

PRINCESS WHO DIDN'T WANT TO BE A QUEEN ADDS ANOTHER LOVE TRAGEDY TO THE GRECIAN THRONE

Elizabeth of Rumania Wanted Love in a Cottage and Expected It After Being True to Love for Seven Years, but Fate Shuffled and Made Her Queen

AMERICAN MILLIONS OF W. M. B. LEEDS BEHIND THESE ROMANCES OF ROYALTY

Princess Anastasia Won Her Own Love Suit and Then Used Wealth and Influence to Revive Romance of Royal Young People Whom the War Had Estranged

EVENTS in Greece have shifted so swiftly during the last few days that the tragedy that the throne of the Hellenes has brought to the men of the royal family has overshadowed the even more poignant tragedies that it has brought into the hearts of all the women concerned.

And to them the tragedies have not been political. They have been the pathetic stories of the high price that the women have paid for the privilege usually denied to royalty—the privilege of loving where they willed and marrying whom they loved.

Sitting on the throne of Greece today is a woman who never wanted to be a Queen.

Hiding away from the world, her heart still bowed by her sorrow, is a woman who married a King, but who was never allowed to sit on the throne.

Banished once more with her royal father is a woman who all but married a man who will some day be a King.

And behind them all, and really the driving force that has caused much of this turmoil, is an American woman who, snubbed as a "newly rich" by America's most exclusive society, went to Europe with her American millions and married a Prince of the royal house, and became related to all the crowned heads of Europe.

American Woman Guided Kings Back to Throne

IT IS this American woman—Mrs. William B. Leeds, now the Princess Anastasia—who was responsible for the second return of ex-King Constantine to the throne.

It was this American woman who, in spite of all opposition, revived the blighted romance of the Crown Prince and the beautiful Princess Elizabeth of Rumania and succeeded in bringing about their marriage at a time when the royal house was in exile and there seemed no possibility of the Prince ever being called upon to rule.

And it is not improbable that the quiet-loving, retiring Princess never would have married him if she did not believe that his very exile would give her the unostentatious kind of life she wanted with the man she had loved for seven turbulent years. But, with the American woman using all the influence that her great wealth gave her, the opposition of the Princess' family and country was overcome and she made the match in the belief that the Prince would never be called to take the uncertain crown of his father and that they could live peacefully as any ordinary man and wife might live.

And now Fate has shuffled the cards and cut them—and the Princess is a Queen.

The romance of these two began seven years before they were married. Both were then thought too young for a formal betrothal, though there was no political opposition to the union. In fact, it was a desirable one at that time.

Then came the war and the suspicions aroused by the pro-German

brother of the exiled King Constantine, and another romance began to develop in the royal house of the Hellenes. That one, too, threatened tragedy for a time. It was an unheard-of thing for a royal prince to think of marrying an American woman—a commoner, in the eyes of the European monarchs.

But Prince Christopher was very much in love with the beautiful and clever widow of the immensely wealthy American tinplate king, and he pursued her all over Europe. The natural course would have been for them to contract amorganatic marriage, which would have meant a legal union, but one which would not have entitled the wife to any recognition at court.

Mrs. Leeds was far too brave a woman to enter into any such left-handed alliance. She knew that it would expose her to constant snubs and humiliations, and she had had enough of them when she first tried to "break into" society at Newport.

King Constantine, of course, was bitterly opposed from the very first. He had a typically royal contempt for commoners, but he also had a royal desire for enough money to keep him in luxury, and he began to take a royal view of the possibility of financing enough propaganda in Greece to result in his recall to his throne.

Gave Throne to King And Bride to Crown Prince

The new Princess put fresh life into the dwindling skeleton of Greek monarchy as represented by the exiles. She is said to have spent \$10,000,000 in the



King George II of Greece

attitude of King Constantine. Rumania was invaded and despoiled by the Hun and the beautiful Princess and her beautiful mother, the Queen, were forced to flee and to suffer with the humblest of their subjects the privations and the horrors of wartime fugitives.

Prince's Love Was Constant Even During His Exile

KING CONSTANTINE was deposed. With his family, he sought asylum in Switzerland and the Crown Prince went with him. They were bad days for Grecian royalty. The King, without money to maintain an entourage, became a notorious hanger-on of everybody whose purse was longer than his. He made himself unpopular with the Swiss people and generally discredited himself and all connected with him in the eyes of the whole world.

