duties for the foreseeable future, and she has given her permission."

Speculation is that he did not ask but was told to stand down. "It takes quite a lot to get [the queen] angry, and I think that perhaps she feels her son is not telling the truth and perhaps she feels he has to pay for it," said Ingrid Seward, editor-in-chief of *Majesty* magazine.

That said, the monarch has been seen horseback riding with Andrew in Windsor and going to church with him. And when a civil lawsuit was filed against him in August 2021 by Virginia Roberts Giuffre (the now 38-year-old alleged she was trafficked as a teen), the queen not only let her son retreat to Balmoral in Scotland, but she reportedly had her solicitors warn the press not to take any photos of any royals or their guests at the castle. Andrew settled the lawsuit in February 2022 (the details were not revealed), and the following month escorted the queen into Prince Philip's memorial service.



DUTY CALLS
 Being queen "has meant she couldn't be quite the mother she wanted to be," said cousin Margaret Rhodes.

The Documentary the Queen Didn't Want You to See

A documentary simply titled *Royal Family*—which granted the BBC behind-the-scenes access to Queen Elizabeth II's clan over 15 months—first aired in June 1969 and was watched by 30 million viewers in the U.K., making it one of the most-watched broadcasts ever for the region. By the early 1970s, an estimated 350 million people worldwide had watched—as the queen critiqued speeches (and wardrobes), Prince Charles biked in a suit and gloves, Princess Anne helped her father, Prince Philip, barbecue, while the queen handled the salad. And then, it just disappeared.

It's speculated that after negative reviews, including David Attenborough claiming the film (see a scene pictured right) was "in danger of killing the monarchy," the queen had the 90-minute-long film shelved. However, in January 2021, after a 50-year ban, the *Royal Family* resurfaced on YouTube. It was swiftly taken down due to a copyright claim, only to be reposted on April 20 (with over 6,000 views) and again on June 4 (garnering over 36,000 views). In the Internet era, nothing stays buried forever.



SKILLED DIPLOMAT

A PART OF HISTORY

A PEEK INSIDE HER MAJESTY'S MEETINGS WITH 13 OF THE LAST 14 PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

FROM 1951 TO 2021, QUEEN ELIZABETH II hosted presidents at state dinners at Buckingham Palace, teas in Windsor Castle, informal gatherings at Balmoral and overnight stays on the royal yacht *Britannia*. During her trips to the U.S., she has waved from the White House balcony, gone to pro

baseball and college football games, ridden horses and danced in the Rose Garden—all with U.S. presidents. Over the past 70 years, the only sitting president she didn't meet with is Lyndon B. Johnson. However, according to archivists at the LBJ Presidential Library, the queen and President Johnson did

correspond between March 1964 and July 1967, sending each other birthday wishes, congratulations on family births and condolences (from LBJ to the queen after the death of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill). Here are the details of the queen's visits with 13 U.S. presidents.



Harry S. Truman

On Oct. 31, 1951, the then-princess met her first sitting president, Harry S. Truman, while filling in for her ailing father, King George VI, on a state visit to Washington, D.C. Truman reportedly told Elizabeth that by the end of the trip he hoped she'd "like us even more than when you came." During her visit, the royal gave the president and his wife, Bess Truman, an English candelabra, a mirror and an oil painting of flowers. The president later called the princess and her husband, Prince Philip, "a wonderful young couple, who captured the hearts of all of us."



Dwight D. Eisenhower

The former World War II five-star general hosted Elizabeth II during her first state visit to the U.S. as queen in 1957. They met twice in 1959, first in Canada, before they opened the St. Lawrence Seaway aboard the royal yacht *Britannia*, and again when she hosted the president and first lady Mamie Eisenhower at Balmoral. The queen and the president developed a close friendship and corresponded for years. In one note to Eisenhower in 1960, the queen included her recipe for drop scones, which she had promised him at Balmoral. Surely, not just anyone gets the queen's family recipes!

