CAROLYN HARRIS

RAISING *Royalty*

1000 Years of Royal Parenting

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Introduction: Raising a Royal Child

Prince William made his first parenting mistake in the eyes of the world on the day his son, Prince George, left hospital in July 2013. There had been journalists and cameramen camped around the maternity wing of St. Mary's hospital in London for weeks leading up to the birth, waiting for the moment when William and his wife Catherine — nicknamed Kate by the media — the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, would emerge from the hospital to present their newborn child to the world. Every moment of baby George's first public appearance was captured on camera to be scrutinized by people around the world on their television screens and online streams. The royal parents received a great deal of praise. William had his sleeves rolled up as though he had just changed a diaper and Kate wore a fitted dress that did not attempt to disguise her post-pregnancy figure. Even little George appeared to be waving to the crowds from his swaddling clothes.

The criticism came when it was time for William to strap George into his car seat. In previous generations, this kind of task would have been left to a member of the royal household but William was determined to strap his son into the car and drive his family home like any other new father. Knowing the world's press would be watching him closely, William reputedly practiced assembling the car seat in the privacy of Kensington Palace during the weeks leading up to the birth. Despite these careful preparations not everything went perfectly on the big day. Within moments of the royal couple and their baby leaving hospital and returning to the palace, parents from all walks of life posted on internet forums that George had not been properly strapped into his car seat.

On the British childcare blog, "Baby Centre," an irate commenter posted: "If you scroll down to the photos of the baby in the car seat you will see he is not properly strapped in AT ALL!! Very disappointed! I'm sure they were in a hurry, and I hope that Kate will fix it once they are in the vehicle as it appeared she was sitting in back with the baby." The commenter included guidelines from the website ChildCarSeats.co.uk to back up her statements. Over at iVillage, online comments questioned whether a swaddled baby should be in a car seat at all. By the time George's younger sister, Princess Charlotte was born in 2015, William seemed to have mastered the car seat, but now there was a new complaint: the baby princess's bonnet appeared to be on backward for her first public appearance!

The debate over William and the car seat continued for years after George's birth. In May 2016, one of the United Kingdom's most prominent etiquette experts, William Hanson, complained that Prince William's approach to

fatherhood was undermining the traditional grandeur and therefore the future of the monarchy, writing in The Daily Mail, "I want a well-waxed chauffeured Bentley, not Prince William driving mother and latest child home from the hospital in their family car like a regular bloke." Commentary of this kind is almost unknown in the Commonwealth realms, including Canada, where William and Kate were praised for touring with a small entourage in 2011. William's decision to strap his newborn son into a car seat and drive his family home from hospital had transcended popular debates over the nature of good parenting to encompass the public image of the monarchy as an institution.

The monarchy has always been a family affair. *Raising Royalty* is the story of how twenty European royal couples over the past thousand years have navigated the unique challenges of parenting in the public eye. From fending off Vikings to fending off the paparazzi, royal mothers and fathers have made decisions for royal children that encompassed their own personal ambitions and the stability of the throne as well as the needs of their young children. Over the past ten centuries, royal children have been parented in country palaces with well-appointed nurseries and in exile far from their birthplaces. As royal parents, William and Kate are following in the footsteps of centuries of kings and queens, princes and princesses who were mothers and fathers as well as rulers.

The length and definition of childhood has changed over the centuries, shaping the experiences of royal children. Before the Norman Conquest of 1066, a boy was old enough to swear allegiance to the king at the age of twelve, but Richard III's nephew Edward V was considered too young to rule as king in his own right at that age in

1483. Until the eighteenth century, royal children were often betrothed before they were twelve and married in their early teens to seal diplomatic alliances. The business of ruling was conducted in person by kings and queens who were often away from their children for long periods of time. Even the most devoted royal parents paid little attention to the emotional needs of their children, expecting the obedience of a subject to a sovereign as well as a child to a parent. At a time of high infant mortality, royal parents often expressed their attachment to their children through concern for their health instead of their happiness. By the late eighteenth century, a new emphasis on "natural" childrearing resulted in royal mothers such as Marie Antoinette of France or Empress Alexandra of Russia creating parenting philosophies that took the individual personalities and emotional needs of their children into account. Older methods of royal parenting, however, proved remarkably resilient. Well into the twentieth century, generations of royal children complained that they saw little of their parents and were expected to obey them without question, even as adults. The public viewed the open displays of affection between Diana, Princess of Wales and her sons, captured by photographers, as a break from royal tradition. Today, William and Kate emphasize that their children will receive as normal an upbringing as possible, demonstrating that the youngest generation of royal parents still observes differences between royal tradition and modern parenting trends.