Naturally, the Princess Elizabeth had to submit to the edict of her mother that she must give up all thought of marrying the son of a man branded as an enemy of her country.

But George seemed to be truly in love, and those who knew the Princess declared that she remained as constant as he during all this trying time. If they had been ordinary people they might have defied every one and gone before the first person to be made man and wife and then settle down to an idealistic existence of love in a cottage.

Only, unfortunately, the exiled George did not even have the price of a cottage.

But he never once swerved from his allegiance to the Princess, though all communication between them was stopped.

Then Mrs. William B. Leeds, with her millions, met Prince Christopher,

spread of propaganda for Constantine's recall. She set up a court of her own and financed the courts of her new relatives, and gradually, with plenty of money in sight, their former supporters returned to their sides and organized and directed the movement to stir up the Greek people to demand their old King once more.

And in the meantime the new Prin-

cess became very much interested in the young Crown Prince. She heard of his blighted romance and sent for him, and together they went over the whole situation.

The Princess Anastasia, as Mrs. Leeds became known, is a very clever and a very charming woman, and she at once set about making friends whose influence with the Queen of Rumania was great. She worked hard to re-establish the standing of the whole Grecian royal family, and she succeeded in pointing out the fact that there was undoubtedly a growing sentiment among the Greek people to recall Constantine, or at least to bring about the return of the family so that the line of succession should go on in case anything happened to the young King Alexander, who had been put on the throne when Constantine was banished.

Such an eventuality would, of course, once more make George a real crown prince. It would make him suitably eligible for the hand of the Princess Elizabeth.

And then Princess Anastasia, confronted with the reproach that George was too poor to support Elizabeth properly even if they should marry, promptly removed this obstacle by one signature on a check which she presented to him.

And so George and Elizabeth were permitted to resume the romance which had been so interesting before the war ended it. And their betrothal was soon announced.

Meanwhile Alexander, George's younger brother, was on the throne of Greece, placed there by the allied Powers who had removed the father and who declared the Crown Prince also too much pro-German for the accepting. There seemed to be no chance—or rather, no danger, from Elizabeth's viewpoint—that George would be called upon to rule his country.

And then Alexander, walking in the palace garden, tried to defend a pet dog from an attack by two monkeys and was bitten by the monkeys. Blood poisoning quickly developed and the king died.

Propaganda Results in Recall of Royal Family

AS FAR as the success of the Princess Anastasia's plans was concerned, the tragedy happened at just the right moment. Her millions had financed a great movement to convert the Greek people to the thought that they should recall Constantine and their royal fam-



Queen Elizabeth, formerly Princess Elizabeth of Rumania—the girl who didn't want to be a Queen

Love Has Not Been Kind to Women Who Touched the Grecian Throne, and Broken Hearts Have Resulted From Infatuations of Members of Constantine's Family

WIDOW OF LATE KING ALEXANDER THE MOST PATHETIC FIGURE OF ALL

Mme. Manos, Daughter of a Commoner, Wed Monarch, but Venizelos Banished Her, and She Had to Renounce All Claims to Royalty

ly. The Greek Parliament sent an invitation to Prince Paul, younger brother of Alexander and the Crown Prince, to come and rule them, but this was a move of the Venizelists to keep the old King still out of the way, and Paul declared he would not accept unless the people themselves, by popular vote, demanded him.

It was this popular vote that the King's supporters had been preparing with the aid of the Leeds millions. There was no doubt that Paul's announcement was inspired by the King's advisors and his refusal forced the Government to an election which resulted in a victory for the former Mrs. Leeds.

Constantine was recalled. Princess Anastasia was no longer merely the wife of a discredited and exiled Prince. She was the wife of a Prince of a reigning house and in a wonderful position to repay the snubs which she had suffered when she first attempted to invade Newport society.

The coup made her the highest ranking American woman in the entire social world. And her son has married the Princess Xenia, niece of the King.

But the love affair of the Crown Prince and the Princess Elizabeth was not forgotten. There could no longer be any opposition to the marriage—except from the princess who did not want to be a queen. She, however, had been formally betrothed and the marriage took place.

And now again, the fierce vainglorious Greek people have swung face about in

The betrothal was formally announced by the King and Queen of Denmark but Constantine's troubles and the uncertainties of his dynasty's tenure of the throne of Greece convinced the Danes that the match was ill-advised and the Prince himself announced that it had had been broken off.

BUT the love story of the young King Alexander, ended so pathetically by the bite of the monkeys, was the most tragic of all. His widow and his little daughter are still living—forgotten by the Greeks in the upheavals of their politics and their military affairs.