John F. Kennedy

The relationship between the Windsors and the Kennedys reportedly got off to a rocky start when Jack Kennedy and wife Jackie Kennedy visited Buckingham Palace in June 1961. The queen was said to be jealous of all the attention the first lady was receiving. She was also miffed that the beauty wanted to invite her twice-divorced brother-in-law, Prince Stanislaw Radziwill, and sister Lee Radziwill to the state dinner. According to the *Washington Post*, the queen initially denied them an invitation until diplomats intervened. However, the queen was able to get past it, at least where President Kennedy was concerned. The two are said to have maintained friendly correspondence until his assassination in 1963. Afterward, the queen dedicated a memorial to him in Runnymede meadow (near Windsor) and a scholarship fund in his name.



Richard M. Nixon

The California native met with the queen many times during his vice presidency and presidency, first showing her around the White House in 1957. But it wasn't until he became the 37th president that he really made an impression on Her Majesty. During a visit to Buckingham Palace in 1969, historian Sally Bedell Smith said Richard Nixon took quite an interest in the queen's eldest son, Charles, and was so bold as to say he wanted to set him up with his daughter, Tricia, who was two years older than the Prince of Wales.



Gerald R. Ford

First lady Betty Ford had been preparing for the queen's visit in July 1976 for months and wanted everything to go smoothly. She invited the sovereign's favorite stars, Bob Hope and Telly Savalas, to attend, stationed violinists along the walking paths for the perfect arrival and made sure the Rose Garden tent had a hardwood floor and carpet in case of inclement weather (which saved the night when a torrential downpour happened shortly before the event began). One thing she couldn't control, however, was the order of the U.S. Marine Band's music. They had a preplanned list of songs to play and embarrassingly just as President Gerald Ford took to the dance floor with Queen Elizabeth II, they began to play "The Lady Is a Tramp." It was a gigantic gaffe, but one the queen seemed to take in stride.



Jimmy Carter

Perhaps one of the biggest fanfares—for all the wrong reasons—was given to President Jimmy Carter’s visit to Buckingham Palace in 1977. The giant faux pas was reported around the world: The president had kissed the Queen Mother on the lips! The widow of King George VI said, “Nobody has done that since my husband died. I took a sharp step backwards—not quite far enough.” But Carter contends he merely gave the Queen Mother a light kiss on the cheek (or tried to) and that the press “grossly distorted” what took place.



Ronald Reagan

A shared love of horses made Queen Elizabeth II and President Ronald Reagan fast friends. In June 1982, he and his wife, Nancy Reagan, were the first U.S. family to be the queen’s overnight guests at Windsor Castle. In his 1990 memoir, *An American Life*, the president wrote, “The highlight of our stay came when the queen and I went horseback riding. I must admit the queen is quite an accomplished horsewoman.” The following year, the royals came to visit the Reagans at their California home Rancho Del Cielo in Santa Barbara, and the two couples spent time on the royal yacht *Britannia* talking about their children like old friends. In June 1989, the queen made the former actor an honorary knight. When he passed away in 2004, the monarch had son Prince Charles attend the funeral on behalf of the royal family and he hand-delivered a handwritten letter of sympathy from the queen to Nancy, exemplifying just how close the two families were.



George W. Bush

The 43rd president visited with the queen many times but the most memorable visit was when she came to the White House to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, America’s first English settlement. During the welcome ceremony for the queen on the White House lawn—in front of 7,000 invited guests—President George W. Bush accidentally told Elizabeth, “You helped us celebrate our bicentennial in 17...” rather than 1976. He stopped himself, then turned and gave the queen a wink. Later at a formal dinner at the British embassy in Washington, the queen began her speech, saying: “I wondered whether I should start this toast by saying, ‘When I was here in 1776...’” The guests, including Bush, burst out laughing, and he exclaimed: “Your Majesty, I can’t top that one!”



Barack Obama

The Obamas and Her Majesty seem to have a mutual admiration for each other. The president said during a 2016 visit to London that the queen “is truly one of my favorite people.” Over Barack Obama’s eight years in office, he and first lady Michelle Obama visited Buckingham Palace three times. But according to royal author Tom Quinn, the queen wishes it had been even more. “She completely fell in love [with Obama],” shared Quinn. “So much so that she has frequently asked her courtiers if they could arrange for him to come to Britain now that he is no longer president.”



