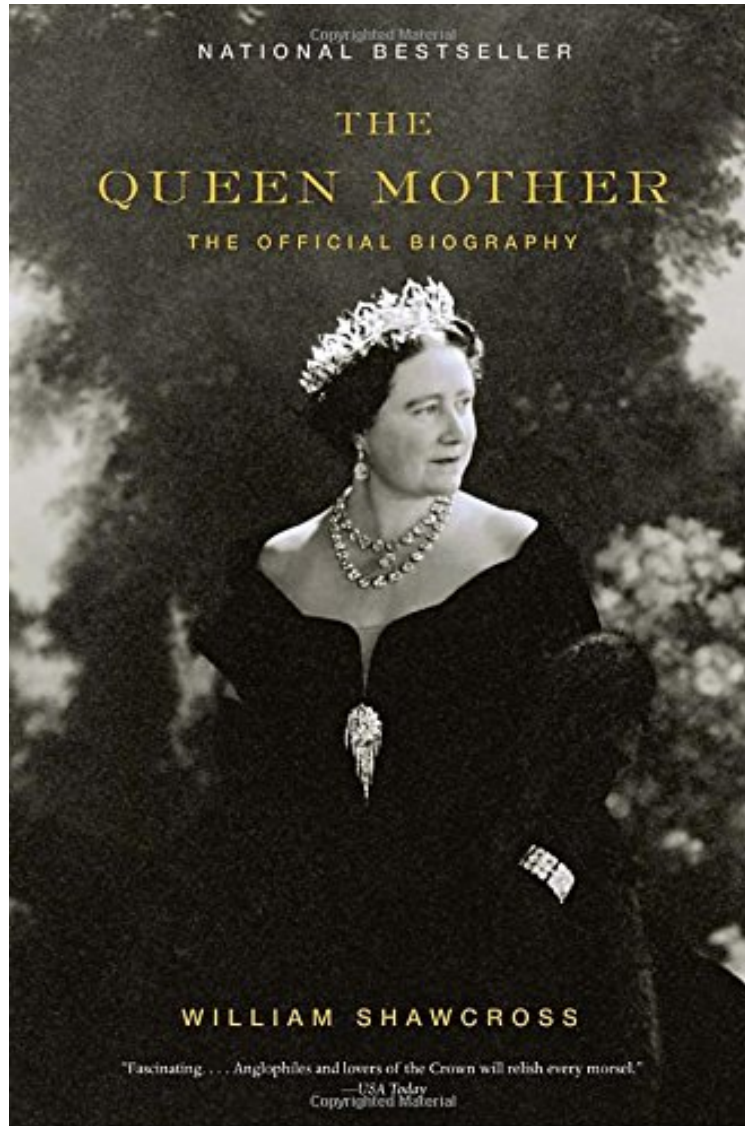


[Download free pdf] The Queen Mother: The Official Biography

## The Queen Mother: The Official Biography

William Shawcross

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**William Shawcross : The Queen Mother: The Official Biography** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Queen Mother: The Official Biography:

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InsWell- documented and well-written. A fascinating and honest portrait of the Queen Mother.

The official and definitive biography of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the most beloved British monarch of the twentieth century. Consort of King George VI, mother of Queen Elizabeth II, and grandmother of Prince Charles, Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon the ninth of the Earl of Strathmores ten children was born on August 4, 1900, and, certainly, no one could have imagined that her long life (she died in 2002) would come to reflect a changing nation over the course of an entire century. Vividly detailed, written with unrestricted access to her personal papers, letters, and diaries, this candid royal biography by William Shawcross is also a singular history of Britain in the twentieth century.

From Publishers Weekly With unrestricted access to the queen mother's personal papers, letters and diaries, this respectful, mostly uncritical biography by veteran journalist Shawcross (Sideshow) focuses on the courtship of Elizabeth (1900-2002), the daughter of a Scottish earl, by the future King George VI; the shocking abdication of King Edward VIII in 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson; and WWII, when Elizabeth's narrow escape from a bomb that hit Buckingham Palace helped her commiserate with her subjects during the blitz. Throughout, the queen mother is depicted as vivacious, charming, devout and dutiful, a dedicated protector of the arts if not an intellectual, and socially conservative. Shawcross repeatedly pulls his punches when it comes to revealing the workings of Elizabeth's heart, particularly her anguish over her nemesis, Wallis Simpson, and over her role in aborting her daughter Princess Margaret's romance with the married courtier Peter Townsend. The dearth of information on the queen mother's relationship with the late Princess Diana is particularly egregious. Although readers sense some of the parade of people who crossed her path, the royal engagements that filled her calendar and the pivotal historical events that shaped her life, Shawcross delivers a disappointingly bland celebration of the queen mother. 32 pages of photos. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Fascinating . . . Anglophiles and lovers of the crown will relish every morsel." USA Today A totally absorbing and highly readable account of a remarkable life. . . . Shawcross's book is genuinely revelatory." The Times (London) Remarkable." Los Angeles Times Lively and elegantly written. . . . A rich portrait." The Economist Splendid. . . . An entertaining page-turner. . . . This masterly biography reveals a character whose charm was matched by courage, optimism, a strong sense of duty and a liking for fun. . . . A wonderful book, authoritative, frank and entertaining. It sets new standards for royal biography. . . . Anyone who finds royal biographies dull and dutiful is in for a surprise." The Daily Telegraph (London) A portrait of a remarkable life lived in step with a century of sweeping change." Bloomberg News A colossal book about a colossal life, a spectacular journey across the entire 20th Century through the eyes of a thoughtful woman who took the hand of a shy royal understudy and was propelled through modern history." Daily Mail (London) A behind-the-scenes glimpse at the Royal Family. . . . Fascinating reading. . . . Shawcross has written a remarkable book." Tucson Citizen [Written] with unprecedented access to the private papers of the queen mother. . . . Her life is seen here as a mirror of the 20th century." New York Post Required Reading Shawcross has been given access to the Royal Archives and they have yielded a rich harvest. . . . [There is an] immense amount of new material here. . . . He is to be congratulated for selecting so many juicy tidbits." A. N. Wilson, Daily Mail (London) Engaging. . . . Colorful. . . . Delightful as well as dignified." The Washington Times The correspondence in [The Queen Mother] is illuminating for both royal watchers and historians. . . . Divulges the Queen Mothers opinions on topics ranging from feminism to homeopathy." The Associated Press Impressively researched. . . . Shawcross avoids the traps [of] hagiography. . . . He succeeds in the difficult task of keeping his subject resolutely centre-stage in an elegant account." The Independent (London) Shawcross's journalistic skills are evident in the innumerable dabs of pointilliste detail. . . . There are many unexpected vignettes. . . . He serves his subject well." Sunday Telegraph (London) Offers new and fascinating insights into the woman behind the pearls and pastel dresses." Mail on Sunday About the Author Born in 1946, William Shawcross is an internationally renowned writer and broadcaster who appears regularly on television and radio. His articles have appeared in leading newspapers and journals throughout the world.  
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