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George And Marina: Duke And Duchess Of Kent



GEORGE AND MARINA DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT

CHRISTOPHER WARWICK



Synopsis

For eight brief years, before he was tragically killed in a mysterious air crash during the Second World War, Prince George, Duke of Kent, son of King George V and Queen Mary, and his beautiful wife, Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark, were the British monarchy's, indeed, high society's, most glamorous royal couple; and as golden royal icons they are still remembered. As a young man, voraciously addicted to drugs and sex, with men as much as women, marriage and parenthood for the impetuously wayward playboy prince, with his night-clubbing lifestyle and intimate liaisons, was seen as the only stabilizing influence. Enter the stylish and sophisticated Princess Marina, the cultured, artistic and multilingual youngest daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece and his Russian-born wife, Grand Duchess Yelena Vladimirovna. As Duke and Duchess of Kent, George and Marina were the Crown's most glittering representatives, not least in the aftermath of the Abdication of George's adored elder brother, the briefly-reigned King Edward VIII; the man with whom he had not only shared both home and high-flying lifestyles, but who had helped cure him of his addiction to morphine and cocaine. On and off duty, the Duke and Duchess lived life to the full, and after George's untimely death, Marina continued to do so during the twenty-six years of her widowhood. Revisiting his 1988 best-selling biography, *George and Marina: Duke and Duchess of Kent*, Christopher Warwick, in this revised and partly re-written study, tells their story anew.

Book Information

File Size: 2649 KB

Print Length: 180 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1909771155

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Albert Bridge Books; Second edition (January 3, 2016)

Publication Date: January 3, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01A5XK78G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #25,580 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Royalty #27 in Kindle Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Royalty #35 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Rich & Famous

Customer Reviews

Very good-a realistic portrait of the Duchess who had many challenges during her lifetime. Her mother was of course, Grand Duchess Helen of Russia, daughter of Grand Duke Vladimir and Marie Pavlovna, Nicholas II aunt and uncle. Hugely wealthy and powerful, Helen's parents lived a life of unimaginable opulence and luxury. Although her socially ambitious mother would have preferred a king for Helen's husband, she married a younger son of the Greek royal family, Prince Nicholas. He was an extremely stable and talented man, so her choice was well made. They had three daughters; Marina was the youngest. Because the Greek political system was extremely precarious and the Turks were constantly attacking the country, life was unpredictable. Helen's money, which was invested in Russia, kept them afloat until the revolution. She was able to smuggle some of her jewelry out of the country, which gave them a little cushion, but their means were not great. None the less, their royal connections allowed the family to live in lovely homes, to travel, and to educate their children. Because of the uncertainty she had experienced in her married life, Helen was determined to find wealthy and powerful husband for her daughters; the oldest married into the Yugoslavian royal family and the middle daughter married into a very successful aristocratic/merchant family. Princess Marina was nearly 30 when she married the Duke of Kent. Both had experienced a great deal in their lives; the Duke had romantic relationships with both men and women and had kicked a heroin habit with his brother, the Prince of Wales, help. They had three children, a daughter and two sons, before the Duke was tragically killed in a plane crash.

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