



Toronto Model United Nations Presents

The Royal Family:

Death

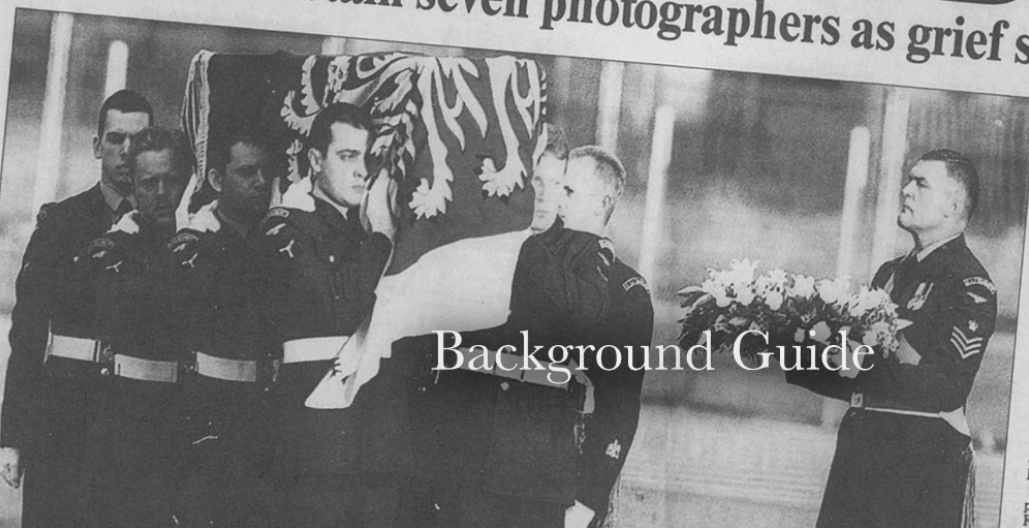
of

Diana



World mourns Diana

Police detain seven photographers as grief settles in



By JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG
Special from the Los Angeles Times

PARIS — Police investigating the crash Sunday that killed Princess Diana impounded film, cameras, and motorcycles of photographers who had been chasing her, in an investigation to determine whether their zeal to snap her picture played a part in her death.

Seven photographers were detained for questioning in the crash, and police said they would be held overnight Sunday. The photographers, on motorcycles and scooters, had been pursuing the Mercedes-Benz carrying Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, when the car hit a concrete pillar in an underground tunnel by the River Seine on Sunday, shortly after midnight.

Princess Diana, Fayed, and their driver were killed in the crash. Another passenger, the princess's bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, was hospitalized with a concussion and other injuries. Doctors said his life was not "immediately" in danger.

Amid the tumult, Prince Charles accompanied the princess's body to a Royal Air Force base near

Background Guide

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Director's Letter

Dear delegates,

Behind the mythologised gates of Buckingham Palace, pressure is building more than ever before after the tragic loss of Princess Diana. As one of the most publicly adored people of her time, her death sent shock waves across not only Britain but the world as a whole. We are excited to see how you will approach your roles as Royal Family members and powerful Royal staff to regain control over public approval before it is too late.

With that, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all on behalf of the entire Death of Diana team! We are working hard to ensure that, regardless of previous Model UN experience, this committee will prove to be fun and engaging.

My name is Leila Hunter, and I will be your director. I am a grade 11 student at Monarch Park Collegiate Institute and have been participating in Model UN for 3 years. TMUN 2023 was my very first conference back in Grade 9 (shoutout SOCHUM!), and I am immensely excited to finally bring it back full circle 3 years and many more conferences later.

Like many others, Princess Diana's story has always been something that I have had a basic understanding of, however my first proper introduction was

watching *The Crown* for the very first time. While perhaps not entirely accurate, it was there that I developed an intense interest in both Diana as well as the establishment of the Royal Family as a whole. I wanted to understand why they have the power that they do, and how it has changed over time. This committee has been years in the making, and I along with my team of skilled and passionate staff are very excited to see it finally brought to life!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email (leilahunt777@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing the creativity delegates will bring to this committee and wish you all the best of luck!

- Leila Hunter | Director of *The Royal Family: Death of Diana*

Historical Context

The Beginning of the House of Windsor - King George V

The House of Windsor began with King George V. After the passing of his father in 1910, George ascended to the throne during a period of significant civil unrest in England. Socialist ideals were becoming increasingly popular and powerful, with many believing it may pose a significant threat to Britain's political structure. Irish politicians were also demanding sovereignty and separation from the United Kingdom.

