

3c -Princess Margaret, a short biography



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(1930–2002). British royal Princess Margaret was the younger sister of Elizabeth, who became Queen [Elizabeth II](#) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1952. Margaret was a glamorous beauty who struggled throughout her life to balance an independent spirit and artistic temperament with her duties as a member of Britain's royal family.

Margaret Rose Windsor was born on August 21, 1930, at Glamis castle in Scotland, the second daughter of King George VI and Queen [Elizabeth](#) (from 1952 Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother). She had a quiet childhood, mostly spent at the royal lodge, Windsor, and was taught mainly by a governess. In early 1947 she went with her parents and sister to South Africa, and her first important engagement alone was in 1948, when she represented her father at the investiture of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

Margaret, who displayed an early love for nightlife and the arts, gained worldwide sympathy in 1955 when she publicly renounced Group Captain Peter Townsend, whom she loved but could not marry because he had been divorced. She married photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones (later earl of Snowdon) in 1960 and had two children—David, Viscount Linley, and Lady Sarah. By the 1970s, however, times had changed; both of the Snowdons engaged in public love affairs, and the volatile marriage finally ended in divorce in 1978, the first in the British royal family in 400 years.

The princess proceeded to scandalize conservative monarchists, cultivating friendships and romances among actors, writers, ballet dancers, and artists. In the 1970s she had a prolonged romance with Roddy Llewellyn, a landscape gardener 17 years her junior. She spent much of her time on the Caribbean island of Mustique (part of the Saint Vincent group of islands). Eventually her extensive charitable work, combined with a new, more modern sympathy for the restricted options she faced as a royal, gained her public respect. Princess Margaret died on February 9, 2002, in London, England.