



**NANCY:** I am in awe of Karen Harper's research in writing this book. She takes us inside the life of the royal family during World War II and helps shed light on life from the perspective of the queen. We learn her secrets and inner life, her enemies and her friends. The book does a great job teaching history while spinning a very believable tale of what happened as they presided over England during the war. Kudos to Harper for helping us understand this chapter in history from the British perspective.



**KATHARINE:** I love historical novels that help us understand history. It's more fun to read history from the viewpoint of those who lived. In this case, we learn about the royal family and I find it delightful to read the Queen's perspective. A great book to assign students for 20th century history and World War II.



**PRISCILLA:** Such a proper lady, she was! I loved this book. Queen Elizabeth. How wonderful to learn all about her! I've always loved learning about Kings and Queens and the British. Don't you love watching Game of Thrones and Downtown Abbey? I'm fascinated with the royal family.



**JANE:** Hear! Hear! I raise a toast to the Queen. What a lady! The most dangerous woman in Europe according to Hitler was quite a woman. She tried hard to do her best, despite her secrets. I loved the part about Eleanor Roosevelt coming over and the two E.R.'s A story about strong women.



**MOLLY:** I haven't spent much time learning about royalty. Not really my cup of tea, if you know what I mean. But I was impressed with the Queen's concern about the poor and her worker Bessie. I think she really cared about the suffering of the people during the war and she tried to do what she could to help them.



**ABIGAIL:** I've never understood these modern monarchies. How they could keep these symbolic leaders and give them so much attention and money? I don't just get it. Seamus tries to explain it to me. I mean, she was a likable lady, but really? What's the point of keeping them, when they have a government to rule the land?



**SALLIE:** It was interesting how she portrayed the life of the princesses. Their lives seemed rather ordinary, albeit lives of privilege. They spent a lot of time away from their parents for protection, but they seemed loved and cared for as they grew to accept their positions in the royal family. Their mother seemed devoted to their well-being and I liked that, of course.



# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Title: The Queen's Secret

Author: Karen Harper

Published: HarperCollins, 2020

Website: <http://karenharperauthor.com/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KarenHarperAuthor](http://www.facebook.com/KarenHarperAuthor)

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. What was the Queen's Secret and how did that affect her life?
3. Did you know much about Queen Elizabeth before you read this book? If so, did you learn more? If not, what did you learn?
4. What role did the Queen and Eleanor Roosevelt play in the history of this time?
5. What was the relationship between Bertie, the King, and Elizabeth like?
6. How did this view of royal life jive with your perception of how you think royalty might live?
7. Do you think Elizabeth's experience with Bertie's brother David would have impacted her in the same way if it happened today? Why or why not?
8. What did you think of the author's research and ability to portray life in the 40s in this novel in England?
9. What would you say the author's view of the Queen was in writing this novel?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?