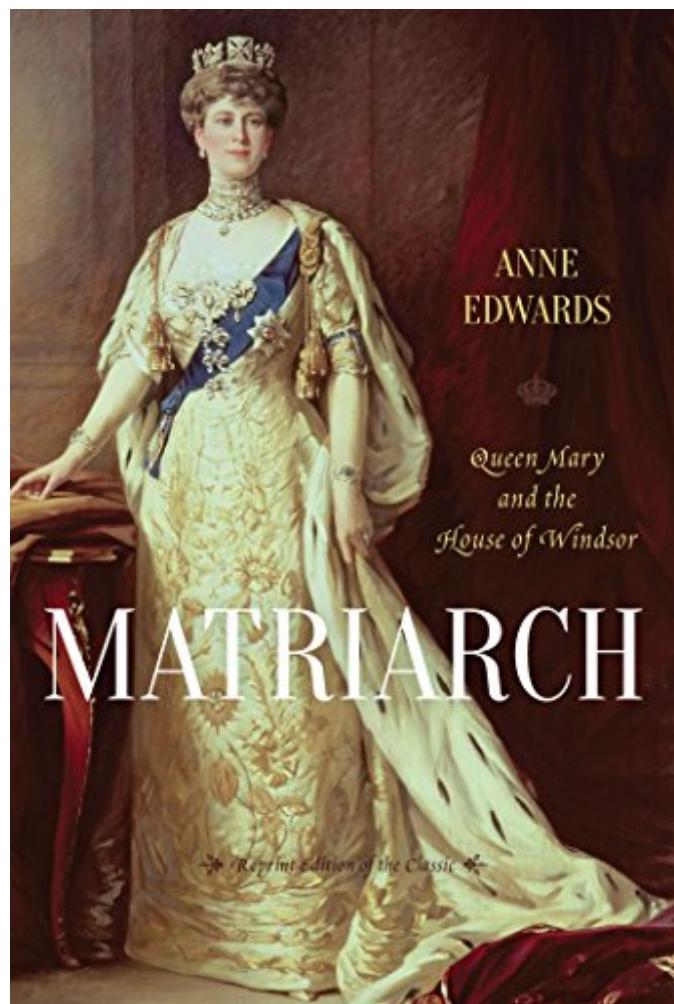


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Matriarch: Queen Mary And The House Of Windsor



Synopsis

The life of Princess May of Teck is one of the great Cinderella stories in history. From a family of impoverished nobility, she was chosen by Queen Victoria as the bride for her eldest grandson, the scandalous Duke of Clarence, heir to the throne, who died mysteriously before their marriage. Despite this setback, she became queen, mother of two kings, grandmother of the current queen, and a lasting symbol of the majesty of the British throne. Her pivotal role in the abdication of her eldest son, the Duke of Windsor, is just one of the events that provide the backdrop for both thrilling biography and for narrating the splendors and tragedies of the entire house of Windsor.

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Customer Reviews

One of the earliest defining points of Queen Mary's life was when she was still Princess May and her fiance, Prince Eddy died, just as she was serenely contemplating her future as Princess of Wales and then Queen of England. When Eddy died, young Princess May did not make a single false move and within a decent interval she was engaged to Eddy's brother George, who was now second in line to the throne. This smooth transition between fiances to secure her future as Queen

of England highlights the Queen's own ambition and dedication to the creed of royalty. At the time of Princess May's marriage to the future King George V, Queen Victoria (Aunt Queen to May; Grandma to George) was still on the throne; when Queen Mary died, her grand-daughter Elizabeth was preparing for her coronation. So Queen Mary was a central figure in major events of the early 20th century, such as the two World Wars, and an enduring symbol of British royalty when other royal families were destroyed or exiled. Anne Edwards paints a portrait of a single-minded woman who puts her duty to the Crown above all else - this duty and loyalty was a positive central force in her marriage and a strong positive symbol for England - behind the scenes, however, it was also an excuse to ignore and neglect her six young children. Queen Mary did not have any natural maternal instinct, so her only connection with her children was through her passion for the Crown - it is significant, that as an adult her son Bertie refers to his brother the King as "David" in his diary, but his mother is consistently called "Queen Mary".

Queen Mary was the consort of King George V and the paternal grandmother of Queen Elizabeth II. She was a great influence on Queen Elizabeth II and the resemblance between Queen Mary and her famous granddaughter is uncanny. Queen Mary was the daughter of one of Queen Victoria's cousins, Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge. Queen Mary's father was the Duke of Teck (a morganatic son of the heir apparent to the throne of the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg - now part of modern Germany). Queen Mary was destined to marry Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale (eldest son of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra) but he died before any marriage could take place. Queen Victoria wanted this marriage badly. Queen Mary at this time was Her Serene Highness, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck. To have lost the heir to the throne of England was a great loss. Queen Victoria knew that this Princess was worth keeping and soon Prince Albert Victor's younger brother George was married off to his late brother's fiancee. They eventually became King George V and Queen Mary on the death of King Edward VII in 1910. The marriage was a success and for Princess Victoria Mary of Teck it was a great rise from Serene Highness to Royal Highness and eventually Queen Consort. Queen Mary herself had a very interesting early family life. Her brothers were interesting characters as well as her parents. One of her brothers married King George V's cousin HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone while another caused Queen Mary much embarrassment with his gambling and other dubious activities. Queen Mary came from German stock and it is interesting to read about her German relatives. Her own married life is of much interest and of course her children are well known.

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