This was all overshadowed by a much larger conflict that took precedence around the same time; World War I. As the King waged war against Germany and its allies, 4 years of immense death and destruction cast a large shadow over George's regime. This conflict was personal to George specifically, as the German Kaiser Wilhelm and Russian Tsar Nicholas II were his cousins that he was once very close to.

The King drew in extensive criticism over his perceived closeness to the Germans, eventually culminating in him changing his surname from the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor, marking the beginning of a new era for the British monarchy. That same year, the Russians,

who had been allied with Britain, capitulated as the people of the nation staged a revolution against the Tsar and his family, forming the Soviet Union.

As George and Nicholas had been close, the King vowed to rescue him. However, revolutionary ideologies had begun making their way to Britain as living conditions and social unrest continued to grow worse. There was a genuine fear amongst the British Monarchy that there would be a revolution against the King similar to that against the Tsar.

The King ultimately made the decision to not rescue his cousin, realizing that the Tsar represented all of the excess and greed that disconnected him from his people, causing the social discontent in the first place. Going directly against the will of the Russian people would cast a terrible light on the British throne, and could lead to these revolutionary ideas coming to fruition in the United Kingdom. Thus, the Tsar and his family were eventually killed.

By 1918, the war had ended and the British Crown remained one of the few great monarchies still standing. The remainder of George's reign was dominated by worries over ever-growing opposing political beliefs, such as socialism and communism. These ideologies promised the working class the opportunity for equality and retribution against the greed and flauntings of wealth by the uber-wealthy. This once again seemed to pose a serious threat to the Royal establishment.

The Royal Family at the time along with their staff realized this, and decided it was important to make a change in order to protect their image. For example, King George V supported the implementation of more democratic measures into Parliament. He also managed to minimize the amount of civil unrest by prioritizing economic recovery, which became the nation's top priority. This managed to solidify him as a rather popular monarch until his death. He did not have a good relationship with his eldest son, Edward, and viewed him as irresponsible due to the controversy of his affairs with several married women.

Love Over Duty – King Edward VII

After King George V's death, Edward VII took over the throne. While many hoped the responsibility of the crown would stabilize Edward's irresponsible attitudes, this proved untrue. His disregard for constitutional traditions came to a head when he married Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee, putting his position as Head of the Church of England at risk. While in some cases it appeared to be useful to modernize, it seemed as though the public was not ready for this big of a shift.

The entire existence of the Monarchy as a whole was put into question, and Edward had to make a decision fast. After less than a year on the throne, he abdicated the throne to his brother, Prince Albert, and married Wallis.

A Spare's Rise to The Throne - King George VII

Upon his ascension to the throne after his brother's abdication, Albert decided to change his name to George VII. While he was initially met with much public approval, the new King felt entirely unprepared for this sudden shift in position. Rumours began to spread across Britain that he was mentally and physically unfit to rule, which once again put the stability of the Royal Family into question.

The beginning of George VII's reign was spent attempting to garner American support in European affairs, as it became clear that a war was inevitable. This prediction eventually came true when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, marking the beginning of World War II. Determined to not repeat the mistakes of their predecessors, there was a big emphasis amongst the Royal staff that connection to the public should be the utmost priority of the Royal Family.

The King and Queen experienced food rationing, just as their people were. They visited hospitals and troops, and Princess Elizabeth even enlisted herself in the army. King George VII and the newly elected Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, also developed a highly close relationship. The Royal Family's popularity reached a high that had not been seen in recent history, with their influence spanning across the entire world and becoming a symbol of resistance and bravery.

While the war had improved public perception of the family, it came with immense infrastructural and economic cost. As the Family celebrated the union of Queen Elizabeth and her husband, Phillip Mountbatten, it was somewhat overshadowed by the death and destruction left behind by the war. Additionally, the King began experiencing severe health issues, suffering from lung cancer and eventually dying in 1953.

Long Live the Queen - Queen Elizabeth II

At the young age of 25, Elizabeth II ascended to the British Throne and became the Queen of England. Her coronation signified a massive turning point in history, as it was the very first to be televised and was watched by 100 million people. While initially met with resistance as it would go against the tradition of the event, with some worrying it may destroy the mystery surrounding it, Elizabeth insisted it was important to connect with the public and shift with the times.

