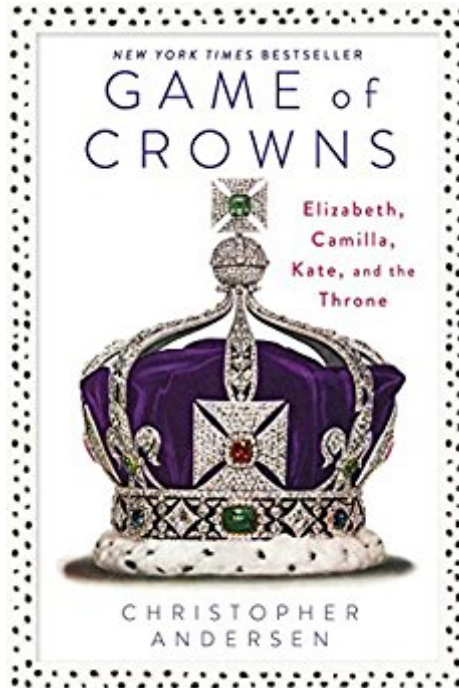


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Game Of Crowns: Elizabeth, Camilla, Kate, And The Throne



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *William and Kate* and *The Day Diana Died* takes a compulsively readable look into the relationships and rivalries of Queen Elizabeth, Camilla Parker Bowles, and Kate Middleton. One has been famous longer than anyone on the planet—a wily stateswoman and an enduring symbol of a fading institution. One is the great-granddaughter of a king’s mistress and a celebrated homewrecker who survived a firestorm of scorn to marry her lover and replace her arch rival, a beloved twentieth-century figure. One is a beautiful commoner, the university-educated daughter of a self-made entrepreneur, a fashion idol, and wife and mother to two future kings. Master biographer Christopher Andersen takes readers behind palace walls to examine the surprising similarities and stark differences among three remarkable women—Queen Elizabeth; Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall; and Princess Kate. Andersen reveals what transpires within the royal family away from the public’s prying eyes; how the women actually feel about each other; how they differ as lovers, wives, and mothers; and how they are reshaping the landscape of the monarchy in this addictive read that will shock even those who are spellbound by the royal palace.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The prologue of the book and opening chapter highlight a theoretical battle between William and Kate versus that of Charles and Camilla for the admiration of the people. It is hinted at that Queen Elizabeth may abdicate at some point, but only on the condition that Charles agrees to an abdication himself in 15 years. Although all speculation, the reader is immediately reminded that even a 15-year reign by Charles would place him in his 80s. If you're looking for a narrative that is a bit scandalous and informal, then yes, this is for you. There's nothing wrong with that, sometimes that's the joy of reading. There's even casual details regarding the sexual proclivities of some of the royal family, and how Prince Philip was a charmer at a young age, often reprimanded for the "flashlight" he kept in his pocket that poked people. However, if you're someone who is looking for a traditional, authentic, well referenced, perhaps family interviews, biographical account, no, this isn't for you. This seems odd, but I feel like the first chapter, where the death of the queen is discussed has been released to the public before, it outlines what the world would look like the day that Queen Elizabeth has died; I don't read a lot of the gossip sites, but I know that I've read this one selection before. In particular, British newscasters keep dark suits in reserve in case the Queen does die and it talks about whether or not the crown will continue in England when the less Popular-Charles gets it. Anyway, to the narrative of the book. It is told in a casual manner of fact method, and well, if you're looking for something that maybe a bit gossipier and sensationalist, then this maybe the right book.

I am disappointed in this book, some passages were in my opinion cringeworthy and there were many contradictions. I'll start with Andersen's obsession about the Hewitt and Harry gossip. Andersen seems obsessed with this and promotes this ugly gossip in almost all his books about the royals. First of all he ignores the obvious resemblance that Harry has to his father Prince Charles and grandfather Prince Philip and seems to assume that since Harry has red hair he must be Hewitt's son. So ridiculous since Harry's aunt and cousins have red hair and I doubt they had to be sired by Hewitt. He also bases his "research" on Hewitt's absurd television appearance where he was "hypnotized" and said he and Diana started earlier than he originally said. Hewitt and Diana started their affair according to both of them ca. Summer/Fall 1986 when Harry was nearly two years old. Andersen also claims that Diana called Hewitt from the hospital letting him know about Harry's birth. Yet at the same time, says that Charles and Diana wanted a second child and Charles called the planning of conceiving of Harry 'the breeding period.' I think this is just another way of trashing Diana I think Hewitt just needed some money to tide himself over and did this "hypnosis"

stunt for that purpose. Diana is dead and conveniently can't refute Andersen's gossip nor Hewitt's absurd TV claims. Andersen claims that Charles "knows" but did not want to cause a "scandal." As if Charles would have let someone else's child be in the line of succession. I think this is just cruel gossip. Andersen writes how Camilla promotes badmouthing of the late Diana. If this is the case, Andersen's book fits right in with Camilla's plans.

Sadly, this is yet another case of sloppy research by an author who is not a Brit but nevertheless feels qualified to write about the British Royal Family. I won't repeat the mistakes pointed out by other reviewers, but in addition to the numerous grammatical errors, I will add a few factual errors I found that would've been caught by a British middle-schooler. For instance, on page 42, the author explains that the term, EIR means Elizabeth II Regent. Actually, no it doesn't. It stands for Elizabeth II Regina. Big difference between "Regent" and "Regina." On page 205, we have the Queen peering into a Plasticine bag. Plasticine is modeling clay (think Sculpey); I believe the author meant polythene (generic term in Britain for plastic). Kids would have a good laugh over this. Moving beyond the realm of youngsters, on page 49, the Queen is in Kenya when she learns of her father's death. "Clad in safari jacket and jeans" - I seriously doubt Elizabeth was wearing jeans that had hardly been introduced into the UK at this point in 1952. I know because I was there. The author uses dollars when he should've used pounds to discuss funds raised, and on page 241 William was shown as refraining from calling Carole Middleton "Mom." No, he would've refrained from calling her "Mum." On page 160 the author refers to RAF Northolt. It's RAF Northolt. I used to live 3 miles away. Again, sloppy research. In a "what if" scenario, the author has Charles being crowned less than six months after Elizabeth's death. There is no hard and fast rule about this, but custom requires at least a year's mourning before the new monarch is crowned. Also, the monarch's male successor is not automatically termed "the Prince of Wales."

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