



## Royal Family: Years of Transition

*Theo Aronson*

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## Royal Family: Years of Transition Theo Aronson

Here is a royal book with a difference. It is a family saga showing the monarchy from the death of Queen Victoria to the present day. But rather than just an account of the reign of the five 20th-century monarchs, this is a study of their dynasty; of both its major and minor members. The entire royal family is vividly portrayed — with its triumphs and its heartbreaks, its brilliance and its mediocrity, its strengths and its vulnerabilities.

The main theme explores the way in which, in over eighty years, the royal family has adapted to changing times in order not only to survive but to enhance its position in national and international life. It is an account of a royal house in the state of continuous transition; of a family deeply concerned with making itself relevant to contemporary life while retaining its essential element of mystique.

Many other interesting themes also emerge: the education and upbringing of the royal children, the reconciling of public obligations with private inclinations, the constitutional position of the monarch, the frustrations of heirs-apparent, the varied and often onerous duties of family members, the composition of the royal households, the relationship with the press, the contrasting atmosphere of the different reigns, the marriages, the divorces, and the sometimes disastrous love affairs.

Theo Aronson in writing this book has received an exceptional degree of cooperation from the Palace. He has been granted audiences with members of four generations of the royal family: the late Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Prince of Wales. He has also had help from members of the various royal households — secretaries, comptrollers, press secretaries, equerries and ladies-in-waiting.

The late C. P. Snow has described Theo Aronson's writing as 'bright with intelligence and human wisdom... very highly recommended'.

## Royal Family: Years of Transition Details

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Author : Theo Aronson

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## From Reader Review Royal Family: Years of Transition for online ebook

### Lori Holcomb says

#### Full of information

This book is very well written and has vital information on each stage of the royal family. It covers the transitions from Queen Victoria to the birth of Prince William.

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### Nate says

Really fantastic, if outdated book about the way the monarchy maintains its importance throughout history. As usual, Aronson does have a slight bias towards the family, being friendly with quite a few of them, as well as a staunch monarchist. Aronson told the story well, though it was somewhat sad how hopefully he described the marriage of Lady Diana Spencer to the Prince of Wales, knowing the outcome.

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### Kristine says

*Royal Family* by Theo Aronson is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early October.

Compared to other British monarchy books that I've read, Aronson focuses on the 20th century (after the death of Queen Victoria) royal family, their interactions, mourning passed kings and queens, and their ascensions, rather than the totality of their reigns. I was especially fond of how each family member tried (and were successfully able) to balance their lives between the crown & its accompanying regalia and living as a normal person, and stories about the quirkier, the more outside-the-box family members, like Queen Alexandra, Prince George (Duke of Kent), and, naturally, Princess Margaret.

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### Susan St. Jacques says

#### Interesting history of the royal family

A very interesting history of the royal family. Rating suffers because the more recent chapters are seriously out of date. Book should be edited to reflect the more recent trials and tribulations of Queen Elizabeth I'm and her family.

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### Dr.J.G. says

In the series of books one has read recently (but not necessarily published recently), relating to the subject of various royals across Europe and mostly related to the clan of Queen Victoria, this one is by far the most

candyfloss confection that could give one a brain shock unless taken with a pinch of another work to counteract the sugar in this.

The trouble here isn't that the topic warrants this treatment, but rather that it doesn't, as evidenced by the various historical events of the twentieth century, of which perhaps the death of Princess Diana was most shocking across globe for most people, especially those who had not personally been of age to be shocked by events of the earlier era of WWI, but perhaps even them. Ironically this book finishes its tale at birth of Prince William, the first son of Diana, and gives the picture of the family as being all hunky dory, although it was either published or subsequently re edited about '86 to let the reader know that the Queen Mother is healthy at that time. That the various affairs of Prince Charles are left unmentioned, including the now wife and then paramour Camilla, then Parker Bowles and now Duchess of Cornwall, makes it all the more dated.

For a healthy dose to counter the sugar shock of this one, fortunately, there is an apt one around - *How They Murdered Princess Diana*.

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### **Tamara says**

What an excellent book. This is a highly comprehensive, and surprisingly objective, look at the British monarchy in the twentieth century, with a small detour to the late 1800s in order to introduce the world into which Edward VII entered as sovereign upon the death of his indomitable mother, Queen Victoria.

Theo Aronson sets up his survey of royal history with two main foci: the education of royal children, especially the heirs of monarchs; and the monarchs' relationships with the press. His assessment that the former has improved while the latter has deteriorated takes place gradually, but in the end is illustrated unequivocally. At the same time, one cannot help but wonder what his opinion would be on both subjects if he were writing today, given Prince William's education at St. Andrew's, and also the fact that the birth of his son, the newest heir to the throne (Prince George!), was announced on Twitter before it was announced to the public in front of Buckingham Palace.

I would also probably demote half a star from my rating, if I could, for his slightly inflated opinion of Queen Elizabeth II's mothering abilities. The fact that he repeatedly assured the reader that Prince Charles grew up in a "loving" home environment was laughable.

All the same, it is a delightful book, history presented both anecdotally and factually. It was a pleasure to read.

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### **Erin says**

#### **Good read for info on royalty**

Great. Dry as it should be, but interesting information that was hitherto unknown by me. I liked it a lot.

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### **Jennifer says**

Starting with King Edward VII, this book discussed the role of the monarch from both sides: the perception of the monarch relative to the societal attitude toward the monarchy. I was especially struck by the many limitations placed on personal will - duty over self. The book was written over thirty years ago. We now know "the rest of the story" the author could only opine about in many instances.

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### **Mari says**

Entertaining and contains some interesting information, however it is extremely dated.

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### **Emily Ross says**

Thank you to the publishers for providing an ARC of this book through NetGalley.

This followed the Royal Family from the death of Queen Victoria to the birth of the current Prince William. It was well written and well researched, and it was interesting to see Aronson's point that the royal family has become a "family firm" by the time of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

I wish it had been more up to date, because it would have been interesting to see Aronson's take on the Queen Elizabeth / Lady Diana feud, which meant that the royal family took a hit in public opinion. This would have been especially interesting because Aronson focused on public approval of the royals, and it was especially interesting to look at the lesser known royalty, such as the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Kent and Windsor.

This was well worth a read if you're interested in the Royal Family.

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### **Gina Basham says**

#### **A good read**

I enjoyed this but it felt like propaganda towards the end. It would be interesting to see how Mr Aronson would write the chapters that would come next. He could not have envisioned the turmoil to come at the close of this book. A good read until the PR at the end. I would recommend. Gbash

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### **Kealani says**

This biographic history provided information over about a One Hundred Fifty year span deftly and adeptly. Alas for me, it offered neither unique information nor viewpoint. Theo Aronson writes well and often covers 'Royals'. I have confidence that if I read another of his books, on a subject I know less well, the book will be enjoyable.

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### **Susan Snodgrass says**

I love to read books about the British monarchy and have quite a collection myself. And this author, Theo Aronson, is quite good at the subject. In fact, he is my favorite author on the subject. He is in depth without being tedious, and very good at the details. This book ends at the 1982 christening of Prince William of Wales, however, so if you want a more up-to-date book, look elsewhere. This one begins with the end of Queen Victoria's life and moves through to Queen Elizabeth II's reign, up to 1982.

\*I was given a copy of this book by the publisher via Net Galley.

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