

ROYAL DESTINY

When to the Duke and Duchess of York a girl was born 27 years ago no bells rang out, no crowds cheered. None knew that here was our future Queen. And so it was, the child

and had the enormous advantage of a quiet upbringing, and only slowly came into the royal picture; / though quite early,
~~some of the most important things in her life were done in the early years of her life, and she was not a child who was spoiled or indulged, but a child who was brought up in a simple and unassuming manner.~~

as at the wedding of Lady May Cambridge, when the Princess was seven, the beginnings of a distinctive personality were apparent ~~to the discerning eye.~~

From her Scottish mother she inherited the calm nerves which are a priceless gift in public life. And, ^{Scotland,} recognising in the little girl a true daughter of a Bowes-Lyon, ~~Scotland~~ welcomed her with affection whenever she went north of the Border. But with such notable exceptions as the Silver Jubilee her early life was guided through quiet channels by her wise parents. Princess Elizabeth was ten - the all-important years of early childhood behind her - ^{when her} father became King. She and her little ~~sister~~ - a child still - made with the King and Queen an ideally happy family.

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In the next ten years - perhaps the most eventful our country had ever known - the Princess grew into womanhood.

The public ~~in general~~ first became sharply aware of her,

^{At} the time of her father's Coronation. The map of the projected tour of Canada excited her interest, though she was not old enough to accompany her parents. As ~~she~~ ^{they} and Princess Margaret ~~waved~~ ^{would-} good-bye, many knew that the sands of peace were running out, ^{for} for nearly six years afterwards the country was at ~~war~~ war. In that time -

~~matur~~ ^{matur}ing years for Princess Elizabeth - she was at first ~~matur~~ ^{matur}ing years for Princess Elizabeth - she was at first

too young to take an active part. But at 16, when she became Col. ~~of~~ ^{and} ~~of~~ the Grenadiers, there was evident ~~in~~ ^{her bearing} a dawning sense of responsibility, handed down from Victoria, through George V and her own father.

~~the Grenadiers. On less formal occasions she showed that~~
~~The~~ her dignity was naturally hers, not cultivated and assumed to order.

As soon as she was old enough the Princess served in the ATS, learning to drive as conscientiously as if it were her job in life. She was nearly 19 when she appeared on the balcony on Victory Day, and was already taking a large part in royal duties. ~~It seemed as though she realised her royal destiny.~~ Engagements ^{became} ~~were~~ less military now. Wales conferred an honour, rarely accorded outside its boundaries; at the National Eistedfodd the Princess was made a bard.

At Balmoral, in the summer of 1946, the King entertained Gen. Eisenhower and his wife. No one could that day foresee that, at much the same time, she would become Queen, he be elected President, ~~of the United States.~~ Soon afterwards, at the wedding of Lady Patricia Mountbatten, she was escorted by a young naval officer, though the nation had yet to learn that he was Prince Philip - like herself a great-great grandchild of Victoria. ~~St~~ Princesses went with the King and Queen to South Africa there would soon be it was rumoured that/a royal engagement. ~~announcements~~

~~announcements~~ On that tour Princess Elizabeth celebrated her 21st birthday and recorded there her dedication to Britain and the Commonwealth.

Soon after ~~the~~ ³royal return the royal engagement was announced. In November, that year, they married; the most romantic royal wedding since Victoria's.

~~When the Duke returned to the Navy, Elizabeth went to Malta to celebrate their second wedding anniversary. They were the young people very much in love.~~

To Malta Princess Elizabeth went to celebrate their second wedding anniversary, after the Duke had returned to the Navy. They were two young people very much in love.

C/M

After Princess Anne's christening pictures were taken at the Palace of the royal four generations. The King was convalescing after a serious operation when Canada was toured by the Princess and Duke. The senior Dominion welcomed them no less fervently than, 12 years before, it had received the King and Queen. It was new, thrilling, an education for an intelligent woman on the threshold of her royal destiny.

There was a joyous interlude at Washington - a sort of promise of what awaits her Majesty if she should visit America again. Diplomacy has no substitute for the warm-hearted understanding generated by a royal visit. Another tour was planned, this time to Australasia; but in Kenya the Princess learned that the King was dead; she herself the Queen ~~And now, uplifted by the Coronation, the hearts of her myriad subjects in many parts of the world go out in loyalty and deep affection to Queen Elizabeth II.~~

And now, uplifted by the Coronation, the hearts of her myriad subjects in ^{so} many parts of the world go out in loyalty and deep affection to Queen Elizabeth II.