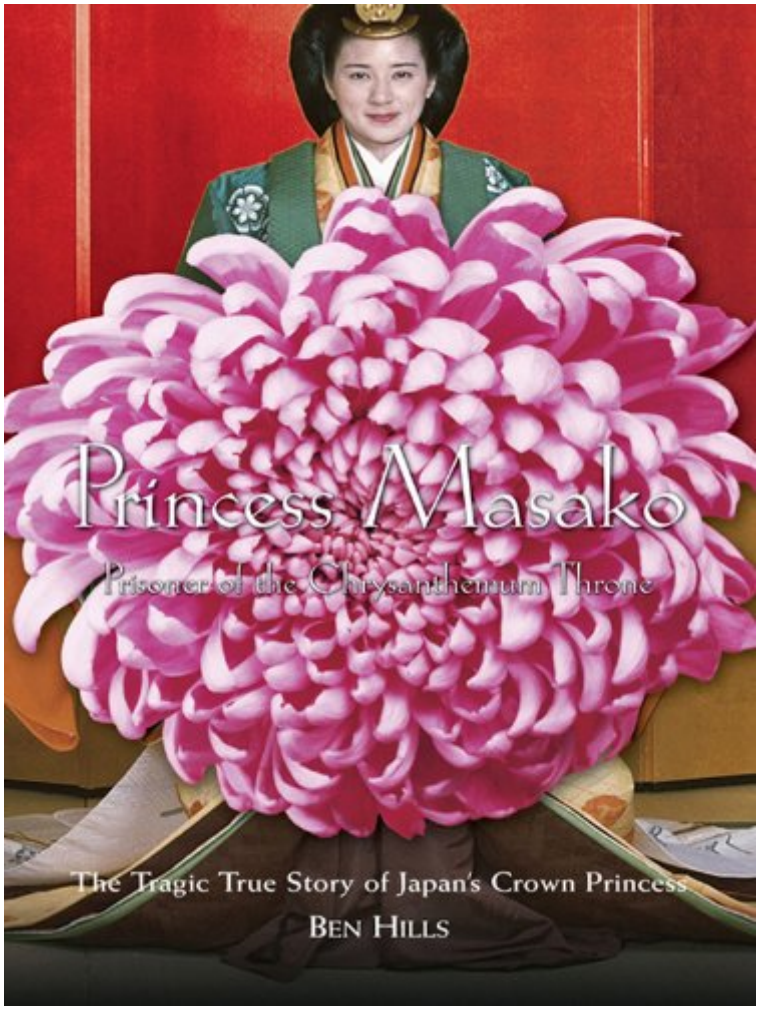
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Princess Masako: Prisoner Of The Chrysanthemum Throne



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Synopsis

The tragic true story of Japan's Crown Princess-with a new afterword by the author. It's the fantasy of many young women: marry a handsome prince, move into a luxurious palace, and live happily ever after. But that's not how it turned out for Masako Owada. Ben Hills's fascinating portrait of Princess Masako and the Chrysanthemum Throne draws on research in Tokyo and rural Japan, at Oxford and Harvard, and from more than sixty interviews with Japanese, American, British, and Australian sources-many of whom have never spoken publicly before-shedding light on the royal family's darkest secrets, secrets that can never be openly discussed in Japan because of the reverence in which the emperor and his family are held. But most of all, this is a story about a love affair that went tragically wrong. The paperback edition will contain a new afterword by the author, discussing the impact this book had in Japan, where it was banned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A pretty accurate account of the Emperor and the Empress(a commoner) meeting. If you have been to Japan you can even drive past the Tokyo Lawn and Tennis where they met or many places

referenced in the book. I really enjoyed the book, it was interesting about what a challenging public life they lead.

Although this book has some negative reviews, maybe from Japan’s Imperial House or from real experts on Japanese culture, , I found it particularly interesting for trying to built a story hidden in secrecy and tradition by knitting it through just about anyone close to the Imperial couple that allowed themselves to be interviewed. Some times authors look for the "right" people to tell a story. What happened when the "wrong people" tell the story, is it less valÃƒÂºa le to understand reality? This research method may sounds non academic but I find it close to some historical research trends such as micro history. The book reveals a lot of interesting facts about Japan’s Imperial lifestyle, I don’t know if they are true or not but it certainly sparked my interest in doing more research on Japan’ Imperial Family and history. . No culture can be evaluated on other way than on it’s own terms. No tradition either in western society or eastern society can claim to have the thruth, Princess Masako story is able to intrigue you on the fabulous cultural mosaic that form the world and how traditions and cultures are constructed. Sorry that she has to be sacrificed to keep all this tradition alive, hope that some day she gets released from this Gold cage life. Although the book lacks depth in some parts and historical rigurosity, it shows a fresh interest in Masako’s life which will force me to research morÃƒÂ© on Masako but most important on how each culture build their own set of thruth and reproduce then through out history without questioning them.

It was fascinating to learn about the inner workings of the Japanese imperial family but the author could be a bit less one sided about (read: completely biased towards) masako

I found this book quite fascinating for what it revealed about the Japanese royal family and Japanese tradition. It expressed well the tragedy of all Princess Masako had to give up in order to become the wife of the crown prince. However, as the author was denied access to members of the imperial family, the book necessarily contained a good bit of speculation and suffered from his having to rely on secondary and even tertiary sources for information.

What a sad story! And what an insightful picture of the agency which controls the lives of the so-called Imperial Family. I say "so-called" because it becomes very clear that they rule over nothing, much less an empire. They don’t even control their own lives. One can only conclude from this book that he whole purpose of the monarchy is to provide sinecures for the old nobility and

traditional jobs for their descendants. The whole thing is a pointless enterprise that drives outsiders crazy--Empress Michiko and Crown Princess Masako-- and makes dull dunderheads of the heritors of this tradition.

Highly interesting, author seems well informed and writes well enough to keep me going. I have to have a minimum a decent style or my eyes slide right off the page. Very well done.

I’m very interested in Japanese history and culture, and had followed the saga of Masako and the Prince back in the day. I was truly hoping she’d find a way NOT to marry him, as it seemed so wrong a choice for her. The info in the book was truly heartbreaking. But how it was written? Aussie snarkiness. Oh well. Worth a read to find out the gossip, but not much more. It was a tough slog.

This book discusses how the strict Japanese Royal family took a well educated Japanese woman who went to Harvard and proceeded to chew her up and spit her out into a person suffering seemingly from post traumatic stress over having to ask permission to breathe. Princess Masako spent years trying to recover her health after making the mistake of marrying into the royal family

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