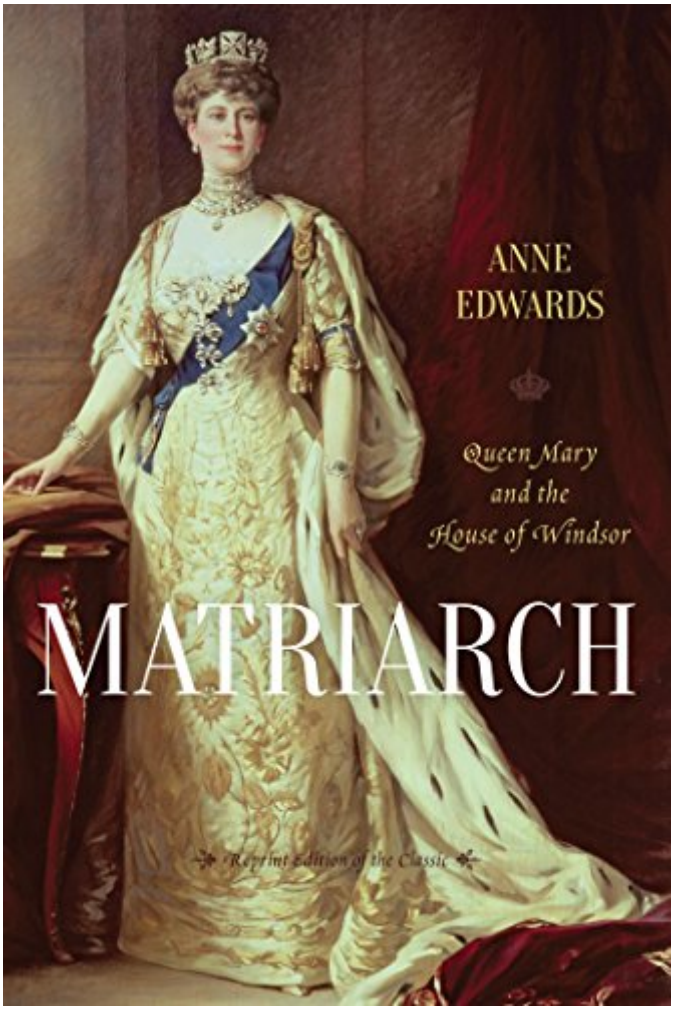
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Matriarch: Queen Mary And The House Of Windsor



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Synopsis

The life of Princess May of Teck is one of the great Cinderella stories in history. From a family of impoverished nobility, she was chosen by Queen Victoria as the bride for her eldest grandson, the scandalous Duke of Clarence, heir to the throne, who died mysteriously before their marriage. Despite this setback, she became queen, mother of two kings, grandmother of the current queen, and a lasting symbol of the majesty of the British throne. Her pivotal role in the abdication of her eldest son, the Duke of Windsor, is just one of the events that provide the backdrop for both thrilling biography and for narrating the splendors and tragedies of the entire house of Windsor.

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Customer Reviews

This was a decent book on Queen Mary, but there was a LOT left out, and could have been a really terrific book. But I'll give you my secret to making this a real page-turner: read Matriarch in-tandem with James Pope-Hennessey's official royal biography, Queen Mary. By reading both of these biographies in tandem, you'll walk away with a much richer and much more thorough portrait of a

woman who was so much more important to history than she is given credit.Matriarch glosses over Princess May’s entire childhood, an essential "detail" that is most important to Queen Mary’s adulthood and her reign. Her childhood experiences and relationships with her parents and cousins, aunts and uncles, and with the British Monarch itself, it paramount to understanding the woman that she became and to the children she bore (I hesitate to say "raised because, well, read the books). On one level, the Queen was a very complex individual; on another, she is not difficult to understand at all.By reading Matriarch alone, you may learn a few things you didn’t know before, but you’ll also walk away with a lot of questions. If you read the two biographies in tandem (I read up to a point in history in one book, then read up to the same point in history in the other, then switched) you’ll really understand the woman herself so much more. And like I said in my review of Pope-Hennessey’s biography, when you get to QM’s experiences during WWII (which are extremely limited in Edwards’ book) you’ll wish you had Julian Fellowes’ phone number on speed dial!

This is an incisive analysis of a woman who was personally powerful at a time when woman were not supposed to possess power. She may have been cold but she was a remarkable figure...turning the British monarchy into a formidable institution, surviving when royalties were falling like ten pins. She won and held the respect of an entire nation. Those with an interest in manners and mores of the period will love it. The formatting, unfortunately, leaves a lot to be desired

This felt like a very complete biography of Queen Mary. It was both sympathetic and direct. It made no bones about her tendency to be overly stoic and put the crown before all...even her children. But it also took time to explain how it must have seemed from her perspective and how her life and upbringing would have formed her detached and aloof nature. They were a bit kind on her reputation for "acquiring" jewels and valuable objects either by purchase or by asking for them and expecting them to be given to her. Over all a long read, a bit dry, but a good biography.

Absorbing story of an unusual person, marred by poor editing and conversion to kindle format. It seems clear from this narrative that the present queen had a strong and influential role model for a grandmother. A persuasive account of why the British royal family has improbably survived well into the 21st century, and why it remains not only acceptable, but loved by many.

Few people have lived a more interesting life than Queen Mary did. Early in her life she spent a good deal of time with Queen Victoria and she lived to see her granddaughter, Elizabeth II, take the

throne. During this remarkable period of time she saw nearly every other monarchy throughout Europe fall, yet England's continued. She lived through both World War I and II, dealt with personal crisis, including the abdication of her son, Edward VIII.Ms. Edwards' book captures this very complex figure. For anyone who is interested in the royal family, this book is highly recommended.

This was a decent biography. It was easy reading and interesting. I had to grit my teeth in the first part however due to the disproved character assassination of Prince Eddy. The allegations against him have since the printing of this book been totally proven false. I also thought that Edward VIII and Wallis were not presented as dark as they were. But Queen Mary was given respect for all she did for her nation and that although she was not the fluffy mommy she did love her children and husband

It's an old biography, about 1984, but it is still the definitive opus on the life of Queen Mary of Teck [wife & consort of King George V]. The author writes in a very conversational style; is very much in thrall to her subject; but also very honest in Queen Mary's portrayal. I am so happy that this book is in the Kindle format. It's usually very expensive to purchase at a bookstore and it's a wonderful addition to anyone's library who likes British and Royal history. There are not enough stars to award it.

Anne Edwards has done an exemplary job in presenting Queen Mary, a less well known English Royal outside of England. I wondered how I could have read so many books on her two sons, David and King George, and her granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth, and know so little about her. A remarkable woman who excelled in so many ways, albeit not as a Mother of six, she was fundamental to the behavior, customs, protocols, and ways of the Royals. She was also fully the woman behind and beside her husband, the King. She never sought center stage, but she earned it and was given it by the citizens of England, India, and Australia from the time she came to the throne with her husband. The author has done the reader a great service by providing numerous well documented notes at the end of each chapter. The cadance remains even throughout, helped by the expert use of language that fortunately skips the formality of the period (19th and early 20th century). Edwards managed to tell the story of this Queen not only without losing her in the more well known stories of her family, but showing how she was "the rest of the story".

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