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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.

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## Customer Reviews

I felt too many pages were devoted to the Russian and Danish history of past relatives of George and Marina. I really enjoyed the information on their courtship, marriage and Marina's life after he died. I never realized how much she contributed to the British Royal Family by helping out with tours of the Commonwealth. I'm glad I bought the book.

Interesting book about a couple whose story hasn't been overexposed. Generally I thought the writer did a decent job of telling their story without dwelling too much on the fact of the Duke's affairs with both men and women and his drug addiction. However we never get any sense of how his wife reacted to these facts about him and whether or not he continued to have affairs with men after they'd married. The author repeatedly mentioned that Prince George was very close to his older brother David who would become King Edward VIII and then the Duke of Windsor after the abdication, yet when George died in an air crash and we are told of the letters of condolence and the expressions of comfort extended to the widow by other members of the royal family, there is no mention of the Duke of Windsor's reaction. That seemed rather odd as George and Marina had remained in contact with the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson during their exile in France. It's not a thoroughly detailed account of their lives -- for example one is left with many questions about the air crash that took his life -- but it's a decent accounting of a marriage that by some counts appeared to be stable but also quite non-traditional in many aspects.

Interesting but I like a biography that includes pictures of the subjects other than the one on the cover. Pictures can give more of an understanding of subject than just the written word.

I found this book delightful. Because I had read many books on the British Royal Family and their relatives throughout Europe, I was able to follow the family lines. Otherwise, I would suggest that

one prints out the family tree for reference. I was working off a Kindle app, so the book version would be OK because you could look back at the genealogy page. It is a delightful read and I highly recommend it.

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. Always regal, but practical and smart, Marina raised the children to be independent and grounded. She, like her mother, was ambitious for them to marry well and royally. All three married for love. Mr. Warwick is a talented writer; he includes many anecdotes and details that reflect a good deal of research and personal knowledge. I do recommend this book.

This book tells the story about Marina, daughter of the King/Queen of Greece and George, Duke of Kent, son of George V/Queen Mary. Marina was the daughter of Elena Vladimirovna whose mother and father were Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Marie. The Grand Duke was the brother of Tsar Alexander III and uncle to the last Tsar, Nicholas. Much of the book is spent on her family history and the history of the Greek royal family as it relates to her. It's an easy read and a short book. For those who are not familiar with either of these people, the book is an

interesting read. For those who have read about them in other books, this may give you some new information, but not much. Once the Duke of Kent dies (on a secret flight mission during WWII) the book speeds along to her death. This is not an in-depth bio of the 2 of them and their marriage. It's more of an overview, in my opinion. And that's sad because they were each very interesting people. I've read other books by Christopher Warwick so I was surprised that this book was so lightweight in length. And lastly, NO photos in the book at all.....are you kidding me???? I have other books that have lots of photos of her, him, and the two of them. It's absurd that there were no photos in this book.

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