

Geoffrey Koester

Dr. Shelden

English 239

November 19, 2015

Murder They Wrote: How the Royal Family Killed Diana

Princess Diana embodied the idea of a fairy tale princess placed in the imaginations of many by fiction. Although she was born into a well-set life already, she rose above that and married a prince. Royal life was a shock for Diana, however; she found out that she was tricked and became disappointed in her new life soon after marrying Prince Charles. She was brought into the family for one purpose and was quickly discarded once that purpose was achieved. She lived a glamorous life in the spotlight, which troubled the royal family and led to years of back-and-forth fighting. Eventually, the fighting cost Diana her life. While it may never be proven, the royal family indirectly caused Princess Diana's death if they did not directly have a hand in her killing.

Diana was not the first royal family member to be executed. King Henry VIII had many wives during his reign and had a talent for discarding the old ones as soon as he found a new bride. In 1536, he beheaded Anne Boleyn for allegedly having an affair with another man. The truth of the claim did not matter; all the king needed to do was give the order and Boleyn's fate was sealed. He locked her away in the Tower of London and once he decided it was time to end her life, her death was swift. The royal family has a history of going the ultimate length to keep others silent and from sharing their family secrets. Princess Diana's story is a modern version of Boleyn's, showing that the royal family has improved on their tactics.

Prince Charles chose to marry Diana for one purpose: to give the family an heir to the throne. With him rising in age, the clock was ticking to add to the succession. Diana, fulfilling her duty, gave birth to Prince William within a year of the marriage and to Prince Harry a few years later. Charles truly did only marry Diana for the heirs because he was in love with another woman, Camilla, to whom he would marry later in life after Diana's death. Camilla was married to another man at the time, however, and that meant Charles was stuck with Diana for awhile. This resulted in Diana and Charles' marriage being loveless and neither being truly happy with the relationship.

With neither Charles or Diana content in their marriage, they looked outside of it for their pleasure. Charles had an affair with Camilla, which Diana knew about, and this upset her. The loveless marriage and her husband's affair made it difficult for her to carry out her royal duties with a smile and she did not always hide her discontent in pictures. She also struggled with eating disorders and lost a lot of weight. Things improved when she fell in love with another man and had an affair of her own. She met Major James Hewitt, a British military man, and the two maintained a secret relationship while she was publicly married to Charles. It was around this time that Prince Harry was born and suspicions have been raised about whether Charles or Major Hewitt is the father of Harry. The loveless marriage, affairs, and the question about Harry's biological father sparked a heated debate between the once-fairy tale couple.

Both Charles and Diana had dirt to spill on the other, but Diana had the upper hand because she could destroy the foundation of the royal family. This concerned the royals but did not stop them from getting into a tabloid war with her. Diana worked with a journalist to release a book called *Diana: Her True Story* in 1992, which shared with the public the truth of her loveless marriage and what was really going on behind the palace gates. Charles responded with

an interview in 1994 where he admitted to his affair with Camilla but said Diana had “borderline personality disorder.” He’s setting his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, up to perform a similar act to her predecessor King Henry VIII. The queen could send Diana to an insane asylum and keep her locked up there till the public forgot her. Charles’ comments in his interview was starting to build public support for that so there would not be outrage if that was done. It would not come to that, however, because Diana would preempt that move.

Diana did an interview in 1995 where she said she would not go quietly and reassured the public that she was not crazy. She was smart and knew she could avoid being the next Anne Boleyn by putting herself in the public eye at any opportunity she had. With no better option left, the royal family decided divorce was on the table. Charles and the royal family got the better deal in the divorce, tricking Diana to give up her royal title and settle for a miniscule amount of money given the needs she would have when living and traveling with her fame. When they divorced in 1996, she lost all of the protection that came with being a member of the royal family and British government and received only \$30 million. That money would not last long considering she need to hire security, travel privately, and have many other special arrangements made to ensure her safety. The royal family set her up to die by stripping her of her protection and putting her out on her own. They had built her up for their own selfish needs and then tossed her out of the palace when she was too much to handle.

