

528. The Royal Wedding (with Mum) EPISODE TRANSCRIPT

[00:00] **Luke:**

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[00:58] **Luke:**

If you're looking for regular speaking practice or one-to-one lessons, check out italki: teacherluke.co.uk/talk, or click an italki logo on my website. (instrumental music) You're listening to Luke's English Podcast. For more information visit teacherluke.co.uk. Hello, folks. Welcome to this new episode of the podcast. How are you doing? I hope you're doing all right. I'm, uh, recording this in the middle of a thunderstorm. There's a big th- storm going on outside. I don't know if you can hear the sound of the heavy rain coming down outside. You might be able to hear thunder in the distance. Um, it's quite dramatic. There's been hail. Hail, that's like when ice falls from the sky. It's like rain, but frozen rain, so like lumps of ice. And the hailstones were about a centimeter in diameter, which is actually very large for this part of the world. So there's been hailstones, there's been lightning, there's been thunder. Um, it's all very dramatic.

[02:10] **Luke:**

Um, you might be able to hear it going on in the background. Anyway, here's a new episode, and this one is a conversation with my mum about the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, which happened last Saturday. I received a few, uh, messages from listeners, requests asking for me to talk about this subject, so here we go. Um, I also have some things to say about the British Podcast Awards, and I know that I've spoken about this probably too much recently, but I expect that this will be the last time I'll be talking about this subject.

Uh, the results came in at the weekend. Yes, the results are in. So I just want to explain very briefly what happened. This should only take about a minute. I'll just say one or two things now, and I'll probably talk more about it at the end of the episode as well. So, what are the results?

[02:59] **Luke:**

Well some of you already know the results, and because you got emails or whatever, um, and you'll know that this year unfortunately I didn't win one of the medals. I didn't win any of the medals unfortunately. No bronze, no silver and no gold in the Listener's Choice Award. However, I do know that I was in the top ten. So I was in the, the top ten podcasts in the Listener's Choice Award. I just didn't get into the top three. I don't know exactly where I was. I don't know if I was number four or five or six, or whatever, but I was in the top ten, which is actually amazing still. That's still amazing to get into the top ten considering the competition I was up against. So even though I didn't get bronze, silver or gold, which obviously was very disappointing at the time when I found out the results, I was disappointed, um, on Saturday evening, but I'd, I do actually feel happy, uh, to have got into the top ten. So thank you very much for your votes, and that's that. Okay? Right.

[03:59] **Luke:**

So I'll talk more about that at the end of the podcast 'cause I've got some more things to say about it. But, uh, let's get... Let's carry on now and let's talk about, uh, this episode, which is a conversation with my mum about the royal wedding. So... Oh, lightning. Obviously you can't see that 'cause it... Can you hear that? (thunder rumbling) Ooh. Thunder. And feedback I think with my headphones. I think you probably heard some feedback there, sorry about that. Uh, so yes, lightning which you couldn't see of course, and then thunder in the background, and some feedback from my headphones which I might have to edit out. Anyway, the sounds of the storm going on in the background. So, yes, this morning I spoke to my mum on FaceTime, and we chose to talk about the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle which happened this weekend on Saturday. I expect that you were aware of that. You probably knew about it. It was probably covered in the media and online.

[05:00] **Luke:**

You might have watched it. I think it was live-streamed on many channels and networks around the world. I don't know what you think of the royal wedding. You might be fascinated by it, as many people are, but equally you might be completely

fed up with it. I don't know where you stand. But since one of the purposes of this podcast is to provide you with authentic speech to listen to as part of your learning English routine, and since we take a special interest in British things on this podcast of course, the royal wedding seems like a logical thing for me to talk about, right? So how could I not cover this in an episode? Also, as I said before, I've received a number of requests from listeners asking for me to talk about this subject, so that's what you're gonna get in this episode.

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[05:46] **Luke:**

Uh, a chat in this case with my mum all about the royal wedding, and hopefully we will cover it in a fairly broad way dealing with things like the wider issues of monarchy in the modern age, some of the unconventional aspects of the ceremony.... and the different attitudes to the royal family that people in the UK have, as well as just stuff like talking about the dress and talking about some of the celebrities that were there at the wedding. Um, and yeah, and also attitudes about the royal family because in the UK not everybody is a flag-waving royalist. Some people don't really like the monarchy and they see big weddings like this to be a waste of taxpayers' money, although technically it's not clear how much of this was paid for by the taxpayer.