George H. W. Bush

Queen Elizabeth II and President George H. W. Bush became great friends—especially after her 1991 visits to Washington D.C., and Texas. The May 1991 trip to D.C. was most eventful. The queen not only went to her first baseball game ever—by private helicopter to Memorial Stadium to see the Baltimore Orioles play the Oakland Athletics—but she also shared a sentimental moment planting a tree with the Bush family, a beautiful tribute to her father, King George VI. The tree replaced the one originally planted to mark his ascension in 1937 that had fallen over in a storm.



Bill Clinton

Having had the pleasure of meeting the queen on a few occasions—including the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994, where the Clintons were invited for an overnight stay on the royal yacht *Britannia*—President Bill Clinton recognized that the queen “is a highly intelligent woman.... I always marvel when we meet what a keen judge she is of human events.” He later wrote in his 2004 Memoir, *My Life*: “Her Majesty impressed me as someone who but for the circumstance of her birth, might have become a successful politician or diplomat. As it was, she had to be both, without quite seeming to be either.”



Donald Trump

During a state visit from President Donald Trump on July 13, 2018, the businessman was criticized for multiple breaks in royal protocol: arriving late, shaking Queen Elizabeth II’s hand rather than bowing, turning his back on her, and walking in front of her during a ceremonial inspection of the troops at Windsor Castle. Many of those who watched the events unfold on TV took to Twitter to criticize the president’s manners. But Trump claims he and the queen have “a great relationship.” In fact, he said after his 2019 visit with Her Majesty, “her people said she hasn’t had so much fun in 25 years.”



Joe Biden

Our current president first met the queen in 1982 when he was a senator from Delaware. Fast forward nearly 40 years and on June 13, 2021, now President Joe Biden was the first one-on-one the queen had with a world leader since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the two “had a great talk” during their 45-minute chat, describing the queen as “extremely gracious.” He even said, “she reminded me of my own mother.” Biden sent the queen a private message in February to mark her Platinum Jubilee, which she called “very kind.” ♦



TROUBLED MARRIAGE

Years before their split, Anne and her husband stayed in separate hotels when they traveled together.

A VERY BAD YEAR

TRYING TIMES

IN 1992, EVERYTHING THAT COULD GO WRONG FOR THE SOVEREIGN'S FAMILY, DID. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

IN JUST ONE YEAR, QUEEN ELIZABETH II's world was rocked by numerous tabloid scandals, three of her four children's marriages imploding and a fire that destroyed more than 100 rooms in her beloved Windsor Castle. The monarch stated "1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure," during her speech at Guildhall on Nov. 24, 1992. "In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'annus horribilis.'" That's "horrible year" in Latin. Here's what she was referring to:

which they were separated), Princess Anne officially divorced her husband, Captain Mark Phillips—which was still very much taboo in royal circles at the time. Their troubles were said to have started back in the early 1980s soon after daughter Zara's birth. The Olympic gold medal-winning horseman had numerous affairs, one of which was with Heather Tonkin, who gave birth to their child, Felicity, in 1985. Anne was also said to have had affairs—the princess was linked to *Brideshead Revisited* star Anthony Andrews and one of her bodyguards before *The Sun* printed four stolen love letters sent to Anne by Commander Timothy Laurence in 1989, which further embarrassed Her Majesty. Anne and her husband split shortly afterward and she married Laurence in December 1992.

ity, in 1985. Anne was also said to have had affairs—the princess was linked to *Brideshead Revisited* star Anthony Andrews and one of her bodyguards before *The Sun* printed four stolen love letters sent to Anne by Commander Timothy Laurence in 1989, which further embarrassed Her Majesty. Anne and her husband split shortly afterward and she married Laurence in December 1992.



The photos of Sarah Ferguson and John Bryan also showed Princess Eugenie (right) looking on as the pair kissed.

