

## **Recap of the crown season 1**

Her husband was now dead, her daughter was now her ruler, her title was nothing more than an honorific, and her role in the monarchy was ambiguous at best, superfluous at worst. Sure enough, the fog hits and the city falls apart. We learn that Churchill had been urged to create clean-air areas in London to reduce pollution. Elizabeth finally calls him out. She may want to be a loyal and supportive sister, but her good girl instincts and adherence to the rules prevent her from really rocking the boat. We can see that it pains her to go back on her promise that Margaret and Peter can be together. Philip smokes and his family isn't much to speak of, but he's played by Doctor Who's Matt Smith, and is therefore dishy in a sort of crinkly forehead way. NEXT: Episode 2, "Hyde Park Corner" Politics can be so convoluted, even Claire Foy's Queen Elizabeth and Porchy are in the breeding business, which makes Philip seethe with jealousy. There's King George VI's right-hand man Peter (Ben Miles), who is married but can't help but share stolen glances with Elizabeth's younger sister, Margaret (Vanessa Kirby). Real life is so much messier. It's the Classical influence, which conveys order, feels very fitting for a series that's concerned with political and familial order. It's a waste of her time and energy. Elizabeth whines that she can only talk about dogs and horses. The king's lung has been removed, but he's made it through surgery. Can he say the same about her? The Eisenhower meeting is canceled and the queen is none the wiser. Frankly, we're worried about the monarch's health, too (but not that worried, because a quick Wiki search tells us he's still got a good five years left to live). The Mountbatten name — which displeases Churchill, the Cabinet, and Queen Mary — is kicked to the curb like a drunk at closing time. Find out when Season 2 premieres — and Dexter star Michael C. As she leaves the lodge, a man comes over to kiss her heels. It's a face-saving gesture and the men agree. Once the ceremony is over, she shares a fairly intimate moment with her fiancé. Lilibet rushes back to London for her father's surgery. The opening title sequence begins right after that exchange... not something I would typically include in a recap, but Hans Zimmer's score is powerful and beautiful and fairly reminiscent of Mozart's Requiem. Ultimately, however, he feels like a "king without a kingdom." It's just what Elizabeth needs to hear to make up her mind. Episode 1 Remember when King George VI's (Jared Harris) biggest problem was stuttering? Eden comes back to Elizabeth to say that Parliament is still opposed to the marriage (can't anyone let this woman live?). Elizabeth composes herself, saunters over, and is pleasantly surprised when a newsman assures her that footage of the fight will never see the light of day. Churchill is obviously upset by the death, but he's also a politician who knows how to spin things in his favor. What a bunch of cock-blockers these people are. He heads to London alone, entertaining himself by lighting up cigarettes for his dying, bedridden mother and writing nasty letters to Wallis about their behavior. She agrees to invite Eisenhower to Buckingham Palace to make things easier. He makes the monarch seem both earnest and pathetic. Read on to refresh your memory. Queen Elizabeth IIAfter her father passed away due to complications arising from his lung cancer, Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary of House Windsor - now Queen Elizabeth II - found herself assuming the royal duties far earlier than expected. Good luck with that one. PREVIOUS: Episode 9. "Assassins" In a flashback, we see Edward at the time of his abdication. It's rather inconvenient that Philip happens to be the only man she's ever loved. In an impassioned speech, he announces that the government will be giving the NHS more money for staff and medical equipment and will call a public inquiry into the causes of air pollution (like, ahem, burning coal). Margaret tells Peter that she'll never forgive her sister, nor will she ever marry anyone else (spoiler: she will). She hammers in the importance of trust to Churchill, insisting that he no longer treat her as a young woman. Porchy doesn't always get the cold shoulder. Whenever he found himself getting too restless, his wife would find something to occupy his time, including putting him in charge of planning her coronation and, in the Season 1 finale, sending him off to be her representative at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. Winston ChurchillIf you want an account of Churchill's tenure during WWII, check out the movie Darkest Hour, with Gary Oldman as the Prime Minister. Elizabeth can't do anything and Churchill gets away with everything. Even in 1947, there's this sense that the family always has eyes on them. He is appalled, but recovers long enough to suggest that they spread the news that former kings like him don't attend coronations. It's all about Lilibet and Philip, not Will and Kate. So much for being a #girlboss. Boom. And while she does make an effort to change the law that is barring her sister's happiness, she's not being as ballsy as she should be. His time has passed. Lilibet and Philip are married, have two cute kiddos who will grow up to be Charles and Anne, and settle into the Royal Navy life in Malta. Against Martin's instructions, she plunders her sister's jewels and turns a bland ceremony into a lively cocktail party. Elizabeth pulls rank and gives the speech herself. "I want you to promise me one thing," he says. Moments later, Elizabeth must get her portrait taken. It is George's style to belt out some tunes with Princess Margaret, who's every bit as feisty as Lilibet is dour (sorry). Essentially, no one in Elizabeth's life survived her transition to power unscathed, as the demands of the crown took precedence over any personal matters. The show's stately pace is made more amenable by the attention to detail, which creates a very engrossing experience. Hall makes his debut as President John F. One royal BJ, coming up.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: Trouble in paradise for Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth (Matt Smith and Claire Foy). Episode 8 If The Crown was 27 Dresses, Elizabeth would be Katherine Heigl's character: high-strung, martyr complex, unable to relinquish control, stickler for the rules at all costs. Instead of curtseying to her mother and grandmother, a mourning Elizabeth returns to find them dressed in black and curtseying to her. Mic drop. Eden promises to do his best. Take note, TMZ.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: Churchill (John Lithgow) sits for painter Graham Sutherland (Stephen Dillane). Episode 9 The fairy-tale of curtseying to her. Mic drop. Eden promises to do his best. Take note, TMZ.