

TODAY'S AMERICAN TRAGEDY—CHILD BEATERS

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INSIDE ROYALTY

HAS QUEEN ELIZABETH



By REGINALD WUTHERING III

Her scandal-rocked reign has taken its toll

of the Queen. She looks forward to retirement!

HAD IT?

The Truth About Those Abdication Rumors

LLOYDS OF LONDON won't give odds on it, but the average Englishman is willing to bet that Queen Elizabeth will abdicate her ancient throne anytime from four to seven years from now.

Shocking though the rumor is, it seems more and more certain that Elizabeth, who was schooled in her public duties and responsibilities to the crown from the time her father, George VI, came to the throne, wants to relinquish her demanding role and begin to have a life of her own with her beloved Philip and her children.

For the ten years that she has reigned, Elizabeth has been a perfect Queen. She has delighted her subjects with her serious devotion to duty, her devotion to her family and her assumption of all the responsibilities which a head of state must be involved in.

When the press criticized her for her stiffness in her public utterances, she took speaking lessons to overcome her self-consciousness. When she was twitted for her frumpy clothes, she made Hartness her dressmaker, and has since emerged as a stylish woman with a flair for chic—something her sister had innately.

But she has had enough of all the demanding restrictions, which are not a woman's job in today's world. She wants her son Charles, now 14, to take over the duties as soon as he is able. In four years, under royal law, Charles reaches his majority at 18. Elizabeth might well remain Queen until her son reaches twenty-one and finishes his schooling.

Elizabeth is determined not to let Charles wait until he is an old man, as her great-great grandmother Victoria did with her son. Victoria reigned

63 years, from the time she was 18 until she died at 81. When her son, Edward VII, mounted the throne in 1901 he was an advanced 68 years of age, and only nine years of life were left to him.

Too many shocking things have happened in the decade that Elizabeth has reigned and they are beginning to tell on her. From the shiningly radiant girl of 27 who came to the throne, she has changed into a worried, soberly unhappy woman, fast approaching middle age.

Honorable, conservative England has suffered many humiliations, none of them of the Queen's making, since the start of the second Elizabethan era. Government officials in places of trust have been blackmailed as homosexuals. Some of them have been caught as spies. But the recent Profumo scandal, which teetered Her Majesty's government, was the final straw that fractured the camel's back and the Queen's patience.

There had never been anything to equal the corruption and decadence in high places. The most shocking blow to the Queen was the disclosure that Dr. Stephan Ward, who had a stable of tarts, was known to Prince Philip, Princess Margaret and her husband, the former Antony Armstrong-Jones, now Lord Snowden.

As a symbol of dignity, the image of royalty was damaged by having such scandals come so close to home. Not that her people blamed or criticized the Queen. Prime Minister Harold Macmillan took that blame. But England was besmirched, and the Queen IS England.

The English papers have never so much as printed a rumor about the Queen's plans to follow in the wake of her uncle, *(Continued on next page)*

Here is the image the Queen of England must present to her subjects literally 24 hours a day, 365 days a year—portrait of a serene and harmonious family. Left to right, Philip, Prince Andrew, Elizabeth, Princess Anne, Prince Charles. Elizabeth wishes to avoid repetition of situation when King Edward VII (extreme right) assumed throne at the age of 68, and lived only a few years. The Queen believes Charles should face responsibility sooner.





One of the more taxing queenly duties is travelling to the outposts of the empire and greeting her subjects. Elizabeth is seen here in African tour.

the Duke of Windsor, and take to abdication. But French, German and Italian papers have not been so timid.

All over England, from the provincial pubs to London's select clubs, in Parliament's Halls and back gardens, everyone seems to know about the royal plans when Elizabeth will seek retirement.

Once her subjects had exhausted the last juicy morsel of gossip—which kept them busy or more than three months—about Dr. Stephan Ward, the pimp who killed himself, and Christine Keeler and her friend, Mandy Rice-Davis, self-admitted tarts, the Queen's future took over as the favorite topic of speculation and conversation.

While the public would prefer that she remain Queen, they seem to understand and sympathize with her need to abdicate. "She's had troubles enough," is the consensus

of opinion among her subjects.

Her Philip, whom she worships, has not been quite the adoring husband that Victoria's consort, Albert, was to his Queen. More than one British paper has hit Philip with such headlines as:

WHY ISN'T PHILIP AT THE QUEEN'S SIDE?

QUEEN SEEN ALONE AGAIN!

PHILIP GOES HUNTING AGAIN!

PHILIP VISITS RELATIVES IN GERMANY WITHOUT THE QUEEN!

The critical headlines have brought Philip to his senses. In the past two years he has been behaving with more discretion. His wandering eye for a pretty girl appears to be focused more sharply at home. He now goes to the races with his Queen, even though he loathes them as much as Elizabeth enjoys

them. True, there has been a TV set installed at both Ascot and Epsom Downs, near the Royal Enclosure, so that if the races become too boring Philip can take time out to watch the B.B.C.

