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Princess Margaret: A Biography



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Synopsis

"Theo Aronson’s latest royal book is a model of what a royal biography should be... The problems of being a princess in today’s monarchy are vividly implicit in every page... I found the book eminently readable in an easy style that lends itself to wit and irony..."Elizabeth Longford, The Tablet"A balanced and on the whole generous interpretation of this most elusive of royal characters. Aronson expounds convincingly the almost intolerable pressures to which a woman of intelligence and character must find herself subjected when entrapped in the mesh of royal responsibilities."PHILIP ZIEGLER, Daily Telegraph ’Books of the Year’ "Theo Aronson is a practised royal biographer who writes with fluidity... It is good to find royal gossip in which no one is absurdly inflated and no one viciously demeaned."Times Literary Supplement"Aronson’s strength is his style: he is an elegant writer who can handle the broad picture and the telling detail."Daily TelegraphÃ¢â ¬Å“Very comprehensive and well researched. An interesting read.Ã¢â ¬Â•MaryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Book CornerPart imperious royal figure, part femme du monde, Princess Margaret spent the greater part of her life torn between meeting the exacting standards of the monarchy and flouting its long-established conventions. She has been described as tragic, unresolved, a royal maverick, a woman of conflict, a princess without a cause. From any viewpoint, she remains the most interesting member of the royal family.Widely praised on its publication in hardback, this is the first detailed, in-depth study of this controversial figure. A respected royal biographer. Theo Aronson is uniquely qualified to tell the Princess’s story Ã¢â ¬â • from her private and public life. He has been helped by many who know Princess Margaret and has drawn on several new and unfamiliar sources. He has also had the incalculable advantage of several audiences with her, allowing him to incorporate many of her memories, observations and opinions in his book. This is a fresh, frank and highly entertaining account of an always colourful life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I met Princess Margaret on a number of occasions during the war at Lichfield in Staffordshire when I was a Choirister at the Cathedral and the Royal family used to stay there some weekends to avoid the London blitz.One of my Army friends also knew her well being in the Guards and frequently required to act as escort.She was totally spoiled, devoted to self satisfaction at others expense,living in a world of her own. Extremely beautiful in a petite way she eventually arrived at the inevitable stage where she was regarded as something of a pathetic joke by her inner circle.A sad life brought about largely by the refusal of the Church and staid politicians to allow her to follow her heart with a truly brilliant war hero. Lord Farrow.

This was a good, informative book. It was written several years ago, before the death of Princess Margaret or even the Queen Mother, so it feels out of date, of course. However, it was quite comprehensive, focusing on the Princess’s issues with her personal life and the press. The book gave me what I wanted to know - basically, who Princess Margaret was and what her life was like. It was well written and not too critical or too forgiving. I enjoyed it.

Princess Margaret was a princess before her time. In today’s world her antics would not have been a big deal. I think having lost her father and her sister becoming Queen at the same time she lost two people who were very important in her world. She struck out at the rules of royalty looking for love and all that was missing in her life. In some moment she was unroyal and then she would turn on dime and become a tyrant demanding royal treatment to it’s highest. If you like reading about the royalist you will enjoy this book.

Good read, but I thought this book would have covered Princess Margaret's entire life, up to her death, and a little beyond. The book seems to be incomplete.

Having always been interested in the Royal House of Windsor, I had thought thru the years that the Queen's younger sister epitomized a rich, spoiled brat who happened to be a princess. Instead as I grew older myself, what I found instead, in my own mind, was a sad, broken, woman who never found her place and covered her sorrow in booze and harmful relationships. She never recovered from her broken relationship with the only man she ever loved, Capt. Peter Townsend and I'm sure she thought many times thru the 90's until her death, that given the dysfunctional relationships of the royal family, she would have never had to give the Captain up had their love come a few decades later.A very sad story.

Thoroughly enjoyed the book on the life of Margaret Rose, as a contemporary. Had no idea she was so talented musically. Easy to understand her behavior and reputation when you understand how she was raised, and how she was treated by everyone but her father, who died too young. Especially liked the abdication details (which I remember), and the references to the Queen's children. As a child I watched for pictures of the princesses. Will recommend this book to my avid reader friends

Interesting biography. A bit outdated but nevertheless an objective account of a princess out of step with her time. I felt sorry for her being unable to be anything other than an ambassador for the royal family and have to put her own life aside.

I enjoyed this book about Princess Margaret. I learned a lot about her early life and loves that I did not know previously. However, I was very disappointed that the book ended before her death, which was in 2002. So the author referred to her in the present tense, throughout the entire book, then saying she redecorated the apartment in which she "lives in to this day". The book purports to being released in 2013, certainly enough time to update it. It needs at least another chapter.

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