

The Roosevelts and the Royals: Franklin and Eleanor, the King and Queen of England, and the Friendship That Changed History

By Will Swift

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"Fascinating and well researched.... Dr. Swift is the first to concentrate on this unusual subject with such a wealth of sympathetic detail."

-Sarah Bradford, author of "America's Queen: The Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Elizabeth: A Biography of Britain's Queen," and "The Reluctant King: The Life and Reign of George VI, 1895--1952"

"A splendid addition to our understanding of an extraordinary Anglo-American partnership. Both intimate and expansive, Will Swift's vigorously researched book is timely, illuminating, and dramatic."

-Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of "Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. 1: 1884-1933" and "Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. 2: The Defining Years, 1933-1938"

"The Anglo-American alliance has long been a bedrock of the global order, and Will Swift's *The Roosevelts and the Royals* details an important chapter in that fascinating story with warmth and verve."

-Jon Meacham, author of "Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship"

"Those who remember only that the Roosevelts served hot dogs to the royals will be fascinated by this well-researched account of an historic and ennobling relationship-a great story!"

-James MacGregor Burns, author of "The Three Roosevelts: Patrician Leaders Who Transformed America" and "Roosevelt: Soldier of Freedom"

"A gripping account of four very different lives that were woven together to change the world in wartime."

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"Written in fluid and lucid prose, this book is not only eminently readable but

also historically illuminating. It explores the contrasting personalities of the four main protagonists with skill and insight and it is both convincing and refreshingly candid."

-Brian Roberts, author of "'Randolph: A Study of Churchill's Son and Cecil Rhodes and the Princess'"

"'This book brings to life my grandmother and her royal friends. Reading it, I found myself reliving the times I shared with them. A wonderful story.'"

-Nina Roosevelt Gibson, Ph.D., psychologist and granddaughter of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This melodramatically subtitled footnote to history by Swift, a longtime writer on royal history for *Majesty* magazine, focuses on the brief visits, in the summer of 1939, by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Washington, D.C., and Hyde Park. Foreign visits by heads of state are carefully choreographed. This one was especially so, as the president was wheelchair-bound and the king, more withdrawn than his outgoing queen, was a stammerer and still new to his role as sovereign. On both sides of the Atlantic, the abdication of Edward VIII to marry a twice-divorced American was still deplored. The colorless George VI was on probation. Massive press hype—as well as diplomatic reticence—made the brief visits, which also included a stop at the New York World's Fair, a success. King George was still colorless, but few noticed, and his royal style during the war beginning that September was sufficiently self-effacing and quietly steadfast to erase concerns about his authority on the throne. Even stretched with asides, though, the royal progress encompasses only 47 pages. The rest—following the protagonists from the 1880s to the 1950s—is padding. A passionate collector of royal memorabilia, Swift has packaged a book for collectors of royal memorabilia. 44 b&w illus.

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From [Booklist](#)

Psychologist Swift is an American royal-watcher and contributor to niche publications devoted to monarchical celebrities. Here he assembles meetings that in various permutations occurred among Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, Britain's King George VI and consort Queen Elizabeth, and ancillary members of the four principals' siblings and progeny. He covers a century of chronology, beginning with the youthful Franklin's encounters with British blue bloods and ending with a 2002 trip by Prince Andrew to Roosevelt's Hyde Park home. Prince Andrew went there to commemorate the central event of Swift's compendium, George VI's 1939 visit to the U.S., the public relations highlight of which was Their Majesties' (as Swift loyally denominates his subjects) plebeian consumption of hot dogs. Swift's rendition of that trip captures all details of protocol, whether trumpeted in the press at the time or committed to a diary, and characterizes his presentation of subsequent royal-Roosevelt meet-ups during World War II and afterward. Historical minutiae much of it may be, but Swift's work strikes an undeniably popular chord of interest. *Gilbert Taylor*
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Review

Comparative politics involving Great Britain and the United States during the 20th century forms the background for this book, which traces the lives of two couples, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. British amateur historian Swift elucidates the monarchical aspect of World War II, which is typically slighted; accounts tend to focus on the American presidency and the British prime ministership. Swift starts with George VI's visit to the United States shortly before the outbreak - a first for a British monarch. The climax of the four-day visit was on June 11, when the Roosevelts served the king and queen hot dogs at Hyde Park in what became the most famous picnic in U. S. history, symbolizing the two nations' new democratic bond. The book covers the entire lives of its subjects and presents FDR and the queen as natural politicians from whom their spouses had to learn. Although the subtitle is pure hype, this realistic book will appeal to those interested in the history of World War II, the British monarchy, and the Roosevelts. Recommended for public and academic libraries. - William D. Pederson, Louisiana State Univ., Shreveport ("Library Journal", July 2004)

. ""..well written, meticulously detailed...a very fine book..."" (""Royalty Digest"", September 2004)

""Realistic...will appeal to those interested in the history of World War II, the British monarchy, and the Roosevelts. Recommended."" (Revised ""Library Journal"" excerpt for Will Swift's ""The Roosevelts and the Royals"")

""Delicious...engaging...convincing...covers a wide swath of history....you will want to keep reading until it is all gone."" (""Albany Times Union"")

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Darlene Trevino:

Why? Because this The Roosevelts and the Royals: Franklin and Eleanor, the King and Queen of England, and the Friendship That Changed History is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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