



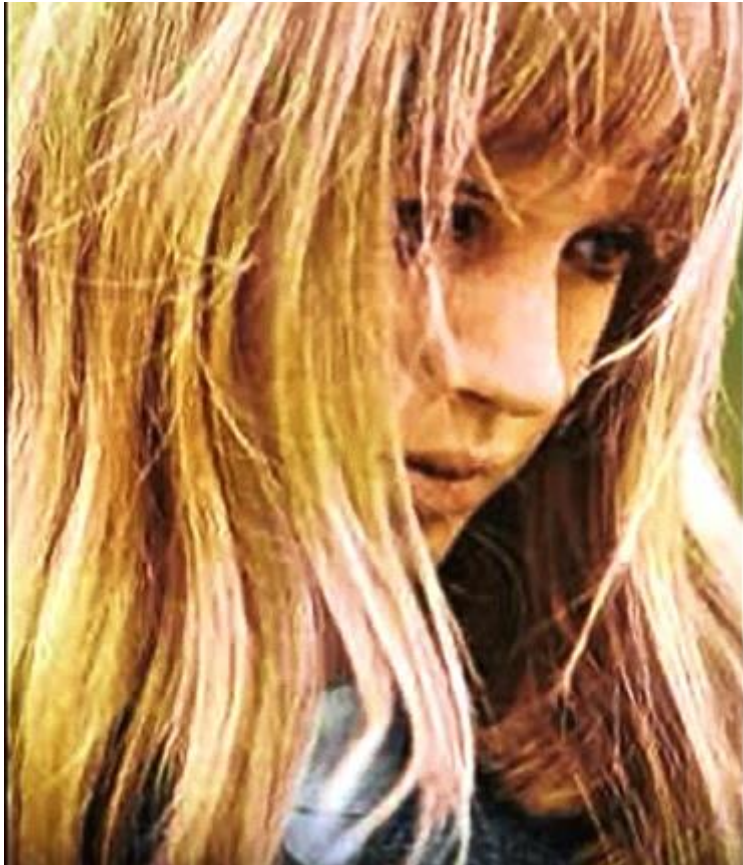
When Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spence at Westminster Abbey on , it was seen as a fairy-tale marriage, made in heaven. The bride was beautiful, the groom was more or less handsome, and they were fabulously wealthy – what could go wrong? Now we know that a lot did go wrong: Charles and Diana were not a happy couple, and Charles was not faithful.

The basic facts are: Diana was born July 1, 1961, in Sandringham. Her parents were John Spencer and Frances Shand Kydd, who divorced when she was seven years old. She had two brothers and three sisters. She died on August 31, 1997, at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, France. From 1981 to 1996 she was married to Charles, Prince of Wales. She was buried at her ancestral home, Althorp, the Spencer seat in Northampton, on September 6, 1997.

Diana married Charles, Prince of Wales on 29 July 1981. Their wedding

[2] was held at St Paul's Cathedral, watched by a global television audience of over 750 million people. With her marriage to the future King of England, Diana took the titles Princess of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall and others. The marriage produced two sons, the princes William and Harry, who were then respectively second and third in the line of succession to the British throne.

Diana was not academically bright. After finishing school in Switzerland



she studied cookery in London, and became a dance instructor for youth, a playgroup pre-school assistant, did some cleaning work for her sister Sarah and several of her friends, and acted as a hostess at parties, worked as a nanny for an American family living in London, and as a nursery teacher's assistant at the Young England School in Pimlico. In July 1979, her mother bought her a flat at Coleherne Court in Earls Court as an 18th

birthday present and she lived there with three flatmates until 25 February 1981.

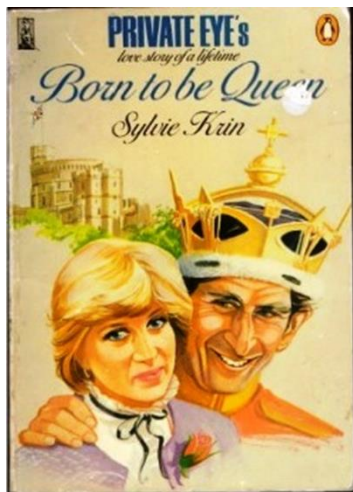
Diana first met Charles, Prince of Wales, in November 1977 when he was dating her sister, Lady Sarah. He took a serious interest in her during the summer of 1980, when they were guests at a country weekend and she watched him play polo. He invited her for a sailing weekend to Cowes aboard the royal yacht Britannia, then the Royal Family's Scottish home, Balmoral, where she met the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in November 1980. The couple continued to meet in London. Charles proposed on 6 February 1981, and Lady Diana accepted, but their engagement was kept secret for the next few weeks.

[3] The marriage produced two boys, and then began to go downhill. Diana



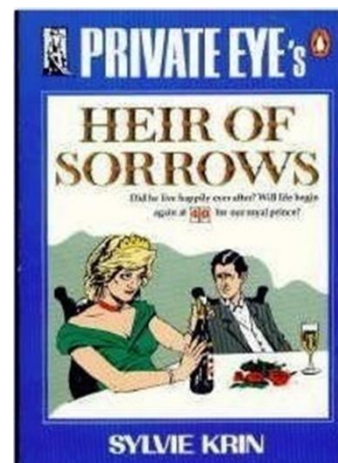
said, “There were three of us in that marriage.” She meant, as we know, Charles’ old girlfriend, Camilla Parker Bowles – now married to Andrew Parker Bowles as she had become fed up with waiting for Charles to propose. Here is Camilla, with a horse.