PRINCE ANDREW AND SARAH FERGUSON SEPARATE

Troubles started on March 19, when Prince Andrew legally separated from Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, after almost six years of marriage. Fergie told *Harper's Bazaar* in 2018 that their relationship crumbled largely due to Andrew's naval duties. The couple thought he would be stationed in London, so they were both surprised when two weeks after their wedding, he was deployed for sea duty. In the first five years of marriage, the duchess claimed they were only able to spend 40 days per year together and that even after the birth of their first daughter, Princess Beatrice, Andrew was only granted 10 days of shore leave before he left again.

PRINCESS ANNE GETS DIVORCED

A month later, on April 23, after nearly 19 years of marriage (three of



The queen referenced her horrible year at an appearance marking the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne.



Charles and Diana's unhappiness was evident on their trip to South Korea. Below: The prince with Camilla Parker Bowles in 1979; the press predicted a split.



PRINCE CHARLES AND PRINCESS DIANA'S MARRIAGE MELTS DOWN

In May, Andrew Morton's scandalous tell-all *Diana: Her True Story* was published, and the 448-page book revealed intimate details of Charles' affair with Camilla Parker Bowles, as well as insights into Diana's loneliness, bulimia and mental health struggles that shockingly culminated in the princess contemplating suicide. Prince Charles was clearly portrayed as the villain of their fairy-tale story—which the royal family, and the queen in particular, was none too happy about.

A STORMY SUMMER

August brought two hurricane-level tabloid storms for the royals. The first

occurred when *The Sun* published photos of a topless Fergie getting her toes sucked by her Texan financial adviser, John Bryan, while on holiday in St. Tropez, France.

The queen—who had reportedly asked Fergie to reconsider leaving Andrew—was said to be “livid,” royal expert Jennie Bond revealed in the documentary *Fergie vs Diana: Royal Wives at War*. Following the Duchess of York's split from Andrew, the queen made it clear that she would not help Sarah pay off her substantial debts and the palace announced she would no longer carry out public engagements on behalf of Her Majesty.

Her estrangement from the royal family in the wake of the scandal saw

Sarah being left off the guest lists for official events (including the nuptials of Prince Edward in 1999 and Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011). But by 2013, relations appeared to have thawed between the queen and Sarah, with the duchess being invited to stay at Balmoral with Prince Andrew and their daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie. She also attended Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding in 2018.

The second tabloid scandal of the summer involved Princess Diana and was known as “Squidgygate” after the princess' devoted friend, James Gilbey, called her “Squidgy” and “Squidge” throughout a phone call, which was recorded on New Year's Eve in 1989,

but not leaked until 1992. In the chat, the Princess of Wales revealed that her husband, Prince Charles, made her life “torture” and that she felt “sad and empty at times,” punctuating just how miserable her life was as the wife of the future king.

WINDSOR CASTLE CATCHES FIRE

A few months later, a different kind of devastation occurred when a fire broke out in Queen Victoria's Private Chapel at Windsor Castle—on the queen's 50th wedding anniversary, Nov. 20. A spotlight apparently ignited a curtain, causing a blaze that took 225 firemen 15 hours and 1.5 million gallons of water to extinguish. Miraculously, Prince Andrew and castle staff were able to save all but two priceless pieces: a large Sir William Beechey painting and a rosewood sideboard. The damage to the castle, which has been a royal home for more than 900 years, took about \$49 million and five years to repair.

ENDING THE YEAR WITH A BANG

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's “togetherness tour” in South Korea backfired—instead of showing a hap-



py couple as planned, the British press nicknamed them “The Glums” and declared their split was imminent. They were right. On Dec. 9, Prime Minister John Major announced to the House of Commons that the Prince and Princess of Wales were separating.

But the humiliation for the queen and her family continued with “Camillagate.” Shortly after Charles and Diana split, a six-minute conversation between the prince and Camilla recorded in 1989 was leaked to the press. In the damning call—proving

both cheated on their spouses—Camilla declared she couldn't start her week without Charles, while he crudely proclaimed he wanted to “live inside [her] trousers,” and they both finished the call by saying “I love you.”

The queen was understandably devastated by the year's events. So much so, that biographer Andrew Morton claimed Elizabeth sought “psychological help” to teach her breathing and relaxation techniques—which is of sizable significance for the normally stoic monarch. ♦

{ A TREMENDOUS LOSS }

Ten years after her “annus horribilis,” the queen lost her sister and her mother within weeks of one another.