The intense public scrutiny William and Kate experience as parents seems like a modern phenomenon fuelled by the twenty-four-hour news cycle and ubiquity of online message boards but for as long as there has been royalty, there has been public scrutiny of royal parenting.

Satisfying public opinion is just one of the many challenges royal parents have faced over the centuries. Parenting advice manuals written for commoners — even wealthy commoners — had little to say that addressed the unique circumstances in the royal nursery. Seventeenth century Protestant clergymen urged fathers to take charge of their children's training and education as mothers might be inclined to spare the rod and spoil the child but Charles I of England and Scotland had signed a marriage contract that guaranteed his French wife Henrietta Maria control of their children until their turned thirteen. Eighteenth-century French philosophers encouraged mothers to breastfeed and allow their children to explore freely but when Queen Marie Antoinette of France tried to follow this advice, she found herself at odds with the strict court etiquette at Versailles. The parenting experts of the 1940s and 1950s urged parents to teach their children self-reliance, but Prince Charles and his sister Princess Anne were surrounded by servants charged with making their beds and preparing their meals.

For centuries, the biggest difference between royalty and everyone else was who they married. While most people found partners within their own communities, kings and queens, princes and princesses married foreign royalty to cement diplomatic alliances. Until the First World War, royalty was expected to marry other royalty and that sometimes meant a co-parenting with a spouse who did not speak the same language let alone share the same culture and parenting philosophy. In medieval and Renaissance times, English kings often married princesses from regions that are now part of France or Spain, popularizing new baby names such as Eleanor, Isabelle and even Alphonso. In the eighteenth century, a series of

German royal consorts brought their own traditions to England, including, most famously, the Christmas tree.

When English princesses married foreign princes, they brought their own customs with them in the face of considerable opposition. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, Queen Victoria's granddaughters and great-granddaughters found that their traditions, parenting techniques and British nannies were not always appreciated in Germany, Russia, Romania, Greece or Spain. After the First World War, British royalty married into the English and Scottish aristocracy who were accustomed to more privacy for their families than royalty experienced. William is the first direct heir to the British and Commonwealth throne to marry a woman from a "middle class" background since 1660 and Kate's upbringing was very different from his own. Of all the royal parents discussed in this book, only one couple — Richard III and his queen, Anne Neville — were raised in the same castle with a similar outlook on life.

William is involved in the upbringing of his children and enjoys a close relationship with his father, Prince Charles, but in past centuries, raising a son often meant raising a rival for royal fathers. William the Conqueror's queen, Matilda of Flanders, interceded with her husband on behalf of her eldest son Robert who led any army against his father. Henry II went to war against his three elder sons, and his queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, backed her children against her husband. For royal mothers, the vast responsibilities of being a queen consort, including witnessing legal charters, ruling the kingdom while the king was at war, and acting as a patron of artists and musicians often took priority over day to day childrearing. The result was generations of royal children

raised by grandmothers, governesses, and nannies. Those queens who expected to raise and educate their children themselves, such as Eleanor of Provence, Catherine of Aragon, and Marie Antoinette, left themselves open to accusations of bringing foreign ideas into the nursery and acting beneath the dignity of a queen. A royal mother's distance from the nursery, however, did not mean disinterest. The relatives and servants charged with day to day childrearing received constant instructions and requests for news. Royal mothers were often extremely ambitious for their children and willing to go to great lengths to ensure their future. The first crowned English queen consort, Elfrida of Northampton, was accused of orchestrating a murder to ensure their sons would rule unchallenged.

Regardless of who raised a royal child, a decision had to be made about where they should be raised. In medieval times, the ideal home for a growing prince or princess was a country palace, far from the plague, consumption and sweating sickness that spread so quickly in crowded towns. By Victorian times, royal palaces had nursery wings where children had their own routines separate from those of their parents including simple food, open windows for plenty of fresh air and regular walks. There were plenty of royal children, however, who grew up far from these idyllic circumstances. Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile spent much of their reigns on military campaign and their children accompanied them as they waged war against the Emir of Granada. King Frederick and Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia had to leave Prague so quickly during the Thirty Years' War that they nearly left their baby son on the castle floor. The future Queen Juliana of the Netherlands spent the Second World War in Canada,

raising her young daughters in Ottawa. When deposed monarchs such as Charles I, Louis XVI, and Nicholas II were imprisoned by their former subjects, their children lost their liberty and sometimes their lives.

