





Will Charles and Camilla live in Buckingham Palace?

Yes, they will move out of Clarence House when extensive renovations to the palace are completed in 2027. "It is Monarchy HQ," says an insider. Charles is now undertaking a review of all royal residences. Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, were recently evicted from Frogmore Cottage, which may go to Prince Andrew, who would leave his home of Royal Lodge in Windsor. Now that he's no longer a working royal, Andrew's smaller allowance won't enable him to pay for the vast estate's upkeep and renovations. But Prince William and Princess Kate won't be taking over Royal Lodge anytime soon. They are happy in nearby Adelaide Cottage—a more modest home, friends say.



Is the royal family divided leading up to the coronation?

As coronation day looms, the rift between Harry, 38, and William, 40, still runs deep, sources say, while the distance between Charles, 74, and his youngest son remains painful for the King. "They're having to cope with the existence of fissures in the family," says royal biographer Sally Bedell Smith. Harry has said he wants a reconciliation, but that could take some time. Still, some insiders detect a softening. "People know that the current situation can't go on. There is a changing dynamic," says a source. Amid the family tension, Prince William "will be front and center" during the ceremony, says Bedell Smith. "It will show the continuity and unity, even though behind the scenes there are rifts.'



How do William and Harry feel about Camilla being crowned Queen Consort?

"They are likely feeling a little wobbly about it," says royal author Ingrid Seward. "I think a lot of people will feel the same." For Harry—who wrote in his memoir Spare that he and William supported Charles's relationship with Camilla (with the princes and her children on her wedding day in 2005) but "begged" him not to marry her—it will likely be tougher. "William has gotten over it," says Bedell Smith. "There has never been any doubt that Charles wants her there as Queen."



Will Camilla's children and grandchildren have a role?

It has been speculated that the five grandkids (pictured in 2022) from Queen Camilla's first marriage, to Andrew Parker Bowles, may play a part in the coronation. The teens will reportedly hold a canopy over the head of their grandmother, 75, as she is anointed with holy oil. Her children, Tom Parker Bowles and Laura Lopes, will also be in attendance. By including Camilla's children and grandchildren, the royal couple are showing that they—like many people around the world—belong to a blended family.







Are artists refusing to perform for Charles?

British superstars Elton John, Adele and Harry Styles have all reportedly declined to perform at the coronation concert at Windsor Castle on May 7 as critics suggest that Charles doesn't have the same support as his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who had several big-name musicians at her Platinum Jubilee concert last summer. Those likely to take the stage include Lionel Richie, who is an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, which was founded by Charles in 1976. and the band Take That.



Are Harry and Meghan coming?

The couple have yet to publicly respond to their invitation from the palace. It's possible that only Harry comes to the historic event, which falls on son Prince Archie's 4th birthday. "I would think Harry will be there," says Bedell Smith. A source close to the royal household adds, "There is something dutiful about him coming." Harry made a surprise appearance at London's High Court on March 27 for a phone-tapping and privacy case but was not expected to see his dad or brother.



Will Princess Kate wear a tiara?

It's thought that she won't be wearing a sparkly topper, but with increased anticipation for her to deliver glamour, the conversation around the decision is ongoing. Charles, meanwhile, is set to wear the St. Edward's Crown and the Imperial State Crown, while Camilla will be in the iconic Queen Mary's Crown (set with 2,200 diamonds!).

How is Charles's relationship with his brother Andrew?

Andrew, 63, who stepped back from royal duties over his ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, is being forced in part by Charles to move out of Royal Lodge. But he was invited by his brother to spend Christmas at Sandringham, and he'll likely be at the coronation, showing that family is separate from the business of monarchy.



Are William and Kate's children participating?

Prince George is second in line to the throne—but he is only 9, so his parents are carefully considering what, if any, role he will play, possibly alongside sister Princess Charlotte, who turns 8 on May 2. William and Kate are also waiting to make a decision about youngest son Prince Louis, who will be 5 on April 23. However, all three children are expected to take part in a carriage procession and a balcony appearance after the ceremony. The couple are "cognizant that [George] is old enough to understand what's going on," says a close source. But they're mindful that normal life resumes when he's back at school with his classmates.



How will it compare to Queen Elizabeth's coronation?

Charles's ceremony will be more modest. An estimated 2,000 guests will pour into Westminster Abbey's pews on May 6, while 8,251 people attended Elizabeth's (above). And the service has been cut down to 60 minutes—a third of the Queen's three-hour coronation in 1953 at age 27. Charles will also introduce more modern elements. "It's going to be more inclusive. I think with many more religions [represented]," says Lady Anne Glenconner, 90, who served as a maid of honor at Elizabeth's coronation. In preparation for the big day, rehearsals are taking place in the Buckingham Palace Ballroom.

From the book *George VI and Elizabeth: The Marriage That Saved the Monarchy* by Sally Bedell Smith. Copyright © 2023 by Sally Bedell Smith. Published by Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.



Spare to Sovereign

In an exclusive excerpt from George VI and Elizabeth: The Marriage That Saved the Monarchy, out April 4, author Sally Bedell Smith revisits the 1937 coronation of King George, who was known as Bertie, following his brother King Edward's abdication.

The blare of loudspeakers being tested near Buckingham Palace jolted Bertie and Elizabeth out of bed at three a.m. on Coronation Day. The King was unable to eat breakfast and "had a sinking feeling inside." But having prayed with the Archbishop of Canterbury three days earlier, they were both ready to embrace the most profound religious aspects of the thousand-year-old ceremony. The long wait at the Palace was "nerve-wracking," Bertie wrote that night. They traveled to the Abbey in the massive Gold State Coach dating from 1762 and first used by King George III.

[The 8,000 guests] rose with a fanfare of trumpets for the procession of the bareheaded Queen, moving at a measured pace alongside two bishops in their colorful [cloaks]. The King made an equally spectacular entrance, a slender figure with his own pair of bishops, and looked strikingly young, almost boyish. He calmly took his place near his own Chair of Estate.

(The service lasted two and a half hours and the stuttering king's most trying moment came when he got to his public oath.)

Afterward he could be seen wiping his hands. Only later did he ruefully admit, "the ink got all over my fingers," but he was glad nobody appeared to notice. In a letter to [speech coach] Lionel Logue five days later, George VI recalled his intense anxiety and shared his relief that all went well: "Not a moment's hesitation or mistake!" He thanked Logue for his "expert supervision & unfailing patience."



Flash back Bedell Smith explores the marriage of King George VI (left) and Queen Elizabeth in her new book.

