



Raising Royalty: 1000 Years of Royal Parenting

Carolyn Harris

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How royal parents raised their children over the past thousand years, from keeping the Vikings at bay to fending off paparazzi.

William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, are setting trends for millions of parents around the world. The upbringing of their two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, is the focus of intense popular scrutiny. Royalty have always raised their children in the public eye and attracted praise or criticism according to parenting standards of their day.

Royal parents have always faced unique privileges and challenges. In medieval times, raising an heir often meant raising a rival, and monarchs sometimes faced their grown children on the battlefield. Kings and queens who lost their thrones through wars or popular revolutions found solace in time spent with their children. In modern times, royal duties and overseas tours have often separated young princes and princesses from their parents, a circumstance that is slowly changing with the current generation of British royalty.

Raising Royalty: 1000 Years of Royal Parenting Details

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From Reader Review Raising Royalty: 1000 Years of Royal Parenting for online ebook

Mandy says

Well researched, clearly and accessibly written, this exploration of how royal parents have brought up their children over the centuries is both entertaining and illuminating. As with any such comprehensive history book I found I couldn't manage much more than a chapter at a time, especially with all the endless Williams, Henrys and Richards of the early years, but as a book to dip into and inform other historical readings it couldn't be bettered.

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

A special thank you to Carolyn Harris, Dundurn Press, and netgalley for the copy of this book in return for an unbiased review.

The majority focus is on the English monarchy, but it does branch out to Russia, France, the Netherlands, and the Palatine, so we get a varied sampling over a 1,000 year period.

If I must be honest this book was slightly less than mediocre. It wasn't bad, it just was-like white bread or vanilla ice cream. It's certainly palatable, but why not have chocolate?

Perhaps it's simply the topic? It's basically understood that royal parents do not rear their children, and the children are unhappy. Only the last chapter covering William and Kate is at all refreshing. Otherwise the majority of the book has been covered many times by many other authors. What I can recommend is for those in early childhood classes or medieval studies, this may be a book for you.

2017 Lenten Buddy Reading Challenge book #22

Melisa says

As a 21st century parent, this is a completely fascinating account of how children were raised throughout history. Not only does the book cover how the royals were parented, but it also addresses some of the parenting and social ideals of the times.

The book is broken up into chronological chapters based on a selection of leaders and the times that they reigned. Let's just say, we've come a very long way since the medieval times!

The author is obviously an expert on this subject and it shows. There are excellent facts and quotes to support the accounts throughout history.

My only complaints were that it was, at times, difficult to follow as it jumped around a bit chronologically. Also, although written very well, I wish it was a little bit less textbook-ish and more conversational in tone. Though I know that would be a difficult feat given all the facts presented here!

Highly recommend!

Susan Snodgrass says

I have long been a fan of the British monarchy and have quite a collection of books myself, so when I see a new book, I grab it! This one is a great addition to any library. Beginning in the tenth century, it is very detailed as to how different members of the royal families of Europe raised their children. Sometimes it is very, very detailed and tiresome, but still, all in all it is a great book.

*I was provided with a copy of this book by the publisher via Net Galley. My review is honest and my own.

Laura says

A quick read on the evolution of raising children over the last 1,000 years. While focused on royal children this book could be a good start for looking into how any child was raised during a particular period in time. It looks at how culture, religion and society as well as circumstances affected how a child was brought up. From treating children like little adults to the gradual movement towards having a childhood and the role that parents play in the raising of their children. I was surprised that even early on there were books and guides for how to treat children so that they were raised right.

Received an advance copy via Netgalley.

Penmouse says

Raising Royalty by Carolyn Harris is a readable book that shows how different royal parents managed to raise their royal children while managing to survive the public spotlight. Her book seems to be well research and contains endnotes showing the research the author undertook to write her book.

Raising Royalty features the following royal families:

Edgar "The Peaceable" and Elfrida of Northampton
William I "The Conqueror" and Matilda of Flanders
Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine
Henry III and Eleanor of Provence
Edward III and Philippa of Hanault
Richard III and Anne Neville
Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile
Henry VIII and Catharine of Aragon
Frederick V, Elector Palatine and Elizabeth of England and Scotland
Charles I and Henrietta Maria of France
Peter I "The Great" of Russian and Catherine

Anne and George of Denmark
George II and Caroline of Ansbach
Louis XVI of France and Marie Antoinette of Austria
Victoria and Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
Nicholas II of Russia and Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt
Juliana of the Netherlands and Berhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld
Elizabeth II and Phillip of Greece and Denmark
Prince Charles and Diana Spencer
Prince William and Catherine Middleton

If you enjoy reading history, and want to learn more about how royal families managed their children, you will like this book.

Review written after downloading a galley from Net Galley.

Juli says

Raising a prince or princess is much more than the Once-Upon-A-Time of fairy tales. Bringing up a royal child is parenting on a grand scale - preparing the next generation of rulers, setting political alliances, and maintaining the grandeur and expectations of a 24/7 public role. *Raising Royalty* presents the stories of 20 different royal families and their children over the past 1000 years. From grand palaces to lonely exile, arranged marriages and political intrigue, to armed rebellion, overindulgence and even abuse, the stories tell an ever evolving tale of what it means to be royal.

I loved this book! From Edgar the Peaceable to the modern Prince William and Catherine Middleton, it shows not only the progression of monarchy over time but the changes in the way royals parent their children. Some had only rare contact with their children. Others saw them as political rivals. And some were doting, loving parents. Harris writes in a style that makes the family history of 20 royal families interesting and accessible.

I've read many books on European history, but this is the first I've read that focuses on royal family life and parental relationships. So interesting! The book is organized by date and ruling couple. Harris gives information on the rulers' childhoods and how their youth formed their parental style (or lack thereof in some cases). Any reader with interest in the history of Europe and royals would enjoy this book!