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: Churchill (John Lithgow) sits for painter Graham Sutherland (Stephen Dillane). version of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip's relationship is that she met him when she was 13 and never looked twice at another man. What's more, there's no way in hell Wallis will be invited. Throughout the episode, Churchill refers to Elizabeth as "her," which he says rather emphatically. Her life would indeed be easier had she married Porchy. Hall and Jodi Balfour as JFK and Jackie O. Once the credits are over, the episode resumes on Elizabeth's wedding day and we're introduced to the show's other characters. Margaret, distraught, breaks the news to Peter and vows that she will never forgive her sister and she will never marry another man. Elizabeth: Or, won the greatest prize on Earth. Elizabeth is subdued and prim, while he enjoys running off to weekend shooting parties. The Queen's coronation occurs when she is just 25, when it starts to become evident that Philip doesn't take so easily to kneeling to his wife, Clemmie, that Sutherland is right. Porchy, Porchy, Porchy, Porchy, Porchy, Porchy, The real version is that the world narrowly avoided having a Prince Porchy. Team Margaret all the way. AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: Claire Foy as Queen Elizabeth. Episode for brains. I'm afraid her blood ran as icy-cold when she was alive as it does now she's dead." He sticks around for the funeral and heads home in time to host a coronation-viewing party at home in Paris. Above all else, you must never let one other down." It seems like they have strayed from that promise, especially over Margaret's relationship with Peter Townsend. Again. Maybe if she stops trying, this job will get easier. Guess who's also having a temper tantrum? Elizabeth knows she's been played and later tells Queen Mary that it felt wrong to not intervene with the government's plan of action. "I am both and a strong man would be able to kneel to both," she fires back. He becomes jealous especially when the Queen gives Lord "Porchester a direct line to her at Buckingham Palace. She's fine with it, but Philip is far too pleased because it will mean leaving the children in England for months. If you've ever wondered how Her Majesty went from a blushing bride to HBIC, stick around. It's actual history (dramatized for entertainment purposes, yes, but still). Well, he's not a happy camper. Slay, Elizabeth. Claire Foy's Elizabeth (better known as Lilibet) is so pleased she even insists upon keeping the "obey" bit in the marriage vows. George's doctor eventually informs him about the malignant tumor they found when they removed his lung and tells him he has at most a couple of years left. Queen Elizabeth takes the "stiff upper lip" approach and insists on walking to her appointments. Matthew Goode will play Antony Armstrong-Jones, a playboy photographer who marries Princess Margaret, with Michael C. The Crown's series premiere was a fairly somber affair that relished in examining the small details of being part of the royal family and zooming on those small moments that revealed the family's interior lives. Lilibet is given a sort of tutorial on "How to Rule the United Kingdom and All the Places it Invaded." That includes replacing her father on his wife with Princess Margaret, Peter Townsend accepts a new role in Elizabeth's household. He's still weak, so when he invites reinstated Prime Minister Churchill to Buckingham Palace five weeks later, it's no surprise to see him suggest giving his eldest daughter more responsibility. Come the next morning, the sun has broken through the clouds and a suddenly blameless Churchill can only flash the queen a nice, shit-eating grin. And, this exchange between Philip and Elizabeth hints at the struggle their marriage will face once she ascends to the throne. She thinks Philip still hasn't adjusted to palace life. From whom? A stricken Churchill says that Princess Lilibet, currently off the grid and dispensing car advice in Kenya, must be notified. Anyway, Lane/George is feeling like a new man, even though his doctor is all but clanging a huge bell and shouting, "Dead man walking." Churchill, meanwhile, is feeling like a dirty old man and has reduced his beautiful blonde secretary's duties to reading him his correspondence while he snoozes in the bathtub. As they drive to the airport, she spies the tribal king from before. Alex Bailey/Netflix Philip: I've signed myself away. She doesn't have Wikipedia, you see. Advertisement ADVERTISEMENTPictured: Elizabeth (Claire Foy) addresses the crowd in Kenya. The biggest royal headache is the snotty Duke of Windsor, not the possibility of Prince Harry running around naked. Everyone is obviously bereft, particularly Princess Margaret, who breaks down in tears as she interrupts her father's embalming. Edward ain't seen nothing vet. His wife urges him to resign from his new position because "she" needs him. "If your marriage is as happy as mine has been. I don't want you to miss a single thing," he says. (Another interesting detail is how they don't reload their own rifles while shooting.) As the sound of gunfire rings in the air and the Requiem-esque score crescendos, the action cuts back to test it out. And you thought your resting bitch face was bad. Also: Trying to follow the inner workings of the Soviet Union's hydrogen-bomb testing makes our heads hurt. "We taught you how to be a lady, a princess," the Queen Mother shoots back. In the wedding, she vows to obey Philip—and an aside from Winston Churchill makes it clear that she might have had the option to remove that clause because she would one day be queen but she insisted on keeping it in there Philip wants to continue living in Clarence House, instead of Buckingham Palace, and insists on having their children, Charles and Anne, keep his Mountbatten has been "replaced by Elizabeth Regina." "The two Elizabeth Regina." "The two Elizabeth Regina." a letter. Wallis Simpson is a "Jezebel." He's a "selfish monster." The Queen Mum is sure he's only there to get his hands on some money — and she's right. Elizabeth eventually has to give in to what everyone else wants, like she does every time. Margaret and Peter are being pursued by the press again, but they find some time to kiss and snuggle upstairs at a party. The words "eunuch" and "entitled" crop up. Elizabeth tries to leverage Churchill's desire for a delayed coronation - which will help him fend off political rivals - into approval for staying at Clarence House, but that's also rejected. "What do you want, a degree?" Hell yes. Alas, unlike their future grandson, William and his bride, Kate Middleton, Philip and Lilibet keep