Prior to her coronation, issues were already beginning to arise for the young Queen. While it was customary for the House name to be taken from the husband's last name, the Queen decided that the name would continue to be House of Windsor. Scandal began to arise as it was reported that Prince Phillip had been complaining about his wife, damaging the view the public had of the Royal Family as harmonious and without fault. While tension

between the couple dominated the early years of their marriage, Phillip eventually understood his role in the family, likely with the help of the Royal Staff around him, and was subdued to a loyal partner for the sake of the Family's image.

The Queen encountered her first bit of criticism when she was forced to appoint a new Prime Minister following the resignation of Anthony Eden. The decision to appoint Harold MacMillan, along with the failure of the Suez Crisis, led to some calling her "out of touch". However, public support of the Queen was still widespread, and it did not significantly impact her reign.

The Queen later faced issues following the widespread movement of decolonization across many British colonies. With over 20 African countries declaring their independence, it was believed that the Crown's global power was slipping. However, the Queen managed to endear herself to the Public as several attempts as her life she made, and in response she showed immense poise.

Happily Ever After? – Prince Charles & Princess Diana

Long before she ever met Prince Charles, Diana was born to the aristocratic Spencer family. She lived a luxurious life and her family had long had ties to the Royal Family, with her father working for both King George VII and Queen Elizabeth II. She attended a boarding school in Switzerland, and

when she was 16 years old she met Prince Charles for the first time. He was dating her sister, Sarah, at the time and had been invited to their house for a weekend.

Two years later, while she was working as a nanny, she was invited to Charles' birthday celebration, where they developed a close friendship that eventually blossomed into a romance. However, Prince Charles was still deeply in love with a woman by the name of Camilla Shand, who had an on and off again relationship with the man she would eventually marry and subsequently divorce, Andrew Parker Bowles.

While Charles was intent on marrying Camilla, this was met with much resistance by members of the Royal Family and Royal Staff, as it was seen as improper to marry a divorcee. Diana was seen as a much more suitable option, being viewed as pure and innocent. Charles eventually subsided and married Diana, although it was clear that his heart still belonged to Camilla.

When their engagement was made public, Diana was shoved into the limelight and forced to live a rather lonely life isolated from her family and friends. The public adored her, however she rarely saw her soon-to-be husband and developed a myriad of mental and physical health issues. The couple finally got married just 3 weeks after Diana's 20th Birthday in 1981. The fairytale wedding increased public support of the couple, however behind the scenes their relationship had already begun to fall apart.

Much of the Royal Family, particularly her husband, were largely unsympathetic to Diana's mental health struggles, leading her to feel even more isolated. Additionally, not long after Diana gave birth to her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, Charles continued his long standing affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles. Charles also seemed to become jealous of Diana's popularity, which further damaged their relationship.

Diana and Charles separated in 1992, and officially divorced in 1996. Despite this, Diana's popularity only continued to skyrocket, and she used this to raise awareness for several important issues such as leprosy and AIDS. This only further endeared her to the public, and she quickly had the hearts of not only Britain, but much of the world. However, this popularity was not without its challenges, and Diana began to be harassed by the paparazzi at an intense scale.

An extremely popular biography written by Andrew Morton and called "Diana: Her True Story" was published in 1992, painting the family in a particularly negative light. While it was initially stated that Diana had no involvement in the book's creation, it later became clear that she had provided the biographer, Andrew Morton, with all the sordid details of her life in the Royal Family. She was also deceived into participating in a BBC Panorama interview by Martin Bashir that furthered the scandal caused by the biography.

While Diana had allegedly found comfort in several lovers, her last relationship was with Dodi Al-Fayed, the eldest son of Egyptian billionaire Mohammed Al-Fayed. Mohammed was reported to have been very fond of Diana, and extremely supportive of her relationship with his son. Throughout their whirlwind romance, media interest in Diana continued to grow as her privacy was continuously disregarded, along with the privacy of her children. Additionally, it is speculated that Dodi may have proposed to Diana, as he purchased a ring, although this has never been confirmed.

Tragedy Strikes - The Death of Diana & Dodi

On August 30th, 1997, tragedy struck Diana & Dodi. After dining together in Paris, they were being chauffeured home by their driver. The car began being followed by a hoard of paparazzis, leading to the chauffeur to lose control of the vehicle and crash. While Diana managed to initially survive the crash and was rushed to the hospital, she later died from internal bleeding.