The year 2002 was the best of times and the worst of times for the queen. On Feb. 6, she celebrated her Golden Jubilee as she marked 50 years since her accession to the throne (it was also the anniversary of her father King George VI's death). Just three days later, on Feb. 9, Elizabeth suffered a devastating personal loss when her only sister, Princess Margaret (near right), died in the hospital hours after suffering a stroke following years of ill health. She was 71. “Margaret was the queen's closest companion in many ways,” Christopher Warwick, a royal historian and biographer said in the CNN documentary *The Windsors: Inside the Royal Dynasty*.

Even more tragically, just seven weeks later, the Queen Mother (center) died. The monarch was by her beloved parent's bedside when the 101-year-old passed away peacefully in her sleep at Royal Lodge, the dowager queen's home in Windsor, on March 30. The two closest women to Queen Elizabeth II—her confidantes—were now gone, leaving her heartbroken and in mourning.



THEY LOVE ‘GAN-GAN’

WHILE PRINCE CHARLES MAY HAVE CRITICIZED HER MAJESTY FOR BEING A “DETACHED” MOTHER, QUEEN ELIZABETH II IS UNARGUABLY A DOTING GRANDMOTHER AND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

QUEEN ELIZABETH II BECAME A GRANDMOTHER in 1977 with the birth of her daughter Princess Anne’s son, Peter Phillips. The monarch now has eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Between her royal duties, the queen has always managed to make time for her grandchildren, who call her “Granny” (though when young Prince William couldn’t pronounce that, Her Majesty also hilariously answered to “Gary”). Over the years, the queen often took her grandkids to polo matches and was even spotted visiting Peter’s school Science Fair and attending gymnastics competitions for his sister Zara Phillips (now Tindall).

The royal seemed to be a support system for her grandchildren in a way she wasn’t able to be with her own children (at least with her eldest kids, Charles and Anne). For instance, when Charles’ son Prince William was away at boarding school following his parents’ divorce, the queen was “concerned for her grandson’s emotional state” and would invite William to join her for weekly Sunday lunches, according to royal historian Robert Lacey. That close bond only grew stronger after Princess Diana’s death in August 1997.

When William and his brother, Prince Harry, attended Eton College together in the late ’90s, they would frequently go for tea with their grandmother at nearby Windsor Castle. She and Prince Philip also came out to cheer on William when he had a small role in

his school’s production of *The Tempest*. Prince Andrew’s youngest daughter, Princess Eugenie, shared in the 2016 documentary *Our Queen at Ninety* that she has fond memories of going on walks, having picnics and playing with the family dogs with her grandmother at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, which is said to be the queen’s happy place.

Another thing Her Majesty has a major affinity for: horses. And it’s a passion she has passed down to her grandkids. As a member of Great Britain’s eventing team, Zara won a silver medal in the 2012 Summer Olympics. The queen also oversaw riding instruction for Prince Edward’s children, Lady Louise and James, Viscount Severn. “When they are with the queen, she is [just] their grandmother,” their mom, Sophie, Countess of Wessex, has said.

Known for her wonderful sense of humor, the queen tends to gravitate toward those who can make her laugh (with that very big, very distinct laugh of hers). That is why some say Prince Harry is not-so-secretly Her Majesty’s favorite grandchild.

“I think in public we can see that the queen lets her guard down a bit with Prince Harry—it’s a very special relationship,” Grant Harrold, Prince Charles’ former butler, said in the 2021 documentary *Charles & Harry: Father and Son Divided*. “Sometimes, I wonder if maybe he reminds the queen a little bit of Prince Philip with that kind of glint in his eye.”



PRECIOUS MOMENT

The Duchess of Cambridge took this pic of the queen, Philip and their great-grandchildren in 2018.



