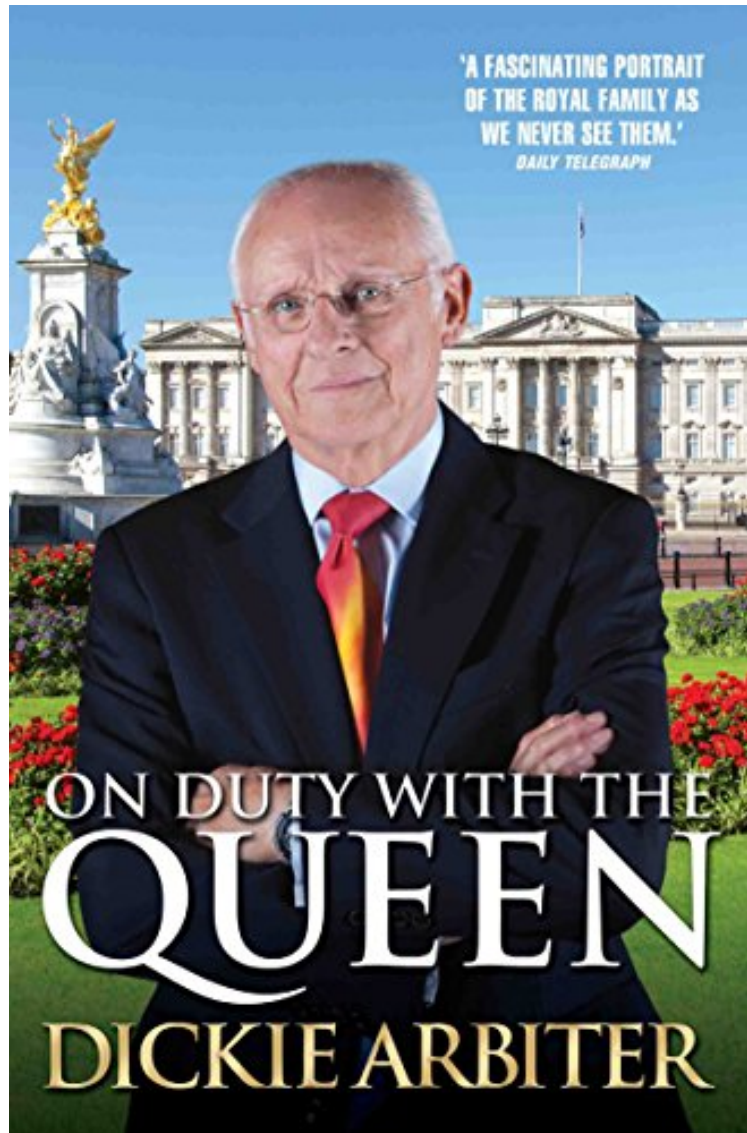


[Download] On Duty With the Queen: My Time as a Buckingham Palace Press Secretary

On Duty With the Queen: My Time as a Buckingham Palace Press Secretary

Dickie Arbiter

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Dickie Arbiter : On Duty With the Queen: My Time as a Buckingham Palace Press Secretary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Duty With the Queen: My Time as a Buckingham Palace Press Secretary:

61 of 63 people found the following review helpful. Simply a Self-Indulgent Collection of StoriesBy mrsaAs an amateur royal historian, I was looking forward to Dickie Arbiter's book since I first heard it was announced, and purchased it on the day it was released. However, it was not worth the wait. At best, this book was a self-indulgent

collection of well-told stories Arbiter must regale at cocktail parties; hardly an inside look at working with the queen. The epitome of his grandiose view of himself: after retirement, he's asked to come back to the palace for two weeks. Arbiter titles Chapter 20, "Come back, Dickie-- we need you!" In the spirit of retaining good relations with the palace, Arbiter gives no real insight into his main principles: he doesn't even call them Diana or Charles; but rather, the Prince and Princess. All of the most interesting pieces from the book have already been serialized in the Daily Mail (the best bit of gossip was that Diana once almost outed George Michael to Prince Harry). One gets the feeling Arbiter wants to give readers a glimpse of his job, but not to disrupt the magic of royalty. I would have loved to have read more about the nuts and bolts of the royal tours he orchestrated. Or perhaps, more about the journalists he worked with (instead, we get a very one-dimensional view of journalists as deacute; classeacute; muckrakers). He says this book was "originally envisaged as a professional overview of an intense and turbulent time in the Royal Family's modern history, [but] it soon developed into a memoir with a more personal flavour," I neglected to really see the personal insight. He clearly has an amazing personal story, but glosses over his early years in favor of his time at the palace. One thing is clear: Arbiter loves his daughter and had a fabulous time as an employee of the Palace. (And clearly, he still romanticizes his time there, reminiscing for the "colleagues with whom to chew the fat as we drank our tea and coffee from bone china cups delivered to us by footman.")

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not bad, just blah. By Gallalt's definitely not a tell-all book which no one really expected from Arbiter, but neither is it an interesting book about the inner workings of the press office at the Palace. That would have made far more interesting reading. For instance, just who makes the decisions about press releases or dealing with difficult issues? Does word come down from the Queen, her private secretary, the chamberlain? In the discussion of the communications with the press during the week after Diana's death, it seems as if no one was really in charge and Arbiter took it upon himself to ask Princes Edward and Andrew to make a public appearance. Considering the emotions of the people that week no one can really blame Edward for not wanting to be the canary in the mine. As it is, the book has a little bit of this and a little bit of that which results in a hodge podge. It's not bad, just blah.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Never a Dull Moment. By Jeannette Perry. Before purchasing this book on my Kindle I read previous reviews. I'm fascinated by the British Royals and how "the Firm" works so starting with that in mind I bought the book and thoroughly enjoyed it. I was intrigued by Mr. Arbiter's background as well as his many experiences as Press Secretary to the Queen. I was never bored. I felt that he gave a balanced portrayal of members of the Royal family. Those who dislike Camilla and Prince Charles will be angered by the way they are portrayed. Those who idolize Princess Diana will also be angered because in this triangle both strengths and weaknesses are presented - obviously from one man's point of view. But what I found endlessly fascinating is how the behind the scene activities and the PR worked during that time. Overall, I really enjoyed this take on British Royalty. I would recommend it to anyone interested in this topic.

In this honest and entertaining book, Dickie Arbiter recounts his life's journey from a broadcast journalist to becoming a press spokesman to the Royal family, and back again to journalism. He discusses the inner workings of everyday life in Buckingham Palace, and what it was really like to work under the media spotlight with the most famous family in the world. Dickie Arbiter gives his personal insights into events that shaped his relationship with the Royal family over the years, from joining the Queen on a picnic at Balmoral in 1988 to being alongside her at the time of the death of Diana Princess of Wales in 1997. Dickie was spokesman for the Queen during the most turbulent period of her reign. *On Duty With The Queen* is an open and engaging account of his life and his fascinating role in serving this unique family at a time of momentous change.

About the Author Dickie Arbiter is a regular public speaker and takes immense pride in his career at Buckingham Palace. He is a regular royal commentator, analyst, and historian and is relied upon by all the major UK, US, Australian, Canadian, SA, European, and Far Eastern television and radio networks. He also contributes to royal news and documentaries on the BBC, SKY, and ITN.