their royal wedding pretty mellow and sans souvenirs or Philip Treacy hats. Actually, several people become aware of King George's poor prognosis, including Winston Churchill, who was re-elected prime minister in 1951. Just in case his poor life expectancy wasn't clear enough, the show hammers it home with a loud ticking clock in the background. Loving her, protecting her. The painter, Graham Sutherland, is aloof and inscrutable. Now it's 1947 and he's hacking up blood and fretting about his health, though he still finds the time to squeeze in a dirty limerick or two. He offers his resignation to the queen, sealing the deal with a kiss on the forehead. He wastes no time in tattling to Queen Mary about the proposed name change. Season 1 of The Crown picked up six years later, with the towering politician having been out of office for over half a decade, returning to Downing Street a much older man... and one perhaps past his prime. His brother George is questioning him about the decision, asking if he loves Wallis Simpson more than his country, his family, and his own brother. Back in Sandringham, Princess Margaret can't resist smooching her married lover, Peter Townsend, right where anyone can see them. She tries to smile and pretend everything is fine. And Margaret seems to want to do it. His lovely assistant, Venetia, is struck and killec by a bus on her way back from dropping her sick roommate off at the hospital. The family is busy celebrating Philip's promotion in the navy when they are summoned back to London because King George had to have his lung removed. There's just one final item of business: The painting. There's no love lost between him and the grieving Queen Mum, who is surprisingly testy and a bit boozy these days. Instead of negotiating with the Americans, Eden winds up in a Boston hospital, awaiting gallbladder surgery. One appointment involves the sickly Queen Mary impressing on her the importance of religion. The king, who coughed up blood upon awakening, drags his son-in-law (hello, naked bum shot) for some shooting and some straight talk about Lilibet. Suck it up, Elizabeth. Stupid question. Philip is shirtless, suntanned, and successful. The monarch lets the frequently tipsy Queen Mother have it for not providing her with a proper education. There is a meticulousness present in every scene as the script and director Stephen Daldry focus on the small, seemingly unimportant details of the royals' lives: attendants telling drivers where to take the family; the preparation of the king's breakfast; the renovations to Philip and Elizabeth's home. After a brief moment to collect herself, the grieving daughter turns to more practical matters. That's one relationship over. He's pleased as punch to be giving his own color commentary to his socialite friends, but you can see that he's feeling nostalgic. The slow-burning crises of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the way the characters pronounce duty ("duu-taaay")—these are just a few of the royals, the costumes, the sets, the costumes, t man she loves, because she doesn't have her sister's permission, forcing her to settle for long-distance phone calls while Peter is still banished to Brussels. The new plan is for Margaret to wait until she's 25 years old, at which point she'll no longer need Elizabeth's permission to marry. The King decides to keep this news from his family, especially with the holidays approaching. In Nairobi, he compliments a tribal leader on his "hat." "It's a crown," Lilibet hisses. We love the valet's response to her question about borrowing the crown for practice: "Borrow it, ma'am? "You've taken my career from me, you've taken my career from me, you've taken my name," he pouts. So if you need a recap of The Crown Season 1 to clarify all the monarchical intrigue that happened during the first few years of Elizabeth's reign... well, there's no shame in that. On the bright side, she's a shoo-in for editor of Horse & Hound. Philip bitterly tells Elizabeth that his "time out" trip has been extended to five months, and brusquely walks away without saying goodbye. NEXT: More bad news from Eden Elizabeth questions Eden about Margaret's marriage. The attention is distracting, and the queen doesn't like it. The king's death sets forth a series of power plays. This won't be the last time he will have to put aside his pride because of the monarchy. about watching her father reluctantly trying on his own jumbo-sized crown as she stomps around in the present day, trying to keep the damn thing balanced on her head. They're a good match: They both love horses, the queen blushes whenever he's around, and he's not prone to staying out late and getting boozy like that oaf Philip. There's a lot of side-eve when he suggests having the ceremony televised, which will make British citizens feel like they're a part of the ceremony. We begin in 1947 at Buckingham Palace. There's Elizabeth, the Queen Mother (Eileen Atkins), and Queen Mary (Victoria Hamilton), who look down on Philip's family. But then, Churchill has another stroke. It was more than just a "real pea-souper;" it was poisonous and reduced visibility to dangerous levels. There is a tense scene involving Margaret wielding a sword while practicing the art of deputizing knights. We've got some binge-watching to do. A flashback to 1936 shows Prince Edward abdicating the throne against his mother's fervent wishes, dumping the responsibility on the weary shoulders of his brother Bertie (a.k.a. King George VI) and, by extension, Lilibet. It's hard to imagine how people would react to the death of a monarch because, well, it hasn't happened in most of our — or our parents' — lifetimes. In honor of his 80th birthday, a portrait of the PM has been commissioned. 8. Take no because, well, it hasn't happened in most of our — or our parents' — lifetimes. In honor of his 80th birthday, a portrait of the PM has been commissioned. 8. Take no because, well, it hasn't happened in most of our — or our parents' — lifetimes. In honor of his 80th birthday, a portrait of the PM has been commissioned. 8. 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Take no because, well, it hasn't happened in most of our — or our parents' — lifetimes. In honor of his 80th birthday, a portrait of the PM has been commissioned. 8. Take no because, well, has been commissioned. 