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# Elizabeth The Queen: The Life Of A Modern Monarch



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  Perfect for fans of *The Crown*, this magisterial biography of Queen Elizabeth II is a close-up view of the woman we've known only from a distance  and a captivating window into the last great monarchy. From the moment of her ascension to the throne in 1952 at the age of twenty-five, Queen Elizabeth II has been the object of unparalleled scrutiny. But through the fog of glamour and gossip, how well do we really know the world's most famous monarch? Drawing on numerous interviews and never-before-revealed documents, acclaimed biographer Sally Bedell Smith pulls back the curtain to show in intimate detail the public and private lives of Queen Elizabeth II, who has led her country and Commonwealth through the wars and upheavals of the last sixty years with unparalleled composure, intelligence, and grace.  In *Elizabeth the Queen*, we meet the young girl who suddenly becomes "heiress presumptive" when her uncle abdicates the throne. We meet the thirteen-year-old Lilibet as she falls in love with a young navy cadet named Philip and becomes determined to marry him, even though her parents prefer wealthier English aristocrats. We see the teenage Lilibet repairing army trucks during World War II and standing with Winston Churchill on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on V-E Day. We see the young Queen struggling to balance the demands of her job with her role as the mother of two young children. Sally Bedell Smith brings us inside the palace doors and into the Queen's daily routines  the "red boxes" of documents she reviews each day, the weekly meetings she has had with twelve prime ministers, her physically demanding tours abroad, and the constant scrutiny of the press  as well as her personal relationships: with Prince Philip, her husband of sixty-four years and the love of her life; her children and their often-disastrous marriages; her grandchildren and friends. Praise for *Elizabeth the Queen*  "An excellent, all-embracing new biography."  "The New York Times"  "[An] imposing, yet nimbly written, biography [that] dwarfs the field . . . a most satisfying and enjoyable read, one to be savored at length."  "Minneapolis Star Tribune"  "Fascinating . . . After sixty years on the throne, the monarch of Britain is better known for her poker face than for sly wit or easy charm. Yet in biographer Sally Bedell Smith's *Elizabeth the Queen*,  Her Majesty sparkles with both."  "More"  "Smith breaks new ground, [with the cooperation of] more than two hundred people, [including] the Queen's relatives and friends. . . . [A] smart and satisfying book."  "Los Angeles Times"  "A fresh and admiring look at Elizabeth II, a woman whose life has been chronicled in numerous books, but perhaps never with such intimacy."  "Richmond Times-Dispatch"

## Book Information

File Size: 19977 KB

Print Length: 721 pages

Publisher: Random House (January 10, 2012)

Publication Date: January 10, 2012

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004X6PRIM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #32,146 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #28  
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## Customer Reviews

Weir is always very good and entertaining. Learn a little history in a palatable format. I've read almost every book she's written about the royals and re-read several.

A nice biography about Elizabeth I and her life from the beginning of her reign. It goes into details about each aspect of her life (both public and private). It can be a little boring at times but overall, it is a good read.

Such a detailing book about the queen and her family, was very impressed with the writing and all the new things i read in it

I am reading this for a book club and admittedly would not have picked it up except for that. The book tends to be monotonous in its recitation of the pedigrees of various "friends" and "courtiers" of the Queen and other members of the royal family. One has to really dig through lots of verbiage to

get any real human feeling in this book. But that, perhaps, is what the Queen is all about.

With such a load on information on the Queen of England considering her age and longevity on the throne, the writer has done a masterful job of organizing and writing in a very readable style. Photos add interest as do antidotes and quotes. I can picture the castles and the events that occur there, lunches, dinners, family events etc. Definitely a 5 star book. Be ready to balance a heavy, hardback book if you read in bed or reclining in the afternoon.

This would be the third book I read about queen Elizabeth I and the one I'd enjoyed the best. Thoroughly researched and concisely written, never once did I lose my interest, and some facts were presented in novel light that beg reconsideration. What an enjoyment!

Fairly superficial as I never quite got an idea of what The Queen really thought or felt as a person.

I hesitated over the \$14.99 price tag on the ebook but decided to spring for it and am so glad I did. This was a facinating read, entertainingly written, and contained all kinds of interesting facts I never knew about the life of Queen Elizabeth II and her family. I recommend it to people interested in history, particularly the World War I & II eras, as well as anyone who enjoys reading about the royal family.

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