Even monarchs in peacetime feared for the health and safety of their children. Until the twentieth century, infant mortality in Europe was high and royalty was not spared the loss of infants and children to illness and accidents. Royal parents were often devastated by the loss of their young children. Grieving kings and queens commissioned memorials and ordered days of mourning when their children died. These family tragedies had lasting political consequences. The death of Ferdinand and Isabella's only son as a young man threatened the unity and independence of Spain. The death of their grandson as a toddler ended any hope of a lasting union between Spain and Portugal. The hemophilia of Nicholas II's only son, which threatened the child's life on numerous occasions, undermined the Russian monarchy in the years leading up to the Russian Revolutions of 1917. All seventeen of Queen Anne's children died before the age of eleven, resulting in the end of Stuart rule of Britain and the accession of the German House of Hanover.

For children who survived infancy, there was the question of how they should be educated. Until the mid eighteenth century, English kings led the troops into battle themselves so the older sons of medieval rulers spent their formative years in the tiltyard, learning how to ride a horse or wield a sword. Even the future Richard III, who suffered from scoliosis, was trained to be a formidable warrior. Younger sons often received more academic training as the church was often the career path for "spares" who did not pursue a military career. When second sons, such as Henry

VIII or Charles I, unexpectedly became king, they raised education standards for all their children. Lessons varied for princesses. A medieval princess often had to manage her families' castles and lands while her husband was at war. Renaissance princesses received a classical education as the sixteenth century was a period of unprecedented female rule in Europe. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the curriculum focused on so-called feminine accomplishments such as dancing, deportment, painting and religious instruction. Today, both princes and princesses attend university, experiencing a period of relative anonymity before assuming full-time public engagements.

Before many princes and princesses completed their education, it was already time to leave home. Medieval heirs to the English throne were sent to Wales as teenagers to preside of their own royal households and learn the business of ruling. Edward III placed his dozen children in the households of prominent members of the nobility, a practice followed by numerous other medieval monarchs. Charles I and Henrietta Maria's daughter Mary was only ten when she left England with her mother to reside with her future husband's family in the Netherlands and other princesses of the period were not much older when they travelled abroad in preparation for marriage. Royal parents found many ways to keep in touch with their children from far away including correspondence, gifts and the occasional visit. Even today, both Prince Charles and Prince William attended boarding school from a young age, completing their educations far from their parents.

For William and Kate's children, the biggest difference between their upbringing and that of previous royal children will be close proximity to their parents

throughout the childhoods. There is speculation that George and Charlotte will attend a day school, allowing them to spend evenings and weekends at home. William and George are unlikely to ever be locked in a struggle for throne like previous royal fathers and Charlotte will have the same educational opportunities as her brother. Public scrutiny of royal parenting, however, has remained a constant theme over the past thousand years. For as long as there has been royalty in Europe, everybody has had an opinion on royal parenting. George's car seat and Charlotte bonnet are only the beginning of a lifetime of parenting in the public eye for William and Kate, following in the footsteps of a millennium of royal parents.

Marketing Plan

Advertising

- Consumer ads: Canada's History
- Library wholesaler ads: Library Services Centre, Whitehots, United Library Service, Ingram Advance
- Trade ads: Publishers Weekly, Library Journal
- Online ads: Canada's History Reading Den

Marketing Materials

- Postcards
- Chapbook

Events

- Festival pitches
- Event promotion: posters, e-cards
- Trade shows, school and library conferences
- Launch event, Toronto
- Tour, Southern Ontario

Digital Marketing

- Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Dundurn.com campaigns
- Cover and sample chapter reveal
- Social media giveaway
- Guest post on Dundurn blog
- Digital Reader Copies available: NetGalley, Edelweiss
- Consumer, library, bookseller, and author newsletters

Publicity

- Targeted media and blogger review mailings
- Advance Reading Copies available, enhanced quantity
- Key Influencer mailing
- Niche marketing to associations and interest groups

Merchandising

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How royal parents dealt with raising their children over the past thousand years, from keeping 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 challenges and held unique privileges. In medieval times, raising an heir often meant raising a rival, and monarchs sometimes faced their grown children on the battlefield. Conversely, kings and queens who lost their thrones in wars or popular revolutions often 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.

CAROLYN HARRIS teaches history at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies. She received her Ph.D in European history from Queen's University in 2012. Her writing concerning the history of monarchy in the U.K., Europe, and Canada has appeared in numerous publications including the *Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Citizen, Smithsonian Magazine* and the *BBC News Magazine*, and she is the author of *Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada* and *Queenship and Revolution in Early Modern Europe: Henrietta Maria and Marie Antoinette.* She lives in Toronto.

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