Clockwise from left:
At Peter Phillips' christening in 1977; at a polo event with Harry and William in 1987; talking to Prince George in 2015; a smile with Harry in 2006; holding Zara Phillips in 1984.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE QUEEN

Harry definitely inherited Prince Philip's love of a good gag. At Her Majesty's request, when she couldn't figure out how to record her outgoing voicemail message, Prince Harry recorded one for her in 2007. Everyone who dialed his grandmother would hear: "Hey, wassup? This is Liz! Sorry I'm away from the throne. For a hotline to Philip, press 1; for Charles, press 2; for the corgis, press 3." According to Britain's Sky News, the queen was initially extremely upset by the prank, but later had a great laugh about it with her grandson.

Elizabeth has an even more affectionate relationship with her great-grandchildren, many of whom call her "Gan-Gan." Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, revealed the queen is very thoughtful when it comes to her children, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis. "She always leaves a little gift or something in their room when we go and stay and that just shows her love for her family," Kate said on *Our Queen at Ninety*.

The monarch has a special connection with William and Kate's daughter, who like her great-grandmother is crazy for horses. "The queen has

already picked up on signs that Charlotte is her mini-me," an insider told *Closer*. "She's confident that her great-granddaughter will grow up to be a great leader and role model."

Though she hasn't seen them as often, Her Majesty has a soft spot for Harry's kids as well. For the first birthday of his son, Archie, the queen gifted him with a rocking horse, according to *Us Weekly*, and she also gave the toddler a public birthday greeting on the royal family's official Twitter account (usually only reserved for senior royals). Royal expert Katie Nicholl told *OK!* that for Archie's second birthday, the monarch celebrated with him over Zoom, as she did with Prince William's son George on his eighth birthday in July 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An anomaly for her age, the 96-year-old also frequently texts (thanks to lessons from William and Harry), sometimes updates the royal Twitter account from her iPad, and is even said to have a secret Facebook account. If she has any tech questions, she reportedly also turns to Peter or Zara for help. So as much wisdom as the queen is imparting on her grandchildren, they, too, are teaching her. ♦



The royals' home for the holidays is Sandringham, Queen Elizabeth II's 20,000-acre country estate in Norfolk, England. The family has gathered there every December since the 1980s, but 2020 saw the queen and Prince Philip celebrate Christmas alone at Buckingham Palace amid the pandemic. Her Majesty was looking forward to celebrating the holiday—the first without her husband by her side—with her loved ones at the estate in December 2021, but a spike in COVID cases thwarted those plans.

But when the family is in residence, there are long-standing traditions that the royals have stuck to for decades: The entire brood meets at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve for tea. While the adults nibble on scones and sandwiches, the great-grandchildren put the final ornaments on the Christmas tree. Then, in keeping with Prince Albert's German tradition from the reign of Queen Victoria, they open their presents rather than waiting until Christmas Day. No lavish surprises are allowed, only gag gifts.

According to the biography, *Finding Freedom*, one of the biggest hits over the years came in 2013 when Harry—the jokester of the family—gave the queen a shower cap with the phrase "Ain't life a b---h" on it (which Her Majesty is said to have loved).

At 8:15 p.m., the family has a black-tie dinner, which often includes Norfolk shrimp,

lamb and a tarte tatin. Over cocktails, the queen revels in reading corny jokes from each family member's bespoke Christmas crackers. No one is allowed to go to bed before the monarch, who normally turns in around midnight.

On Christmas morning, the royal men have a full English breakfast at 8:30 a.m. sharp, while the women tend to enjoy a light breakfast in their rooms. Afterward, the family walks to the church of St Mary Magdalene for a service at 11 a.m. After church they return home for a 1 p.m. roast turkey lunch, served with traditional sides, a chocolate yule log and fruitcake. According to royal biographer Ingrid Seward, the family "enters the dining room in order of seniority" and each member weighs themselves before and after the meal (a tradition started by King Edward VII in the early 1900s to ensure people had a good time and were well-fed).

At 3 p.m., everyone gathers to watch the queen's pre-recorded Christmas broadcast (below). Everyone but the queen, that is. She doesn't like to see herself on TV, so she usually excuses herself for a walk around the grounds. After a lighter buffet dinner, the royals relax by playing charades, putting together puzzles and watching a movie in the ballroom. The holiday festivities officially wrap on Boxing Day when the men of the family go on a pheasant hunt.



