

MEGHAN MARKLE and HARRY : THEY ARE BACK !



The couple

Meghan Markle is an American actress, famous for her role in the series *Suits*. She is mixed-race, as her mother is an African American and her (estranged) father is Irish. Harry Windsor is the younger son of late Princess Diana. She had two sons, William is her first born.

They met in 2016 (on a blind date), married in 2018. They now have two children, Archie and Lilbet (named as a tribute to late Queen Elizabeth)

They obtain the official titles of Duke and Duchess of Sussex. While William and his wife Catherine Middleton (or rather Kate as Britons like to call her affectionately) are the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Crisis and Megxit

In 2021, the couple announced their decision to leave Britain to go and live in California. This came after months of controversies and rumours about their life in « the fold » - also called « the Firm », ie. the closest ring of the Royals, including the Queen (still alive at the time), Prince Philip (her husband and Duke of Edinburgh), Prince Charles and his wife Camilla and William and his wife Kate Middleton.

Racist remarks were alledged to have been said about the skin colour of their first born (Archie) ; Meghan is often described as a spoilt American, alledgedly committing many inappropriate gaffes for a Royal member (such as opening the door of her car by herself, forgetting to curtsey to the Queen...) in some British (conservative) media.

In 2023, Harry publishes *Spare*, his memoir. He describes his frustration at being left out of the fold, and the harsh welcome reserved to his wife. Hence his and his wife's decision to step down from their official role and duties and go live in Santa Barbara, then Montecito.

The book shocked the country as a sign of lese-majesty against the Queen whose reputation was harmed. The Queen herself was said to have been deeply affected by the racism allegations.

More importantly, William, his brother has cut all ties and so has his wife.

LIFE IN MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA

« Respect our privacy » - such was the plea from the couple once in the USA. However, both ex-Royals were very much in the limelight :

- with Meghan's Netflix series « With Love » - a programme about lavish lifestyles, including how to make the fanciest dishes for your guests, baking, cooking, preparing raspberry jam (which she then sold for \$11 a jar).
- Harry is more discreet yet always by her side at various conferences and dinner parties.
- Crucially, in 2021 both are the guests of Oprah Winfrey's CBS interview. They openly criticise the heavy protocol of Buckingham and their unhappy life during their stay at Frogmore Cottage.
- Back in Britain, the latter programme is massively criticised by the public and media alike, the pair being called moaners and traitors.

BACK « HOME »

This explains why their recent return (September 2026) is so coldly welcomed in the UK.

Despite Harry's claim that he misses his native England and that he wants his children to have a British education and meet their grand-father (King Charles), the couple and their family is criticised for coming back solely for financial reasons (Meghan Markle's TV and internet programmes haven't been renewed).

The public also vehemently rejects the idea of financing the family's security cost once they return as their protection would amount to £ 10,000 a day. Prince Harry has lost his appeal to the High Court for gaining this protection.

Much to their dismay, King Charles has announced that they would be considered « private citizens » in the UK ; the monarch stated that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex will not be working royals who are allowed to carry out official engagements. They would have preferred to remain « public figures » touring the country and the world on behalf of the Crown. (HRH- His Royal Majesty).

Any charity work they will do will not be on behalf of the royal family.

Harry has been stripped of his military titles.

William is still in no speaking terms with Harry, the rift looks wider than ever.

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of their mother's death (Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris on 31st August 1997) and some say it could be the year both brothers reconcile. For the moment, they have each planned to attend different events to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the tragic day.