

PRINCE WILLIAM'S FAMILY SPEAKS OUT



Prince William is close to his dad, Prince Charles.

Journalist Daphne Barak will be at the festivities, and this week she shares with OK! her exclusive interviews with the groom's father, Prince Charles, and, for the very first time, what William's grandmother said about Diana

'I AM VERY NERVOUS,' ADMITS PRINCE CHARLES

Whatever gossips are saying about Prince Charles resenting the attention attracted by his son William's nuptials to Kate Middleton could not be further from the truth. When I recently attended a private dinner with Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, Charles reacted like any other proud — and concerned — father of the bridegroom, as he talked about the upcoming wedding.

He was emotional when I asked him if he was nervous. "Me? Nervous!? No. No. No. I am not nervous," he told me at first. Then he went on to say that he has known the bride-to-be for a long time, and he has embraced her into the family; in his eyes, she had already become part of his son's life. But behind his reassuring smile, I sensed that he really was an anxious father. "So there's no anxiety then?" I probed.

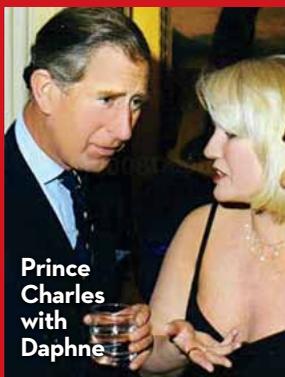
He surprised me with his honesty: "Yes, I am nervous. I

am very nervous about the logistics, the details of the wedding, that everything will go right. Daphne, you just told me how early the wedding will be airing on American networks, but I cannot change it; a morning wedding in London is our tradition."

He went on to say that he is helping to pick out the music and that he is hosting the short-list dinner wedding celebration (for approximately 300 people), coordinating everything with the bride- and groom-to-be.

"So why are you still nervous?" I asked.

"Because of all these many details. Because this wedding is of so much interest. I need to make sure everything goes all right — the right timing with no mistakes. This is my responsibility," the concerned prince admitted, knowing full well that the world will be watching his son — just as the eyes of the world watched his wedding to Diana and all that happened afterward.



Prince Charles with Daphne

'I WAS SCARED FOR DIANA,' HER MOTHER REVEALED

Princess Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, had an awkward position at the previous royal wedding of the century — when William's parents, Charles and Diana, wed. Frances had abandoned her husband and Diana (along with her other children) to go off with another man, and she left behind a broken family when Diana was young.

I met Frances when I interviewed her after Diana's death — when she told me she'd lost another child (Diana's older brother John) and was wearing a ring on her hand in memory of him. I

spoke with her again before her own death, and both times Frances made a point to tell me that Diana, known for her charity work, didn't just happen to be devoted to charities: "She took it from me. I have always done charities without talking about them."

Frances then said, "Diana's need to find love [which, in the end, she didn't have with Charles] turned out to be like me. I could not live without love; neither could Diana."

She also said that contrary

to how people perceive it, her relationship with Diana was close before Diana's wedding to Charles. "I didn't like the pressure when Diana was getting married; too much attention was on them. I was scared for Diana."

Later Frances elaborated that she knew how the palace machine worked and was afraid of what it would do to her romantic, free-spirited daughter. She said, "Diana was very much in love with Charles on her wedding day and looked beautiful."

Frances also said she dressed up for the occasion;

after all, she was the mother of the bride! But then she revealed, "I felt like a guest. I did not have any say about the wedding arrangements or anything else. Nobody called me to ask for my opinion." Which reminded her of the night Diana died in Paris: "I heard the news and packed a suitcase, waiting for the phone to ring, for someone from the palace to tell me where I should go, who was picking me up, what I should do. Same thing. Nobody called."



Seeing Diana with her mom, Daphne says, invites "inevitable comparisons to Kate and her mom."

Daphne Barak is renowned for her fascinating interviews with A-list celebrities and newsmakers around the world.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHRIS JACKSON/WPA; PRODIGITY IMAGES; TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES; N/C.