8. Take no because, prisoners. Episode 10 Royals always want an heir and a spare, but that does seem to stir up a lot of sibling rivalry. Even Philip is rooting for the lovers. The season ends with the sickly Eden popping pills and shooting himself up with medication, all in the midst of a debacle with Egypt's Colonel Nasser. Elizabeth was faced with that choice time and time again, and chose the crown every time. Prince PhilipAfter having their honeymoon/Commonwealth tour cut short due to King George's untimely death, Philip found himself quickly chafing at the role of royal consort. The first part of The Crown's series premiere ends with the royal family greeting their subjects from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Elizabeth tries to throw the star-crossed lovers a bone by having Peter accompany her on a trip to Northern Ireland. Churchill later confides in his wife that he suspects the king has cancer. The fuddy-duddies in charge aren't receptive to the prince's modern and egalitarian ideas. But it's not 27 Dresses. Margaret has held up her end of the bargain by waiting until her 25th birthday to marry Peter. Elizabeth is rankled, worried that Margaret will outshine her. It takes serious effort — and quite a few off-color remarks from Philip — to get her husband installed as the chairman of her coronation committee. He's not the only man doing Elizabeth's head in. He delivers some low blows about her father and she storms out after him. Although the doctors say he'll be fine, we know that's not the case. It's perhaps that moment that makes him feel so betrayed when Sutherland's painting is finally revealed. Even though he's dying, George's lighthearted side shows through. He's unhappy and lets Elizabeth know it. The public is shipping Margaret and Peter hard and the press is hounding the couple; one scene in which they're being pursued by a car of reporters recalls Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed's fatal car accident in Paris. The trip, however, seems to restore her mood, especially when she casually buys a castle from a local man who has no idea who she is. You are sisters. He sends Foreign Secretary Eden to D.C. to meet with the Yanks, but the ailing official's poor health interferes. He's not only being praised as a "true leader in crisis," he's saved his own neck, too. He treats her to some heavy-duty mansplaining about how individualistic decisions in the monarchy are "rot." Her uncle Edward was an individual — look at how that turned out. Margaret brings up their childhood promise, but Elizabeth can't keep it, no matter how much she wants to. Elizabeth brings up the childhood promise from the beginning of the episode to Eden. Oh, and let's see: It was all kinda Churchill's fault. The episode hints at how all of this can be rather lonely since there isn't anyone else who can know what it's like to be part of the royal family. Elizabeth decides to get a cute old man tutor to brush up her education. He's not exactly in top form to be handling the impending Suez Crisis. Margaret's the fun sister played by Malin Akerman: a bit irresponsible, flirty, feisty, and determined to be the life of the party. Elizabeth's free-spirited younger sister refused to let her elder's responsibilities keep her from enjoying her own privileged life, whether that be hosting parties, giving improvised speeches, or pursuing the man of her dreams, Group Captain Townsend. Elizabeth is acting pompous, prompting the value of it. It's not his style to intervene — Eden will just have to deal with it. Unfortunately for Wallis, he's also prone to playing the bagpipes. Advertisement ADVERTISEMENTPictured: Ben Miles and Vanessa Kirby as Peter Townsend and Princess Margaret. Episode 6 There's a lot of drama in this episode, and it all amounts to this: Margaret and Peter are in love and want to get married, and nobody, save the media and the British public, wants that to happen. They discuss Queen Mary's deteriorating health in bed and end the night with an alarming "shall we fuck?" suggestion. Philip thinks it's a scandal, and the Queen Mother is determined to stop the whole thing from happening. We thought we heard generations of women laughing in response to his little tantrum, but it must have been our imagination. A flashback to Elizabeth's childhood reveals that her tutor focused more on the complexities of ruling the united Kingdom — including the importance of trust between the crown and the government — than he did on basic things like reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. He agrees, admitting that he can see that she is "ready to lead." She's also ready to get laid. "Yes, I am queen," she says, pushing the Mountbatten name change, "but I am also a woman, and a wife, to a man whose pride and whose strength are in part what attracted me to him." Tough. As it happens, she's writing a letter to her "papa" (sob) when Philip comes in to tell her. "My work is as a naval officer, not grinning like a demented ape while you cut ribbons," Philip says, indicating that he's already starting to resent the requirements of this marriage. It just happens that what he saw was "decay and frailty." out over the former's decision to abdicate and betray his country and family in favor of Wallis. When they didn't — and Elizabeth had no choice but to acquiesce to her sister's most desperate desire — both young women learned to their chagrin that the Royal Marriages Act had a second part that Lascelles had kept from them: that, even after she turned 25, Margaret's marriage would have to be approved by both houses of Parliament, after which she would still have to wait yet another (also named Elizabeth) found herself at a loss. That, no doubt, contributes to the tension between Elizabeth and Philip. Tensions continue to be approved by both houses of Parliament, after which she would still have to wait yet another (also named Elizabeth) found herself at a loss. grow between Elizabeth and Philip, including one fight in which paparazzi catch Elizabeth throwing objects at her husband. Unfortunately, Winston Churchill himself isn't here to re-educate fans on the events of Season 1 - or John Lithgow, for that matter - so you're stuck with me. When Season 1 of the Netflix series began, George VI (aka the subject of the Oscar-winning film The King's Speech) was still ruling England, young Elizabeth was but a monarch-in-training, and Churchill had just been re-elected Prime Minister, six years after his triumphant term during World War II had come to an end. The royal couple are mating like rabbits and dodging elephant attacks. Clemmie has the offensive artwork set on fire and watches it burn, burn event but gets a frosty reception and watches it on television. Later, she asks him to go to Australia for the Olympics in her name, but Philip sees right through her proposed vacation. Unaware of the new stage of this conflict, Margaret and Peter are reunited after two years apart and share a passionate kiss. She may be queen, but she's also kind of a shitty sister. For all his bitterness and cutting remarks, he's also kind of a shitty sister. still a British royal who is prone to homesickness. Struggling with depression, Elizabeth escaped to Scotland, where she bought a castle on a whim and cherished life outside of the spotlight for once. Experienced in what the monarchy can do to a marriage, the Queen Mother had a keen eye for the tensions between her daughter and Philip. We know Philip comes off as a sensitive, secure soul with a keen understanding of women's rights (just seeing if you were paying attention), but his reaction is pretty knuckle-dragging. Typical.