Harris, who teaches history at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, has also written two other books on history - *Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada*, and *Queenship and Revolution in Early Modern Europe*. For more information on the author and her books, check out her website at: <http://www.royalhistorian.com/>

****I voluntarily read an advance readers copy of this book from Dundurn via NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.****

Connie Fischer says

This is a wonderful book that follows 20 European royal couples and their parenting styles as seen by the public. It discusses each European ruler and the relationships they had with their spouses and their children. Often, it was found that the mother was very protective of her children and does all she can to promote them in the eyes of their father. In addition, many female children were placed in convents and the males were placed in the homes of barons and church leaders for them to complete their education.

Early generations of royal children saw very little of their parents for different reasons. Many parents did not want to be burdened with the day-to-day needs of their children. They also had royal duties that required their attention.

I found it fascinating how each of the royal couples had differing views of raising their children which sometimes made for sorrow for some mothers who weren't allowed to be with their children. These families had large numbers of children up to 14 and more. Sadly, many of them never survived infancy.

I liked how the book included each ruler and the political beliefs of each of them. There were also big differences between families due to religious beliefs. The Catholic and Protestant faiths caused lots of friction. The impact of this on the children was huge resulting in anger and even death.

If I was a writer, I would want to have this book close by as a reference novel as it is chock full of lots of great facts about the 1000 years it covers. Just to read the book is enlightening for anyone and I highly recommend it. I also commend the author for her incredible work in writing this great reference book.

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Marzie says

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Carolyn Harris has written a book with an interesting perspective on European history, viewed with an eye on parenting. I enjoyed the book for its ability to make me stop and think about the differing parenting styles and their outcome on succession in some of the best known monarchies in Europe. One can easily pity the plight of royal children, who were pawns in political marriages, but sometimes also in schemes against one or both of their parents.

Those who like popular biographies of royals may find this book's more historical tone a bit dry but it is an intriguing view of the last thousand years of some of the best known royal families in Europe.

Karen Lee-Johnston says

I loved this book, royalty through the ages showing how the privilege monster is made. Full well researched information and really well written. As an historian it is over course right up my street but it's a highly

readable book that has mass appeal potential. You can draw a line through the ages to the royals of today with how they are raised in the bounds of expectation and protocol. Fabulous read!

Dannii Elle says

I received this in exchange for an honest review from NetGalley. Thank you to the author, Carolyn Harris, and the publisher, Dundurn, for this opportunity.

This non-fiction details the various approaches to royal child-rearing, spanning the last 1,000 years. Although mostly focused on the British monarchy, there was a great variation of royals covered, and the differences and similarities between them all was fascinating to read about.

I initially sought to read this as a form of research for my own fictional writing. However, I found it interesting in its own right. I found myself devouring the knowledge this imparted in one sitting, as the tone was light and the voice relaxed.

MissyLynne says

I was expecting the book to be entirely be about English royalty, but was pleased to find that it covered enough of Europe to give it some diversity.

Filled with a lot of interesting facts and written in a way that held my attention.

Both well researched and written.

Kristen says

Raising Royalty provides a fact-filled survey of how 20 royal couples -- from Edward the Peaceable and Elfrida of Northampton in the 10th century to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge today -- approached child-rearing. Author Carolyn Harris blends history and anecdote to show how culture, tradition, and political expedience drove royal families throughout Europe to view their children as dynastic chess pieces that they moved into the care of noble friends, to abbeys and boarding schools, to other royal courts -- and sometimes even raised themselves -- as convenience and politics required.

Harris also explores the way many royal parents over time have taken an unsentimental view of their children, paying relatively little attention to them. While it is clear that circumstances, such as wars that put parents an ocean away, sometimes intervened, other times kings and queens seem reluctant to engage with the next generation. I would have liked her to explore this topic more, since she demonstrates this tension in almost every family over the past 1,000 years, especially the Hanovers.

With short chapters and lively writing, Raising Royalty is an book that many royal watchers will enjoy. In terms of history, though, it is a fairly superficial survey, that relies on many of the popular royal biographies that have appeared in the past 20 years, rather than original sources or new scholarship. Those who have read many royal biographies will not find anything new in this book, especially in the final chapters about the

Queen and Prince Philip, Charles and Diana, and William and Katherine.

Still, *Raising Royalty* is an interesting and enjoyable read.

Beatriz says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Focusing on the relationship between royal parents and their children, it covers a vast swatch of British history (and of many other countries where the royal spouses were born or raised in). It shows how some behaviours were perpetuated in royal families and how others were brought in by foreign spouses. It leads the reader through developing customs and changing historical situations. And it shows how different generations dealt with heirs patiently waiting (or not waiting) and their "spare" brothers and sisters.

This book will, of course, be of interest to history buffs but even the lay person will enjoy the view of history it gives. The language is accessible and it doesn't require detailed knowledge of history for the reader to dive into it.

The only downside I found was that it tried a bit too hard to tie into the hype of the birth of a contemporary royal baby (guess who). It doesn't need this kind of cheap marketing.

*Thank you to NetGalley for providing me with an advanced electronic copy in exchange for an honest review

Kristine says

Raising Royalty by Carolyn Harris is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early March.

Harris researches and relates information about royal children and parenting between 943-1982 AD. I was especially excited to read this book, due to wanting to know about the aftermath of the Victoria mini-series when Victoria gave birth to her first out of nine children. Besides all that, it tells of teaching children with tutors and governesses, the public opinion of royal subjects on their royal parenting, punishment for misbehaving, clothing choices, infant/child mortality, family portraits, and how former royal lives reflect onto present-day royalty.