The marriage was great material for humourists. Private Eye magazine ran a column by a mythical romantic novelist, Sylvie Krin, and published two satirical



novels: *Born to be Queen* and *Heir of Sorrows*.

What followed was indeed the stuff of melodrama: TV confessions, immense press speculation, the divorce, and then Diana’s affair with Dodi Fayed and the car crash, and Diana’s death on August 31st 1997.



From the next morning, September 1st until Diana’s funeral service on September 7th there were distinct stages in public and official reactions to the death of Diana. These were described by the British journalist, Virginia Ironside, in *The Spectator* magazine, as follows.

Day 1, Monday September 1st: idealisation and the beginning of anti-Royalist sentiment

By Monday, the themes of the week were all in place in the papers: shock and grieving, idealisation and recrimination. Millions of words followed but it was the emotion that counted. The Daily Mirror, with the perfect common touch, was the first paper to go religious. “Born a Lady, Became our Princess, Died a Saint” ran one headline; “Magic Touch of a Goddess” said another. And Lord St John of Fawsely said that she had “a real and charismatic gift for healing. It was not something dreamt up by the press. It came from deep within.”

The first small broadside at the Royal Family came from *The Financial*

[4] *Times*. Philip Stephens wrote: “The Royal Family cannot for ever rely on the reservoir of goodwill and respect which has seen it through the past decade. It must begin again to earn the loyalty of its subjects ... Just as there will never be a princess like her, so after her 15 turbulent years in the public eye, the monarchy can never be the same.”

Day 2, Tuesday September 2nd: What about the boys?

Attention turned to the boys, William and Harry. What would become of them? Libby Purves begged in *The Times*: “We must keep away from the Princes. Not just for a month, but until they are men.” Fat chance.



And the flag. Anthony Holden, the biographer of Charles who long ago swapped sides and joined the Diana faction, wrote in *The Express*: “Although I appreciate that only the Royal Standard is flown at Buckingham Palace when the Queen is in residence - and never at

half-mast - I was astonished that an exception was not made. The Palace flagpole was the only one in London, perhaps the British Isles, without a Union Jack at half-mast.”

Day 3, Wednesday September 3rd: Is there a heart in the House of Windsor?

There was a lot of anger at the royal silence and the idea that this was a crossroads for the Royal Family really took hold. The Independent leader said it all: “What would really do the monarchy good and show that they had grasped the lesson of Diana's popularity, would be for the Queen and the Prince of Wales to break down, cry and hug one another on the steps of the Abbey this Saturday. That such an event is unthinkable shows how great is the gap between the people mourning ‘their’ princess, and the Royal Family to which she never, quite, belonged.”

Day 4, Thursday September 4th: Speak to us, Ma’am

To many eyes things had turned distinctly odd; a pretty pass when Dodi's father had to come along and feed the crowd with bowls of soup and sandwiches, when the Al Fayeds seemed more public-spirited than the Royal Family.

Like a child, angry with longing for a cuddle from mum, the Voice of *The Mirror* said: “Your People are Suffering. SPEAK TO US, MA'AM.” “Your people have spoken - now you must Ma'am ...”

[5] The Queen decided to give a message on television, probably persuaded by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

Day 5, Friday September 5th: We speak, the Queen listens

The flag is lowered at Buckingham Palace. *The Sun* is still angry, “It gives us no pleasure to say this, but the Royal Family have let us down. Of course they are deep in grief too but we are continually told that they always sacrifice person feelings for the sake of duty. The time has come when those words have to be matched by deeds. This was such a time.” The paper prints 100 faces of people in floods of tears.

Simon Hoggart in *The Guardian* went further: “I would guess that Prince Charles can never now become king. All the evidence is that he dreads the job, and approaches it only because of the ferocious sense of duty dinned into him from childhood. After what has been in many respects a miserable 50 years, he should be allowed to retire to his gardens, his organic biscuits, and marriage to the woman he loves.”

Day 6, Saturday September 6: The Queen obeys the people

Within hours, it seemed, of the tabloids' begging headlines, the Queen gave, for her, a pretty moving speech and Charles and the boys were seen actually touching each other as they went round the crowds. This reaction undoubtedly lanced the boil of public fury.

Day 7, Sunday September 7th: The nation erupts in tears

Finally, people just wanted to talk and talk about the death and the Sunday papers published dramatic headlines and commentary: *The Diana I Knew, She Danced her Way into our Hearts, Sadness of a Princess*.

Apart from the huge coverage of the funeral, it was seen just as important whether the people in Westminster Abbey cried or not. The *Sunday Mirror*, having given us a report of the funeral that almost entirely consisted of the state of people's eyes, reported that Prince William was in floods of tears at the end; others say he was dry-eyed.

During the four weeks following her funeral, the suicide rate in England and Wales rose by 17% and cases of deliberate self-harm by 44.3% compared with the average for that period in the four previous years. Researchers suggest that this was caused by the “identification” effect, as the greatest increase in suicides was by people most similar to Diana: women aged 25 to 44, whose suicide rate increased by over 45%.