Diana’s post-divorce life did not suffer and her fame only grew. She became a better parent, celebrity, and lover. She was determined to maintain a relationship with her children, which was naïve given that the royal family would at least keep a close hold on Prince William knowing for sure he was a true heir to the throne. She maintained some visitation rights but the royal family held her children over her as a negotiation tool, knowing a mother would do

anything to see her kids. They knew as long as they could use the kids, Diana would not spill the royal family's secrets to the public. After discarding her royal title and becoming only known as Princess Diana, she continued making many public appearances and visiting those in need to keep her name in the press. She met many notable figures, including Mother Teresa, and befriended them so they could defend her if the royal family ever tried to lock her up or call her crazy again. She also met a new man, Dodi Al Fayed, who had the means to give her a life similar to the one she was offered as a member of the royal family. They started dating and he provided her with the security and needs she could not afford with the little money she received in the divorce. Her life was relatively happy and she thought she could live this way for many years, but she would soon realize the royal family was not willing to keep her alive.

Only a few months before her death, Diana wrote a letter to her butler saying she suspected that someone – who would later be identified in a blacked out letter as the queens' husband Prince Phillip – was going to set her up to die in a car accident. She said it would be brake failure and be done to allow Charles to marry Camilla, who had been his true love all along. The royal family was going to murder the princess to keep her quiet and make sure that she would never tell her full story. Her death was remarkably close to the foresight Diana wrote about in her letter. She was killed on a highway in Paris when her car drove straight into a concrete pillar, traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour. That type of accident could only have occurred if something on the car was dysfunctional, such as brake failure as her letter said. Someone could have been standing on the overpass above the tunnel she crashed in, shined a light at her car, and caused the accident. Queen Elizabeth II, Diana's former mother-in-law, told the Paris authorities to take her body to be embalmed immediately after her death was confirmed, which made it impossible to perform an autopsy and removed any evidence present

inside her. The royal family had gotten the result they wanted and the events after her death made it even more clear they were involved in Diana's death.

At Diana's funeral procession, Princes Charles and Phillip showed little remorse for her death and did the bare minimum to meet expectations and show respect for Diana's life. The queen was silent for a long time after her death and did not give a statement until she was finally pressured by public opinion to do so. It did not take long, however, for Charles to marry Camilla who became the Duchess of Cornwall. In only a few years, the new couple would visit the United States and pose for a picture with President George W. Bush and his wife. More recently, the royal family requested and paid for an investigation to be conducted on Diana's death to put a rest to the claims that her death was caused by someone in their family. They spent millions of dollars on that investigations and while it did confirm their innocence, one would not expect any less from a British investigation commissioned by the British head of state to clear the beloved British royal family of any wrongdoing. It would be shocking if the investigation didn't confirm what the royal family wanted.

Princess Diana served one purpose to the royal family and when she fulfilled that purpose, the royals were done with her. She delivered not one but two heirs to them, even though there are suspicions that the latter heir is not Prince Charles' son. Those suspicions along with the loveless marriage she was in pushed Diana out of the royal family. Diana's glamorous life out of the royal family outshined the royal family and the royals were continuously concerned that the former queen-to-be would share her story. When tell-all interviews and a one-sided divorce settlement did not put an end to their concerns, the royal family resorted to the only thing they had left: killing Diana. The only way for Charles to marry his new wife without risking public scrutiny and Diana telling their secrets was to have Diana die. With Diana in the

prime of her life and looking more beautiful than ever, the only way to have Diana die was to murder her. A family such as the royal family had more than enough means to kill someone without any issues. All of the details in Diana's story and the history of the royal family for getting rid of their problems through murder confirms the royal family is responsible for the princess' death as much as possible. Unfortunately, the family is untouchable and the mound of evidence is not enough to expose their awful deeds.

Sources:

Oxford English Dictionary

LexisNexis

Lecture