HER SIGNATURE STYLE

THE SOVEREIGN'S CLOSET IS FILLED WITH BRIGHT COLORS, BOLD HATS, ROWS OF HANDBAGS, JEWELRY AND SENSIBLE SHOES. *By Patty Adams Martinez*

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE QUEEN HAS more than 10,000 outfits, 5,000 hats, 200 Launer London handbags and countless tiaras, brooches and jewels—passed down for generations. Despite her small stature—she's 5-foot-3 but shrinking due to old age—the queen always stands out in a crowd, thanks to her bold-colored coats and eye-catching hats.

"I can never wear beige because no one will know who I am," she reportedly once said, according to royal biographer Robert Hardman. Her "work uniform," as it's called, is a modest below-the-knee bright or pastel dress (depending on the season and occasion) with a weighted-down hem

to avoid any wardrobe malfunctions in the wind, a monochromatic coat and hat (usually with a touch of floral flair), practical pantyhose, Anello & Davide black buckle loafers for day, a kitten heel for night (but never more than 2.25 inches!) and a black Launer London handbag. She usually pairs each look with gloves, a triple strand of pearls, matching earrings and one of her exquisite brooches.

The queen reportedly packs her Launer London bags with a multitude of things: lipstick, a mirror, reading glasses, a fountain pen, mint lozenges, a small pocketknife, diary, dog treats for her beloved corgis, sometimes a crossword puzzle cut out of a news-

paper to help occupy her downtime, a 5 pound note for the church collection box on Sundays, a hook to hang her purse from a table, and, in more recent years, a cellphone.

While the queen is known for being impeccably dressed, especially at fancy evening events, she's also known to be thrifty. With all of her engagements, she can sometimes require up to five clothing changes a day. Her Majesty is not above wearing clothes and hats multiple times, and she keeps items in rotation for decades. She also only buys one or two new pairs of shoes per year. "The queen does not waste money," said royal shoemaker David Hyatt. ♦

{ THE QUEEN'S STYLE ADVISER }

Angela Kelly has been dressing the queen since 1994.

After a chance meeting with the queen in late 1992, when Angela Kelly was working as a housekeeper to the British Ambassador in Germany, the Liverpool native was hired just over a year later in 1994 as an assistant dresser to the queen. Over the years, Kelly—with no formal fashion training—has worked her way up the ranks and is now Personal Assistant, Adviser and Curator to Her Majesty the Queen (jewelry, insignias and wardrobe), responsible for maintaining, curating and designing the monarch's wardrobe. Kelly, 64, keeps detailed records of each fashion item the queen owns, when and where it has been worn, and which accessories were paired with it. Being that

Kelly (pictured far right with the queen and *Vogue's* Anna Wintour) has the same size foot as the queen (U.S. 6), she also has the unusual job of breaking in all of Her Majesty's shoes to save her royal feet from blisters. The style adviser is also privy to royal fashion secrets: Kelly revealed in her 2019 book, *The Other Side of the Coin: The Queen, The Dresser and the Wardrobe*, that the queen's diamonds are polished with a mixture of gin and water and that "bargain bucket" buys are often some of the frugal sovereign's favorites. "We are two typical women," she told the *Telegraph* in 2007. "We discuss clothes, makeup, jewelry. We say, 'Would this piece of jewelry look nice with that outfit?'"



LADY IN RED

Queen Elizabeth II chose the color red—which exudes confidence—during a walkabout after attending Sunday service at the Church of St Peter & St Paul in King's Lynn, England, on Feb. 7, 2016.



ORANGE CRUSH

On March 20, 2018, the sovereign wore an energetic orange ensemble to the Royal Academy of Arts in London and paired it with one of Queen Victoria's bow brooches, created by Garrard in 1858.



PRETTY IN PINK

To attend the Royal Windsor Cup Final on June 23, 2019, the queen let the hot pink do the talking with her signature triple-strand of pearls and matching earrings.