Alexander was the second son of Constantine, and received the scepter not as the lineal successor of that monarch, but as the bidding of the Entente Powers of Europe, who chose him in preference to his elder brother George because of the latter's pro-German sentiments.

These sentiments of the Crown Prince, by the way, were not extraordinary, because his mother, the Queen, is a sister of the former Kaiser Wilhelm, while his father was tinged with Teutonism. Kaleothropis was the accession of the twenty-year-old youth, who about Mid-June of 1917 became King of the Hellenes. No one but himself will ever know how he managed to retain his democratic and humanitarian ideals under the senseless pressure of Queen Sophie, his mother; his father, his elder brother and about the entire royal family of Greece.

Perhaps it was his British training, for Prince Alexander was sent to Oxford to be educated. In addition, there was the royal youth's admiration for Venizelos.

Even when the Balkan wars cut short his English education, and he joined his father on the battlefield and at close range observed the powers and privileges that military conferred upon the chief exponent in Greece, King Constantine, young Alexander clung to his democratic ideals.

It was as a youthful warrior that his countrymen knew him best. Alexander was a captain in the First Regiment of Heavy Artillery during the two strenuous years of 1912 and 1913.

Perhaps it was the very outbreak of the war Alexander's father made it plain that he desired to throw his lot in with that of the Central Powers. His older brother, then Crown Prince, now King George II, followed the lead of the father. But Alexander refused emphatically to participate in the pro-German plottings of his family. Born in Athens—on August 1, 1903—he was a Greek in every sense of the word, and responded to the sentiment of the majority of his people.

Young Alexander even defied his father to the extent of threatening to throw up his commission and join the army of Venizelos. And he would have done so had it not been for the advice of Venizelos.

King Constantine's treacherous plot to attack the French General Sarrail's army and squeeze it between a pair of military plotters, the Turks and the Bulgars, in 1917 was frustrated and led to the overthrow of the Kaiser's brother-in-law by the exasperated Greeks and Allies.

King Alexander Married Daughter of Commoner

IT WAS August 4, 1917, that King Alexander took the oath of office in Athens amid great pomp and circumstance.

When Alexander was a little boy the head of the royal stables was Colonel Manos, who had a beautiful little daughter.

And the youthful Prince became fast friends. When Alexander's grandfather was assassinated in Salonica at the close of the second Balkan war and Constantine came to the throne the daughter of Colonel Manos and Alexander were in full youth, and their friendship and close association were known to all Athens. But no one was then seriously disturbed that Prince Alexander had a sweetheart who was not of royal blood, for his elder brother George was the apparent heir to the throne.

King Alexander used to take Mlle. Manos for almost daily rides in the suburbs of the capital, and one day he proposed that they be married. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride by the Archimandrite of Athens, and Alexander took his bride home to his palace.

Tongues began to wag and the result of the combination following the royal romance was that a few months after the morganatic marriage the young wife, her mother and little sister left Athens for Paris, where they lived and where the King visited her whenever the fancy struck him.

For some time she was not allowed to enter Greece. Then Venizelos was finally won over to allowing her to live on the Island of Tenedos, and there the King visited her constantly. But Venizelos first made her sign papers giving up all claims to royalty either for herself or for any possible children of the union.

When Alexander's blood poisoning became dangerous his morganatic wife was at last permitted to go to Athens, and she nursed him devotedly and faithfully and was with him when he died.

Constantine, on returning to the throne, at once made every effort to get rid of Mlle. Manos. He even tried to prevent her from inheriting money or household furnishings or any other property from Alexander, but the Greek courts of justice permitted her to claim them all.

A few months after Alexander's death his wife gave birth to a daughter,



The royal family of Greece. Ex-King Constantine in chair and ex-Queen Sophia standing center. King George II seated on ground and Queen Elizabeth standing behind him. Constantine's two daughters also in group



The late King Alexander of Greece, forced to keep his wife out of Athens and never to have his children inherit the throne



Mme. Manos, the most pathetic figure in the Grecian love tragedies. She was the morganatic wife of King Alexander and is shown here with their daughter, born after his death



Princess Anastasia, formerly Mrs. William B. Leeds, American heiress to her husband's millions, whose wealth, cleverness and influence placed the Greek royal family once more on the throne

Princess Olga of Greece once expected to be Queen of Denmark, but her family's misfortunes caused the Danish Crown Prince to break their engagement