



Royal Sisters: Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret

Anne Edwards

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Perry B says

Interesting story of Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

Was chock full of details of their earier lives. The author obiously did her research. Great book who loves to hear about the British royals. The only thing I would critize is the book is outdated. The royal family tree only goes to 1990. Also we hear virtually nothing about Princess Margaret's life after the Townsend affair. Needs serious updating.

Michell Karnes says

An excellent book giving a detailed account of the lives of Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. The author relates how both of these women found love and their relationships with the men of their choosing. Of course Elizabeth was able to marry hers and how Margaret was not allowed to marry hers.

Ga-ranimals! says

The book was fine, but...it left me feeling that the author favored Margaret over Elizabeth. While Elizabeth is depicted as sheltered, introverted and duty-bound, Margaret is the beautiful one with theatrical talents and musical gifts. While Elizabeth must study history and geography of the British Empire, Margaret is the intellect who memorizes and absorbs her sister's lessons in addition to her own. When Elizabeth meets and falls in love with Philip, it is pictured less as a love match and more as a political one. Although Margaret's relationship with Townsend is star-crossed, it is the great love of each of their lives.
Perhaps I should not read while fighting a cold, but this is how it read to me.

Amy says

I felt like this was barely about the two of them as sisters. It was more about a comparison between the Queen's relationship with Philip and Margaret's with Townsend. It ended when Margaret decided not to marry Townsend and gave a brief epilogue about her marriage to Armstrong-Jones. I wanted so much more from this book, but it really wasn't there. Too much time was paid to the Abdication of their uncle and the war.

Simone says

I've read many biographies of the British Royal Family, the Windsors in particular, but never anything in depth about Margaret. After being disappointed by the amount of artistic licence (fictionalization) there was

in season 2 of The Crown, my interest in reading an accurate biography of Margaret was reawakened.

I am so enthralled by this author, her books contain so much new information and this always surprises me based on the long list of books I've already read. Her book "Matriarch" about the life of Queen Mary impressed me, and I was glad to see she had written a book about Margaret.

I liked the idea of a book that would focus on the sisterhood of Elizabeth and Margaret, but I don't think the book delivered on that front. I feel like it was a great biography of the Queen, with a little of Margaret thrown in from time to time for good measure. I am not so sure I have any additional insight into the sisterly relationship between the 2 women, and I still feel like a biography completely dedicated to Margaret would have given me more of what I wanted.

In addition... where's the rest of it?!? It ends in 1960! As a result, the only part of her life that was covered was the "Group Captain Peter Townsend Affair" nothing about her marriage, divorce, kids, Roddy...

Despite this, I am not disappointed since overall I was feel like there was a lot of new information and I was captivated throughout.

Claire says

Insightful look into a young Princess Elizabeth and her younger sister, Princess Margaret. This book was full of information and stories about "us four," which in terms of a royal time period, this might be my favorite.

This book wasn't too "gossipy" and the notes were full of texts and other interesting information.

If you are a history buff or enjoy reading about The British Monarchy, this one is worth the read.

Dara says

Enjoyably written but mainly things I already knew.

Arzu says

I really enjoyed this book and practically devoured it but the ending fell flat for me. I understand that Margaret's affair with Peter Townsend formed a significant part of her life but I was under the impression that the book would delve into her and Elizabeth's relationship past the 1950s as well. The book itself was quite well-written and I enjoyed the photos accompanying the text but as I said previously, more of the sisters' relationship could have been explored.

Kristen Murray says

It's a good book, keeps your interest. Only goes up to 1956, and ends at a good moment in time. Not only about Elizabeth the second and her sister Margret, briefly touches on Prince Philip, Edward VIII, George VI, and the Queen Mother. Recommended to those who are a fan of "The Crown".

Laurie Hoppe says

This is a very sympathetic look at Elizabeth and Margaret Rose before and after the older sister became Queen Elizabeth II. I found myself unexpectedly touched by the two love affairs at the center of the book: Princess (now Queen) Elizabeth and Prince Philip, and Princess Margaret and the divorced commoner Peter Townsend. A decorated RAF pilot, Capt. Townsend was a genuine war hero. It's shocking to me that he was considered "not good enough" for the Queen's younger sister. This book was written in 1990, well before Prince Charles divorced Diana and became the husband of divorced Camilla. None of that has had any impact on Charles' ability to ascend to the throne. Knowing the next generation's marital shenanigans only makes Margaret's heartache more poignant and unnecessary.

Lydia Cox says

After seeing The Crown, I was interested in reading this book to see how well it aligned and I was happily surprised. After doing a lot of phone fact-checking while watching The Crown, we found that it was fairly accurately portrayed, with, of course, TV drama thrown in. The book was a suitable companion, apparently well-researched (check out the pages of notes, appendices, references, etc at the end) and was a sympathetic view of the two women.

I found the writing easier to read than most non-fiction, and thought it was well-organized. Edwards managed to show the characters as humans, with the faults, emotions, and mistakes that come with it. The hardest part of reading the book is keeping all the characters straight. especially considering they had so many titles which could change, but with the help of the lineage charts it was manageable.

Leslie Goddard says

I enjoyed this book -- it's readable and well-researched but doesn't get bogged down in too much detail. She avoids the big trap of getting pulled into gossip.

My big quibble, however, has to do with the misleading title. It's not the story of Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret -- it ends about 1956 and dismisses the rest of their lives in a few sentences. What it really is, at least for the bulk of the book, is a comparison of the love stories between Elizabeth/Philip and Margaret/Peter Townsend. The title ought to reflect that.

And Anne Edwards knew Peter Townsend, which clearly has impacted her ability to be objective about him. While there is plenty of other evidence to confirm that he was indeed an intelligent, mature, thoughtful man, he comes across here as a virtual saint, with scarcely a flaw and that makes him seem like a flat, undimensional cartoon character (unlike Philip who is criticized more but comes across as a much more fully

fleshed out human being).

Brittany says

I quite enjoyed this book. I have fallen in love with the royals as many have recently with the beautiful Princess Kate joining Prince William and their adorable children. Add to it the Netflix series The Crown and the truth behind the intrigue is undeniable. Now, these were not my only reasons for being interested in the Royal Family, but they did prompt a desire to learn more.

Anne Edwards does a nice job of shifting the focus back and forth between the sisters for the majority of the book. She becomes a bit fixated at the end with the Margaret-Townsend affair, but overall, she divided the focus well. I found the Duke of Windsor and his wife to be insufferable and have to wonder if they are being fairly portrayed. Afterall, is it likely the monarchy and parliment of England would allow the publication of a book that did not present him in this fashion? Regardless, his actions were ruthless and that came across in the information presented.

I would have liked to have known Elizabeth and Margaret when they were children. It saddens me how much they missed out on as children because of their regimented lives. Even when normalcy was brought in (like joining girl guides) it wasn't like joining a normal troupe. My heart breaks for their missed opportunities in life and in love, but I am also, I admit, jealous of the lives they have and are living.

Kay Wahrsager says

Perfect for Crown watchers

Highly enjoyable account of the Queen and Princess Margaret though I wish it had continued past the end of the Townsend affair and Prince Philip's return from his Pacific tour.

KYS says

Really not a book about the sisters. I was looking for a biography of Margaret, and this is more a truncated biography of Elizabeth and her early life, with some details about Margaret thrown in. Anne Edwards is a very good writer, but the scope of this is somewhat unbalanced.