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: The Duke and Duchess of Windsor (Alex Jennings and Lia Williams). Elizabeth eventually comes around to the TV nonsense, but she has her own requirement: Hubby has got to kneel at her feet. Hold that thought. Here, George is King George VI, not an adorable toddler who wears knee socks. God save the queen and roll on, season 2. AdvertisementADVERTISEMENT If you're like us, you're probably bingeing Season 2 of The Crown, released by Netflix on December 8, as quickly as possible (but elegantly, of course). There aren't too many moments in this episode when they're actually alone; they're always surrounded by attendants. "I'm both!" "I want to be married to my wife," he whines. She's now "Elizabeth Regina," a woman who has sacrificed sister and husband for kingdom and country. Elizabeth soon learns that the Royal Marriages Act prevents Margaret from marrying her divorced lover until she's received approval from both Houses of Parliament and endured a 12-month waiting period. King George heads downstairs to a room filled with noble-looking men. Kennedy — on Netflix this Friday, Dec. Tommy and the Archbishop of Canterbury summon him to a meeting during which they discourage him from attending the coronation. "Yes," Edward replies without hesitation. There's a touching moment when Sutherland notes that Churchill's painting of a pond may be a reaction to the death of his daughter, Marigold. Unless Margaret is willing to renounce her title, country, and wealth and marry Peter abroad, the marriage is a no-go. "The fact is, the crown must win, must always win." Dun-dun-dun.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: King George VI (Jared Harris) and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (Victoria Hamilton). Episode 3 The Duke of Windsor wasn't just born to be king; he was born to be a reality star. You'll remember from The King's Speech that George became king after his brother Edward abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson. Things go from bad to worse: He says that even if she applied for Parliament's permission, she might not get it. King George is finally told about his tumor and his failing health. The Brits may have stiff upper lips, but they've got crappy immune systems. And Churchill sleeps through his important cabinet meeting, prompting Foreign Secretary Eden to take his seat. Watching Edward and the royals insult each other is a real delight. Hey, if you're going to forsake your family for the love of an American divorcée, you can expect some serious shade. We learn that Queen Elizabeth isn't exactly the sharpest knife in the drawer and that Winston Churchill is prone to strokes. There's the amusing detail that he enjoys dirty limericks, and at the end of the episode, he wakes Philip at the crack of dawn to go shooting, taking immense pleasure in the fact that Philip jumped out of bed naked. He sympathizes with Margaret, having himself given up the throne to marry a divorced commoner. Having the royals rebrand as the House of Mountbatten is quite the social-climbing coup and the jealous Prince of Hanover is at pains to stop that from happening. Peter, meanwhile, will be posted to Brussels, which means his romantic getaway with Margaret to Rhodesia is off. King George VI was the last and it's Heartbreak City. After the stunningly directed wedding, the family gathers for pictures and Prince George VI presents his daughter with his wedding gift to her: a video camera. But maybe this time she will finally learn to stop fighting and accept that she has no choice about anything. The royal matriarch is feeling melancholy and useless, so she visits friends in Scotland for some respite. And he tells her to put the kingdom first. If there's one takeaway from the series premiere of The Crown, it's that this show has spared no expense on the details. But that won't stop Edward (who now goes by the Duke of Windsor, or David) from turning up to meddle with his late brother's funeral arrangements. (He lost every one of those battles, much to his chagrin.)Fortunately, Philip found some comfort in flying lessons with his sister-in-law's paramour, Group Captain Peter Townsend. A fuming Margaret calls her sister from Rhodesia, and rightly lets her have it. Speaking of men behaving badly, there's Prince Philip exhibiting that culturally insensitive streak we all know and loathe. He retired from office and was succeeded by Anthony Eden... just in time for the new Prime Minister to get embroiled in a clash with Egyptian President Nasser over the Suez Canal.Princess MargaretIf Elizabeth was George's pride, then Margaret was his joy. They are both monarchs now. Porchy has a direct line to the queen. What? And yes, the boat is really rocking from Margaret's romance with a (sniff) divorced commoner. That prompted Bertie/George to call in his young daughters and make them pledge to never (Never!) let one another down. The plan backfires when the press falls all over him. She is the essence of your duty—loving her, protecting her. Feeling threatened and emasculated by his wife's power, he put up a fight wherever his manhood was concerned, including keeping his surname, his family home, and his stubborn refusal to kneel during Elizabeth's coronation. George dies from lung cancer, with a few heartbreaking scenes as Elizabeth, her sister Margaret, and the Queen Mother realize they are living his final days together. Elizabeth learns of her father's death on a tour of the Commonwealth with her husband, Prince Philip, who is a brash, unusual choice for the future sovereign, a kind of foil to his wife. Elizabeth calls the one person who understands this situation: Edward. Philip is constantly being pestered over his negative attitude and parenting skills. How's that working out? The fallout is swift and cruel. It's all been a bait-and-switch, though. The government pulls a fast one on the queen by telling her it's merely a case of man flu. They're also discussing a move back to Malta so that Philip can resume his military service and be the big man of the house he wants to be. Of course you'll miss your career, but this for her and for me will be a greater act of patriotism or love." Philip says he understands, and then their boats take off down a dark lake for some shooting. In a different flashback, we see George talking to his young daughters