Topic A - Public Perception

The public is shocked and grieving the death of Diana, and are quickly looking for someone to blame. Additionally, conspiracies are beginning to form about the reasons behind such a tragic death. For example, Mohammed Al-Fayed, Dodi's father, has made the bold claim that the Royal Family themselves were behind the deadly car crash. He claims that Diana & Dodi were engaged, and that she was pregnant with their child, which the Windsor's wanted to exterminate.

Additionally, while there were many cameras near the scene, they had all appeared to have been pointed in other directions, privately operated, or inactive, which has been viewed as highly suspicious. Some say that there was far too big of a delay on the treatment of Diana's injuries, and that this was done to be sure she would be killed. These are only the most prominent conspiracies, and they continue to spread with every passing day

The public is also immensely unsatisfied with the Royal Family's response to Diana's death, viewing them as cold. While the family must usually respond to large events in this manner in order to keep up appearances, this has only served to further damage their image and they are being viewed as disconnected from not only the public, but their own family.

The more time that the family remains silent, the more intent the media is on catching them out and painting them as villains. Questions about the legitimacy of the monarchy itself are being brought into question, as many believe they are failing to adequately respond to the crisis. As seen by history, a monarchy is nothing without the support of its people

Guiding Questions

1. How should the Royal Family respond to the Death of Diana?
2. How should the Royal Staff communicate with the media?
3. Can the media be used as a tool or is it too dangerous to attempt?
4. How can the Royal family win back the public's favour?

Topic B - Change Within The Family

As much as the public is turning on the Royal Family as this crisis has arisen, they may also begin to turn on one another. Throughout the history of the British monarchy, an integral part of its system has been the mystery they present. If no one knows what is going on behind the Royal fences, there is little to criticize and more to mythologize. However, there is also less for the public to relate to. The balance between modernization and maintenance of tradition is one that the Royal Family and Royal Staff must consistently grapple with.

It appears as if cracks in the perfect image presented by the Royals have already formed, with the biography released about Diana outlining their part in her isolation from the Royal Family. This may also be an opportunity for some to take rise and increase their own popularity, but could cost the establishment as a whole.

Guiding Questions

1. Should the Royal Family attempt to connect with the public, or hold back?
2. What are the benefits and drawbacks of sticking with tradition and maintaining a stiff upper lip in the face of adversity?
3. What are the benefits and drawbacks of showing vulnerability?

4. How can certain people's popularity impact the Royal Family as a whole?

Character Guide

Disclaimer

The mixture of non-members and members of the Royal Family in this character guide is done so that there will be a variety of resources and perspectives to create a more engaging committee. This committee is all about using the resources you have, whether with the public or behind the scenes, to change the course of history. Additionally, while information is provided within this guide, delegates are encouraged to do their own research in order to fully bring their positions to life.

These descriptions blend real-world roles with rumor-related context. While they cite popular conspiracy theories and tabloid gossip, there is no credible proof of foul play in Princess Diana's passing. Official investigations determined that the incident was a terrible accident, nothing more, nothing less. Any mention of theory is for stylistic narrative purposes, not as a statement of fact.

Prince Charles

Prince Charles, Princess Diana's former husband and heir to the British monarchy, is at the centre of several speculations about Diana's life and ultimately her death. Charles, who is known for his quiet manner combined with a feeling of duty, has been portrayed by certain critics as distant or troubled in his relationships, particularly during the later years of his marriage to Diana. Despite media speculation about tensions or plots, official investigations found no evidence linking him to her fatal accident. Even still, Charles is frequently dragged between public interest regarding Diana's sad

demise and his allegiance to the Crown, leading in a guarded, sometimes misunderstood public demeanour. While he has a close relationship to his family and his son, it has been somewhat strained after the public reveal of his affair with Camilla.

Camilla Parker Bowles

Camilla Parker Bowles' connection with Prince Charles drew considerable attention from the public long before she became Queen Consort. The allegations of having an affair during Charles and Diana's marriage immediately linked Camilla to conspiracy theories after Diana's death, although no credible source ever accused her. Camilla, known among friends and family as simple, friendly, and down-to-earth, has struggled with a poor public image associated with Diana's heartbreak. Her relationship with the Royal Family is rather estranged, as she is often compared to Diana and not believed to be worthy. Despite remaining murmurs from the past, she has worked hard to carve out her charity niche and her biggest goal is to improve public perception of herself.