A BRIGHT BEACON

The queen chose a sunny yellow outfit—with flourishes of blue florals—for the opening day of the Royal Ascot races on June 19, 2018. While she wears all the colors of the rainbow, her favorite is blue.



MAKE MINE LIME

The sovereign was seen departing Chester Town Hall on June 14, 2018, wearing the same lime green coat by Stewart Parvin and hat, designed by Angela Kelly (see sidebar, page 78), that she wore to the Royal Ascot on June 20, 2017.



SKY'S THE LIMIT

While visiting the British Airways headquarters at Heathrow Airport on May 23, 2019, the queen wore a sky-blue coat and hat accented with a diamond and turquoise brooch, originally a gift to Queen Mary from her in-laws in 1893.



BOLD CONTRAST

Opening the Queen Elizabeth II Center at Coram in London on Dec. 15, 2018, the monarch wore a turquoise and black ensemble with her beloved lily flame brooch. The diamond-encrusted flower of Zimbabwe was gifted to her in South Africa in 1947.



ROYAL BLUE

While meeting with Commanding Officers of the Royal Navy on March 18, 2020, the queen wore a royal blue satin midi dress with Queen Mary's Russian brooch. The 1893 wedding gift from Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia features a large sapphire and diamonds.



MAKING A STATEMENT

Wearing the official color of royalty—purple—the queen opened the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital and Eastman Dental Hospital in London in February 2020. She often wears the Amethyst Bouquet brooch with all-purple ensembles.

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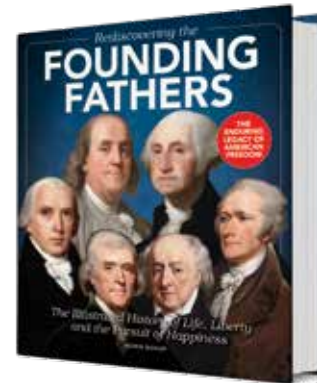
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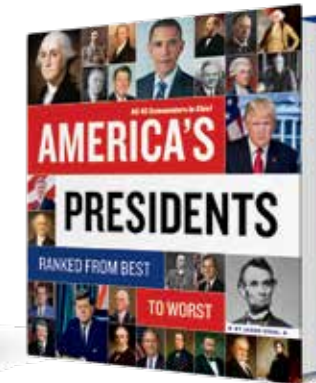
The future queen at age 10 with her pet corgi in London.

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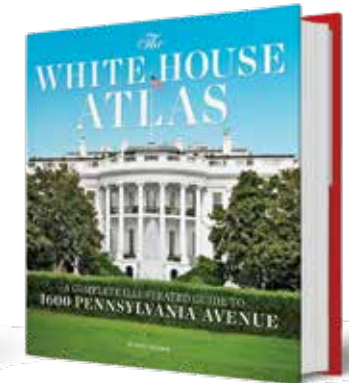
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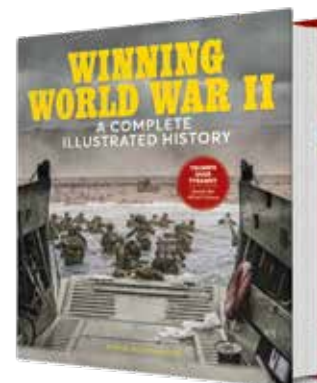
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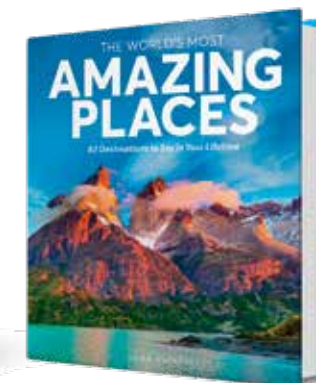
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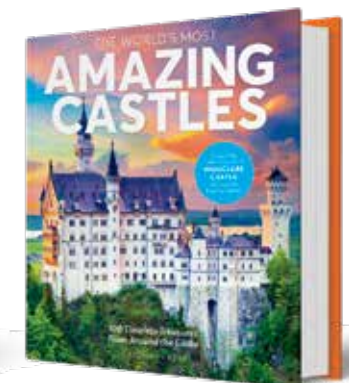
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