Elizabeth and Margaret. "To do nothing is the hardest job of all, and it will take every ounce of energy that you have," the wise old woman responds. This will be her last season before Olivia Colman hops in at the start of the 1960s, so we can't wait to see Foy alongside a few new additions. King George VI's time in the bathroom and the difficulty he has speaking while naming Philip Duke of Edinburgh let us know he's not long for this world. Maybe you should have paid more attention in history class, eh? Ugh, guys, you've ruined it all. We like tiaras as much as the next person, but this job just keeps getting more and more dismal. Drama!We put together a quick recap of Season 1 for those of you who haven't revisited. However, it's clear that it's weighing heavily on his mind. The premiere began with Prince Philip Mountbatten of Greece and Denmark renouncing all royal titles so he could marry the heir apparent to the throne of England. He calls Elizabeth "Shirley Temple" and regards his relatives as "cold" and "thin-lipped." The Queen Mum doesn't mince her words, either. "Porchy" is Lord Porchester, the man everyone secretly wishes had married Elizabeth. Great, so he's not a good husband, or a good father. Philip is no longer lord and master — and he never will be. He doesn't have much choice. Episode 2 With all due respect to Colin Firth — he did win an Oscar for his performance in The King's Speech, after all — having Jared Harris play King George VI is a stroke of casting genius. All told, the Great Smog of 1952 is thought to be responsible for the deaths of 3,500 to 4,000 people, though the real number could be closer to 12,000. Philip: That's certainly what they think [beat]—it's what I think, too. "Think like a human being and sister and not the head of state," he urges Elizabeth. And once you've streamed all of Season 2, we have a list of British shows to watch if you love The Crown, so you can keep a stiff upper lip. Season 1 started with King George VI's illness and death. As new Prime Minister Anthony Eden explains, it's pretty much a lost cause. He finally apologizes for giving up the throne and thus robbing her of the opportunity to be "an ordinary English countrywoman living out of the spotlight." He still wants money and respect for Wallis, but heads back home with the hope that he'll at least have some influence with his regal niece. Margaret is pulling an Edward, and we all know how that one turned out. It's probably even lonelier when you are the kinged niece. or gueen, and that's why George tells Elizabeth it's important to have the right person by her side since she will depend on him when things get tough. "You reap what you sow," the heartbroken princess warns Elizabeth. Our new favorite villain, Tommy, ruthlessly sends Peter off to Brussels with just three hours' notice. She also needs a royal name and when she says she'd like to keep it as Elizabeth. Her aide Martin responds with "then long live Queen Elizabeth." And that's how Lilibet becomes Elizabeth. We know otherwise. The couple eventually lose their shit at one another during a stop in Australia. "She is the essence of your duty. Lilibet, meanwhile, tries slipping behind her father's desk, not yet realizing how soon it will be hers. Labour Party rival Clement Attlee intercepts a warning about the incoming fog and wonders how to use this information against the PM. Do we just love to hate him? Turns out, "foggy London Town" isn't just a charming nickname. Edward is still trying to recover his dignity when he gets word that Queen Mary has died. Margaret needs space to shine, she says of her younger daughter. Run back to your cave, Philip. On top of it all, she has to sit through a tense brunch with Edward. The king's aide, the intimidating Tommy, will replace Martin. George won't hear of it. Awkward! "I have nothing left to teach you," he tells her, sneaking in one last mansplain-y sentence. Unfortunately, Martin's wife blabs all, Michael complains, and Tommy makes Martin give up the job so that Michael can take over as originally planned. He'd much rather pick out curtains for their new home, Clarence House, than see the world and shake hands with the locals. Unless you took British Meteorological History in school, you haven't heard of the massive fog that rolled into London on December 6, 1952. He's getting angsty about the Soviets and wants the Americans to help bring them back into the fold. She needs a black dress. Churchill, himself an avid painter, bristles at Sutherland's artistic direction, but the men eventually bond over their love of art and the shared experience of having lost a child. Pictured: Matt Smith and Claire Foy recreate Elizabeth and Philip's wedding. Update: The Crown has just received two Golden Globe Awards for Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Drama, and Best Television Series, Drama. The dangerous thing about getting sucked into a historical drama is that spoilers are everywhere: history books, Wikipedia, the fact that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip are still mucking it up in Buckingham Palace. Both Attlee and Lord Mountbatten are gunning for Churchill's head on a platter, but Elizabeth is still unsure about whether to intervene or to follow her father's hands-off approach to PMs. Something happens to finally snap Churchill out of his "the smog is an act of god and I won't lift a finger" reverie. Boom. The queen's meeting with that naughty Churchill is much more productive. He accuses his wife of overdoing it — and he's not wrong. The photographers show respect by not reaching for their cameras. Tommy the Tyrant is finally retiring and Elizabeth pushes to have Martin reinstated as her top aide instead of the man who is next in line, Michael Adeane. Episode 5 Yay! Edward is back - and he's cattier than ever! And having sex! But he's also a bit melancholy. And Philip? When the news finally breaks, her aide (yes, Bertie from Downton Abbey) rushes off to find her. She adds that Elizabeth is not entitled to a point of view. Everyone wants him to be more enthusiastic about being on Team Royal Family and he resents it. This kind of "boorish" behavior has helped him rise up the ranks to head of Fox News caused his party leaders to plot his exit. royal tour, or, as the prince calls it, "the Commonwealth Road Show." The trips to Bermuda, Jamaica, and Australia try Philip's patience. To Elizabeth, her uncle's is choice always remains an example of what not to do — even though her own father, and by extension herself, would never have ruled England if Edward hadn't abdicated. What crazy hijinks will the royal family get up to next? What a perfect time for King George to fuck things up with his increasingly poor health. And despite the placating tones from royal aide (and Princess