

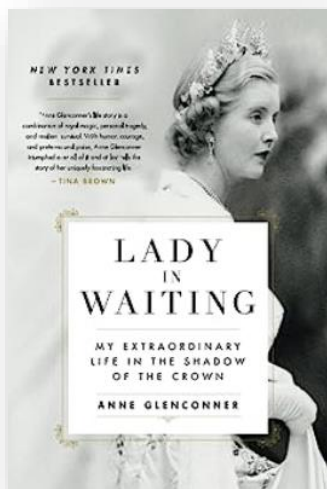


Book of the Month

***Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown* by Anne Glenconner**

***Whatever Next? Lessons from an Unexpected Life* by Anne Glenconner**

Book Review by Linda Morse, Friends of the Starkville Library Board Member



The British aristocracy has been much in the news lately with the death of the late Queen and King Charles' ascension to the throne. Pomp, circumstance, and protocol were on display. Lady Anne Glenconner's memoirs are an incredible insight into living in the aristocratic world in the former century and at present. Born as one of three daughters of an earl with ties to the King, she grew up in the English countryside at Holkham House. She tells delightful stories of a little girl growing up on a vast estate and within aristocratic circles. Her first serious romance was Earl Spencer, Princess Diana's father. She was presented at court and went on to become one of the young women chosen to participate in Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. She later helped her mother market Holkham pottery in the United States (look for some on eBay). Life was not without its challenges, as her father only had daughters who could not inherit his title or his estate. It went to a cousin. Lady Anne could no longer take part in estate life in the place she called home.

She married Colin Tennant, later Lord Glenconner, who is best known for his development of the Caribbean Island of Mustique. Her stories of island life in rather primitive circumstances are fascinating. She was mother to five children and recounts her struggles with her children's addiction and sexual identity. Sadly, when Lord Glenconner passed away about eight years ago, he left his estate to a non-family member. She had to endure watching an auction house advertise her bed. (His will was later challenged in court.)

Lady Glenconner is probably best known as Princess Margaret's Lady in Waiting (a demanding and unpaid position). Again, very interesting stories about the late princess whom she viewed very favorably.

Fairly recently Lady Glenconner decided to write her memoirs with these two books telling her life story. Both are very fascinating and highly readable. If you have any interest in in the Royal Family or aristocratic life, you will not be disappointed. I recommend both books but would suggest starting with *Lady in Waiting*.

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