Prince William

Prince William, Diana's oldest child and second in line to the throne, suffers the great pain of losing his mother at a young age. William is known for his sense of duty and his balanced approach to royal life, working hard to keep his mother's legacy free of dramatic narratives. In the face of constant public inquiry, William has frequently maintained a dignified silence on the various conspiracy theories, preferring to commemorate Diana through charitable efforts and keeping her legacy alive in his family. Though formerly regarded as quiet, William has evolved into a figure who blends tradition with

a modern perspective, guaranteeing Diana's compassionate spirit lives on. Some, however, view him as out of touch with the public.

Prince Harry

Prince Harry, Diana's youngest son, is often more vocal and rebellious than his older brother, William. Harry, who was greatly affected by Diana's death and the subsequent media, has never shied away from opposing unwanted press coverage, which many believe contributed to Diana's tragic passing. Repeated speculations about "what really happened" continued to plague him, motivating his desire to protect his own family from tabloids. Harry's sense of responsibility to preserve Diana's humanitarian legacy has become a defining feature of his life, developing a narrative that he continues to create. His rebellious nature, while in some cases endearing him to the public, has been viewed as a threat to the image of the Royal Family as a whole.

Patrick Jephson

Patrick Jephson, Princess Diana's former private secretary, personally witnessed the problems Diana faced in and out of the public eye. Jephson, known for his dignity and loyalty, gave insight into Diana's everyday problems while remaining respectful of her privacy. Despite dramatic conspiracy theories linking practically every character in Diana's close circle to her death, Jephson has generally dismissed or questioned unverified accusations, focusing instead on Diana's humanitarian efforts. His behind-the-scenes perspective and controlled honesty make him a valuable voice in understanding Diana's life and the public pressures she faced before her death.

Charles Spencer

Diana's younger brother, Charles, the 9th Earl Spencer, frequently criticized the media's role in his sister's death. Outspoken, passionate, and highly protective of Diana's memory, he delivered a powerful address during her funeral that drew sympathy from viewers. Rumours linking powerful forces within the royal circles to Diana's accident frequently highlight Charles Spencer's loud scepticism despite knowing that he offered no formal evidence. Today, he continues to protect his sister's legacy through his stewardship of Althorp and campaigning for her charity interests.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother

Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, admired for her unwavering commitment to duty and grace despite pressure, holds a high status in the British Royal Family. She was affectionately referred to as the "Queen Mum," and she became known for her firm public support of her family during several crises. Although some theories painted her as a genius determined to preserve the monarchy at all costs, there is little reliable proof that she was involved in Diana's death. Her reputation as a calming component of the family outweighed most gossip. She is determined to maintain tradition within the Family at all costs.

Princess Margaret

Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth II's younger sister, became known for her outgoing personality and quick wit. Throughout Diana's turbulent years, Margaret was said to have many opinions—sometimes empathetic, sometimes harsh. Conspiracy theories noted that Margaret had direct

knowledge of the palace's reaction to Diana's life choices and eventual death, but these accusations were only speculation. Despite her powerful personality, Margaret was known for keeping the public guessing about her genuine opinion, adding another element of mystery to the extended family's reaction to Diana's death.

Mohammad Al-Fayed

As the father of Dodi Fayed, Diana's companion who died with her, Mohamed Al-Fayed became an outspoken advocate of conspiracy theories about the crash in Paris. Known for his outgoing demeanour, he spent significant resources pursuing legal action and investigations into what he saw as a cover-up. While his accusations gained popularity among groups skeptical of the establishment, official investigations continually dismissed allegations of misconduct. Nonetheless, Al-Fayed's profound beliefs underline the ongoing concerns surrounding the sad occurrence. However, he is still a businessman, and may be able to strike a deal to mend his relationship with the Royal Family if need be.

Tony Blair

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom at the time of Diana's passing, famously referred to her as the "People's Princess," expressing the nation's collective grief. Blair, known for his charismatic style of leadership and public relations expertise, led both the government's response to Diana's death and the enormous outpouring of national grief. Some rumours claimed there was behind-the-scenes manipulation amongst the political circle or with the Royal Family, but no evidence has surfaced to link him to any

wrongdoing. His immediate compassion and notable tribute reinforced the public narrative of Diana's importance around the world.

Prince Philip

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth II's husband is known for his gruff presence. While many people found Philip's direct nature refreshing, it also encouraged speculation that he had deeper concerns or objectives regarding Diana's personal life. Conspiracy theorists frequently point to Philip's reputation for intolerance in public scandals, questioning whether this influenced Diana's final days. He is determined to stand by his wife, and to maintain tradition within the family.