In the past few months, while his wife was forced to forego public appearances because of her pregnancy with their fourth child, Philip took on the royal role in her place and represented Elizabeth in Washington at the late President Kennedy's funeral and in Kenya, when a new state became independent from England.

Another constant irritant to Elizabeth, even though she loves her younger sister, has been Margaret's often non-royal behavior. Margaret has always been the fun-loving sister, the opposite of the correct, somewhat stiff Elizabeth.

She has been quoted as once saying to the Queen, when Elizabeth reprimanded her about her behavior: "You tend to your Empire and I'll look after my own affairs."

Margaret broke a lot of rules that English princesses are supposed to uphold. She was wearing obvious makeup at fifteen. She wore a scanty bathing suit and was photographed in it on a visit to Italy. She smoked publicly. She loved jazz and danced to it without inhibition. She had an endless number of beaux who took her to off-beat restaurants and clubs in Soho and Chelsea—anything but royal playgrounds.

Then came her romance with Peter Townsend, who was 41, divorced and the father of two children. He had been a military aide to the royal family when they fell madly in love.

Since the Wallis Simpson-Edward VIII affair, there hadn't been such an impossible royal love match. Margaret gave up her love, it is true, but not entirely because her sister asked her to. If she had really wanted to marry Townsend she could have by waiting a year and a half until she became 25. At that age she no longer would have been subject to the Royal Marriage Act, which is a decree that authorizes the Queen to approve of Royal Family marriages.

The only hitch was, that had Margaret acted independently, she would have been forced to give up her title of Princess and the very generous allowance that goes with it. The truth is that Margaret preferred her royal privileges and wealth to true love.

After a year or more of sulking, Margaret again began playing the field. The press was hard put to keep up with her alleged romances once they passed more than 25 steady escorts. She was approaching 30, very eligible from many standpoints, but none of her swains seemed to be the marrying kind.

Antony Armstrong-Jones worked his way into the family with his camera. First, as assistant to court photographer Barron, and then on the merits of his own photographs. His bohemian background may not have been all that the family would have wished for her, but his love of fun suited Margaret perfectly. Philip certainly did not approve of him and made it plain. But the Queen Mother and Elizabeth felt that if they queered this marriage, only heaven knew whom Margaret might choose next.

So every one played their parts of taking him into the family circle and pretending that they couldn't have been more pleased with the match.

Elizabeth's subjects approved Margaret's choice of a commoner, proving that she had always been democratic in her ways and thinking. Some people criticized his past and the fact that his parents had married and remarried with great frequency, but the general feeling was that Margaret knew what she was doing and "Tony" must be a bit of all right.

Elizabeth took her own good time before she gave him a title, however, which is what the public seemed to want. She waited until his public image seemed quite favorable, before making him the Earl of Snowden, which was just before his son, Lord Linley, was born.

Elizabeth was far from pleased when the Jones butler quit his job and discussed the reasons why with the press. He had found his bosses very inconsiderate, particularly the Earl. Oddly, public opinion went against the butler and he was slammed in the press for his loose tongue and behavior unbecoming to a British servant.

Prince Charles has not been innocent of causing trouble to his mother. Not so long ago there was the caper of going into a pub with some of his school chums and knocking down a glass of something slightly alcoholic which has been variously reported as port, sherry or blackberry brandy—none of them

too high in spiritous liquor.

But his school life is strictly disciplined. And he is far from pampered. His very plain room is unheated and like the other boys he starts the day with a cold shower, no matter what the weather.

Undoubtedly when he finishes Gordonstone he will follow his father's and grandfather's tradition and serve some time in the Royal Navy, which can only serve to mature him and prepare him for the monumental responsibilities he will soon have to take on.

Elizabeth's subjects speculate about how Prince Philip has reacted to the Queen's decision to give up her throne. Most of them believe he is not only enthusiastically in favor of it but that he inspired the original idea of abdication. He has seen the changes that ten years as ruler of a major power have made in his wife. No one knows better than he how difficult her life is. Undoubtedly he is con-

cerned with how long she can keep on without sacrificing her own life and that of her family.

With a new prince or princess added to the family, Philip would surely like his wife to be able to enjoy the role of being a mother without distractions. Also, Philip has never had much patience with the panoply of royalty and the impositions it asks. He would like to pursue his own interests without making headlines—polo, yachting and driving fast cars, among other things.

They both like travel but the travelling they have done with Elizabeth as Queen has always been in the nature of a state visit, which is far from relaxing.

There is little doubt that Philip will be much happier, when he can take his place truly at Elizabeth's side, not three paces back of her where he must always be while she is Queen. ■■■

One problem the Queen had to face was the marriage of her sister Margaret to a commoner. She waited many months before bestowing a title.