Margaret crush) Peter Townsend, it is cancer. Margaret offers to give the speech at the unveiling of their late father's memorial. He announces their split to the media and returns to Brussels. Margaret brings up how Elizabeth went against convention by marrying Philip, but she dismisses the comparison. So. Churchill. His reaction, in a letter to Wallis: "I was sad, of course, but let's not forget how she clung to such hatred for me, her eldest, to the last. Curious about the king's health, Churchill pays him a visit and takes note of the fact that he's wearing make-up now to hide how ill he's become. Philip is being facetious about signing his life away here, but little does he know that's likely the case. A teary Margaret is obviously heartbroken and bitter when Elizabeth breaks the bad news. Things are heating up (literally) over at Chez Churchill, however. Philip doesn't respond and the air between husband and wife turns frosty. "Are you my wife or my queen?" he asks, outraged at the thought of showing her some reason. Consider this a sequel to The King's Speech, a prequel to The Queen, and a companion piece to The Audience. Peter heads back to his position in Brussels, perhaps because he can't bear to be in England. Churchill trots out the "God save the Queen" line, but it's Queen Mary's remarks that really sink in. It's so opulent, so dramatic, and so fascinating. Oops! The press can see it all. Edward! At first, he and Wallis are blissfully and desperately trying to inspire #couplegoals with a photo shoot at their Paris home. Can't you just imagine him and Wallis Snapchatting their outfit changes, filming confessionals in which they snipe about "Shirley Temple" behind her back, and getting boozy during appearances on Watch one of the episode's most emotional moments, George starts to tear up when carolers visit the family over Christmas to perform "In the Bleak Midwinter." The time comes for George to tell Elizabeth that she'll be going on the Commonwealth tour. Churchill is suddenly felled by a minor stroke, which means he can't travel to meet President Eisenhower. It's Elizabeth's big day, as the coronation has finally arrived. There's a lot of office politics in this episode. The final nail in the coffin is a phone conversation between Elizabeth and Edward. Before Pippa Middleton and her derriere, wedding guests had to settle for being distracted by the scene-stealing Winston Churchill (John Lithgov chomping away at the scenery and a cigar) and his Nazi jokes. Okay, creator and writer Peter Morgan (The Queen, The Audience) may have taken some artistic license, but much of it can be verified by a quick Google search. The Windsor family drama makes the Kardashians look like the Brady Bunch. The health issues prompt the dying, increasingly sentimental monarch to get things in order. Philip, meanwhile, is being sent to Australia for five months to work on his attitude. #RoyalProblems. Until her old secretary, Jock, comes in and spills the beans by mistake. There, Philip (Matt Smith), his daughter's Greek-Danish fiancé, has just finished renouncing all of his foreign titles and is waiting for his soon-to-be father-in-law to give him his royal title. Elizabeth's rise to queen is less "YAS" and more "meh." The woman can literally get nothing done her way without Churchill busting out some Wonder Woman bullet-deflecting bracelets and shutting her down. The PM rejects the painting, which he says makes him look like he's "taking a dump." Funny how you never come across that quote. He's barely able to stammer through the service making Philip Mountbatten, who has just renounced his Greek nationality, the Duke of Edinburgh so that he can claim "the greatest prize on Earth" and marry Princess Elizabeth. We're torn. "Art is cruel," Sutherland explains. Also, we're still not over what happened to Lane on Mad Men, so we get it. Eden tells her that Margaret can marry Peter if she agrees to give up her rights and money and be banished abroad. Could the man with no regrets after all? (You can check out a photo of the real-life moment over at our sister-publication Time.) From there, the show fast-forwards a few years and now Philip and Elizabeth are parents to Prince Charles and Princess Anne. He delays Queen Elizabeth's request for a private meeting and calls in the press. "She is the job," he puts it plainly to Philip. Then, he dies. The crowd of ambassadors seems to eat it up, but Martin looks like he has hemorrhoids. Of course, some of the plot twists in The Crown — the most expensive show produced by Netflix — are so juicy and soapy that you'll struggle to believe they actually happened. This is coming from the man who gave up the throne for love? We can't blame the Queen Mother for not wanting to stick around in that hostile environment. It's two years after World War II ended, and King George VI (Jared Harris) is in the bathroom coughing up blood. Do get over it, Philip.AdvertisementADVERTISEMENTPictured: John Lithgow as Winston Churchill.Episode 4 Philip's flying, Queen Mary's dying, and a mysterious weather warning has everyone losing their shit. It's not the most flattering of portraits, but, hey, Churchill wasn't exactly the kind of guy you'd mistake for Brad Pitt or Michael Fassbender. Margaret starts to talk about the wedding, and Elizabeth tries to get her to delay it, only saying that there's a minor problem she needs to fix. Lilibet isn't the only princess getting hot and heavy. But his marriage to Elizabeth would be far from a smooth one, as she would be thrust into her leadership position far sooner than either of them expected upon the untimely death of her father. What else happened in Season 1's 10 episodes? If it's not yours, whose is it?" For those keeping track, Elizabeth can run off with any priceless heirloom she pleases, but she still can't make anything important happen. Enraged that her wishes have once again been ignored, Elizabeth confronts Tommy. Back at home, Margaret is the hostess with the mostest. The thing is, she's not a cool queen. Eh, not so well. Part of him probably does feel that way, however, since most of his family isn't allowed to attend the wedding because some of them had ties to Germany. It's all a bit blah blah, we're saving you from yourself, blah blah. Margaret handles this about as well as you would expect. As the two of them get ready to start their excursion, George reminds Philip of his duty: "She is the job. Edward immediately whimpers to his mother about losing his allowance and is outraged that his wife isn't invited to the king's funeral. He knows he's being sent away in hopes that he'll get things together while away. Like Margaret, she's resentful of having no power. Spoiler: He eventually kneels down during the ceremony in a nice impersonation of a woke bae. He ends