Simon Lewis

Simon Lewis, a communications adviser in the Prime Minister's office at the time of Diana's death, worked behind the scenes to keep the government's message consistent and polite. Rumours that the government had something to hide raised suspicions about practically every figure in Whitehall, including Lewis, however, no credible claims surfaced. Lewis is known among colleagues for his thorough response to public relations issues, pushing for a delicate balance between public sympathy and institutional privacy. He largely dominates the national discussion following Diana's death.

Lord Fellowes (Robert Fellowes)

Lord Fellowes, Queen Elizabeth II's Private Secretary and Diana's brother-in-law (married to Diana's elder sister Jane), found himself in a highly

unsafe position. Given his combined ties to the monarchy and Diana's family, rumours circulated that he had firsthand knowledge of what happened leading up to the catastrophe. Nonetheless, Lord Fellowes remained quiet and rarely commented publicly, underlining the official position that Diana's death was a terrible accident. He is known for his unwavering commitment to the Crown and calm manner, and he maintains his discreet influence in royal affairs.

Sarah Spencer

Sarah Spencer, Diana's older sister, had a close but sometimes complex relationship with her. Sarah, who formerly dated Prince Charles, became a supportive figure in Diana's life, particularly following her sister's divorce. Conspiracy theories tied Sarah to knowledge of a larger conspiracy, however, she has denied these claims and maintained the official judgment of an accident. Her down-to-earth attitude and unwavering commitment to family responsibilities helped her lead and defend Diana's memory in the years following the tragedy.

Cynthia Jane Fellowes

Diana's second-eldest sister, Cynthia Jane Fellowes, was often referred to as "Jane" by family members. She married into a high-ranking position within royal circles through her husband, Robert Fellowes. Jane was known for her reserved demeanor and close relationship with Spencer's extended family. The swirl of speculations regarding the palace's suspected role in Diana's accident led some to believe Jane had secrets, but she rarely engaged in such discussions. In public appearances and speeches, she has

constantly emphasized Diana's humanitarian interests and chose to preserve her sister's charitable legacy.

Geoffrey Crawford

Geoffrey Crawford's name appears less frequently in public discussions, but he is occasionally mentioned in conspiracy circles related to Diana's final days. Crawford is thought to have links in the royal family and the government, but speculations about his position were unclear at best. There is no official record that supports any particular involvement or hidden strategy on his part, hence most discussion is based on unproven speculations. As a result, Crawford remains a mystery, often tangled up in conspiracy rumours without concrete evidence.

Prince Edward

Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, prefers to maintain a discrete public profile. Though not normally linked with major royal conspiracy, sceptics have attempted to paint practically every senior royal family member as potentially linked to Diana's death. Most rumours are overshadowed by Edward's charitable work and his production company. He is known for his calm and friendly demeanour, and he has openly accepted the official narrative that Diana died in a sad accident.

Prince Andrew

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, is known as a charismatic war hero, although he may have some of his own secrets he would like to keep under

wraps. Regarding Diana's accident, Andrew was occasionally included in conspiracy theories implying there was internal royal conflict, despite the lack of convincing proof. Andrew, who is known for his outspokenness on certain matters, has never formally confirmed such claims. While he is popular with the public, this may soon shift.

Princess Anne

Princess Anne, widely considered one of the Royal Family's most hardworking members, is known for her simple "no-nonsense" attitude. She was not particularly close to Diana in public, sparking concerns regarding palace politics and whether conflicts existed behind closed doors. Despite the rumours, Anne never openly debated such conspiracies, choosing to have a "stiff upper lip" approach. Her commitment to charitable work and preference for solitude have kept her on the outside of any serious predictions concerning Diana's final days.

Michael Gibbins

Michael Gibbins was one of Diana's former private secretaries and financial controllers, and he had a close relationship with the woman. He expressed several of Diana's fears, such as that her phone was being tapped, and has not been shy to communicate with the media. While he works for the Royal Family, he has his own concerns about the way in which it is run. He doesn't believe in many of the conspiracy theories surrounding Diana's death but has been met with suspicion by the public.

Anne Beckwith Smith

Anne Beckwith Smith worked as Princess Diana's assistant and lady-in-waiting, organizing schedules and day-to-day details during her high-profile years. Despite her crucial role, Beckwith Smith avoided giving interviews or fueling narratives, preferring loyalty and caution above all. Conspiracy theorists frequently allege that any close staff member discovered concealed clues, but Beckwith Smith has not confirmed such claims. However, she may hold several of Diana's secrets that may make her a target for the media.