the night by watching news footage of his other daughter's trip in Africa. What better way to celebrate a rare victory and moment of power than by having your husband, Prince Philip, tell you to "get on your knees"? He's far angrier to learn that Philip has been flying without government approval. The royal sisters can't stop clashing. These opening few scenes are filled with foreshadowing. During their visit, George informs Churchill that he plans on having Elizabeth and Philip go on the Commonwealth tour because he's still not back to full strength. And when the Queen Mother suggests that Elizabeth hand over some royal duties to her younger sister while she's away on her royal tour, it's a wonder the women don't start pulling one another's hair. He says he'll see what he can do, "That you will never put anyone or anything before one another. Philip is grumpy because he can't continue his flying lessons with Margaret's lover, Peter Townsend. Many cabinet members are morally opposed to the marriage, church officials won't budge while Peter's ex-wife is still living, and the Queen Mother is conspiring with her old friend, Tommy, to sabotage the romance once and for all. A frosty Queen Mary can only drive the knife deeper by remarking that Bertie was the perfect son. She's too busy posing for her Cecil Beaton portrait to deal with her marriage. He confronts Sutherland, but the painter stands his ground. Of course, he doesn't really mean it. The friend was ill because of the smog; the bus couldn't see Venetia because of the low visibility. She clashed with Philip over his domineering parenting of young Prince Charles, and encouraged Queen Elizabeth to send her husband away to Australia to oversee the Olympics. Edward, Duke Of WindosrOne more member of the royal family came out of the woodwork after King George's death: his older brother Edward, who had been living in Paris since renouncing his kingship in order to marry divorcée Wallis Simpson, choosing love and his own personal life over duty and the crown. It also lead to the passing of the Clean Air Act of 1956. Elizabeth's smiling so much to crowds of well-wishers that she gets a cheek spasm and needs facial injections. Meanwhile, Elizabeth, The Queen Mother tells her daughter that she thinks Philip is taking out his frustrations on little Charles. She also makes the point that there are four divorced men on Cabinet, including him. She must pack her bags. This put quite the strain on her personal relationships as she juggled the expectations of being a national figurehead with the responsibilities of being a wife, mother, sister, daughter, and human being. She clashed with her sister Margaret over her choice of husband; she clashed with her senior deputy Tommy Lascelles over her choice of successor; and she clashed with her prime minister Winston Churchill over matters of state. The video camera works as a nice little nod to how the royal family's celebrity status escalated as the power of their royal status diminished (and how the family's scandals have been well-documented thanks to technological advances like the video camera). Is wanting to marry someone you love really deserving of being exiled from your own family? King George VI is merely just having his royal arse kissed by a scheming Anthony Eden (Jeremy Northam, forever and ever Gwyneth Paltrow's dashing Mr. Knightley). Alas, Porchy has just proposed marriage to a beautiful American woman and Elizabeth is stuck with Philip's lack of understanding about "horse humps." We hope you enjoy equine sexual relations, because there's so, so much of it here. Well, thank god Margaret and Peter had the good sense not to sleep with each other under the assumption that they would be married because that would have been an out-of-control scandal. Elizabeth works the "I'm not a regular queen, I'm a cool queen" routine when her sister breaks the news. After Margaret fell in love with the older divorcé, she learned to her chagrin that they wouldn't be allowed to marry until she turned 25, due to the Royal Marriages Act. Upon Churchill's request, Elizabeth kept Margaret and Peter separated during their two-year engagement, hoping the flames of passion would die out on their own. Thanks a lot. During a hunting trip, Eden suggests that the monarch have a word with Churchill about this and flushes it down the toilet because he has more important matters to attend to: his daughter Elizabeth's (Claire Foy) wedding. This is also where we get our first look at Elizabeth, who is sitting outside of the room peering in. The royals were anointed by god, Mary tells her granddaughter, and we all collectively roll our eyes and wonder what the big guy in the sky made of Tampon-gate. She presses him about taking action against the fog and pollution, but he insists it will all pass. Sitting there at his desk, she examines his daily briefing box, which is engraved with "The King." But, we know that will change very soon. (Pun intended.) While Churchill did his best to educate Elizabeth on the ways of the monarchy, he also dealt with his own tragedies, power struggles, and health issues — including the death of his secretary during the Great Smog of 1952, his opposition by ambitious members of his own party, and a debilitating stroke during a critical moment of international relations. It wasn't until artist Graham Sutherland painted an unflattering but honest portrait of Churchill for his 80th birthday that the Prime Minister was forced to confront his own mortality. From history, we know that Churchill and Queen Elizabeth II shared a close working relationship when she initially ascended to the throne, and the premiere starts hinting at that, too. She decides to be a gueen first and a sister second. Algebra may be "undignified," but it'd be handy for the gueen to at least be able to read a newspaper without feeling like a dum-dum. Elizabeth is not amused to learn that Churchill and Lord Salisbury have been lying to her and they each get stern lectures. The episode draws more attention to the future tension in the marriage with Elizabeth's vows. And, then there's Winston Churchill (John Lithgow), who is beloved by the country after the war and upstages current Prime Minister Attlee when he shows up at the wedding. Instead, he did the opposite, telling citizens to burn as much coal as they liked so that London would seem like a booming, prosperous metropolis. Tone-deaf remarks aside, the Commonwealth Tour is going well. The man was truly born before his time. Of course you'll miss your career, but doing this for me, doing this for her, I know no greater act of patriotism, or love." Philip says he understands, which is what any young man would do when their father-in-law is holding a shotgun.

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