[06:35] **Luke:**

Um, I think as we established in the previous episode I did about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the royal family gets its money from a combination of public and private sources and I think that a lot of the costs of this wedding were actually paid for privately. But anyway, plenty of people disagree with the wedding for various reasons. Plenty of people were, uh, uninterested in it, uh, but also there are people, like me, who aren't completely sure how to feel about the monarchy one way or the other, but are interested in events like the royal wedding just as a fascinating spectacle and something that reveals many aspects of life in our country for good or bad. I don't really need to do any more introducing at this point, so let's just start

listening to my conversation with my mum, and then you can hear our descriptions of the wedding and what we both think about all of it. Okay? So here we go. Hello, Mum. How are you today?

[07:35] **Gill:**

Hello, Luke. I'm fine. How are you?

[07:37] **Luke:**

Very well, thank you very much.

[07:38] **Gill:**

Good. It's a lovely sunny day here. What's it like there?

[07:41] **Luke:**

Yeah, it's also a lovely sunny day here.

[07:43] **Gill:**

Good.

[07:43] **Luke:**

I thought I'd speak to you today because...

[07:46] **Gill:**

(clears throat)

[07:46] **Luke:**

... um, because there was, like, a big wedding, wasn't there, at the weekend?

[07:49] **Gill:**

Uh, yes, there was.

[07:51] **Luke:**

The royal wedding. Uh...

[07:52] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[07:53] **Luke:**

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Did you...

[07:55] **Gill:**

Yep.

[07:55] **Luke:**

... watch, did you watch that, then?

[07:57] **Gill:**

I did. I watched every minute of it. (laughs)

[07:59] **Luke:**

Really?

[08:00] **Gill:**

Yes. (laughs) Well, I sa- I decided, you know, obviously one had to watch it because it's an occasion. I mean, as you know, I'm not particularly a royal fan, but, you know, it's an occasion, something to watch. And it was such a lovely day and I thought, you know, "Windsor will be looking absolutely beautiful," and so I sat down to watch it. And the more I watched it, the more fascinated I became.

[08:22] **Luke:**

This is interesting 'cause you said you're not really a royal fan and yet-

[08:26] **Gill:**

Mm.

[08:27] **Luke:**

... you really enjoyed watching the wedding.

[08:29] **Gill:**

(laughs) Yeah.

[08:29] **Luke:**

So how- how- how do you account for that? How can you explain to my audience how you feel about the royal family? Because in a basic way there's two positions-

[08:39] **Gill:**

Mm.

[08:40] **Luke:**

... right? That most people will probably be thinking of. Position one is-

[08:43] **Gill:**

Mm.

[08:43] **Luke:**

... "I love the royal family, I love the Queen and I-"

[08:45] **Gill:**

Mm.

[08:45] **Luke:**

"... you know, and that's why I watched it." Mm And the other position being

[08:48] **Gill:**

Mm.

[08:48] **Luke:**

... "I hate the royal family, um, and, uh, it's undemocratic, blah, blah, blah-"

[08:52] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[08:52] **Luke:**

"... and so I refuse to watch it." But you are not a big fan of the royals and yet you really enjoyed the wedding, so...

[08:59] **Gill:**

Well, as you say, it is complicated. A few years ago I think I would've described myself as a republican. I didn't see the point of the royal family, I thought they were privileged and, uh, you know, a bit of a waste of space, apart from the Queen who does a very good job as an ambassador. But the royal family as a whole I- I really went off, particularly I think after all the Diana and Charles business, and I began to see the royal family for what it was, and as very old fashioned and staid and traditional and hidebound and, um, and I thought, "What's the point of them?" Um, but now, I suppose 'cause I'm older maybe, but I- I do see them as in some ways quite a good thing because I don't see that a president would do any better than the Queen has done all these years, 'cause she's an extraordinary person.

[09:49] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm.

[09:49] **Gill:**

What'll happen when she dies I don't know. But nevertheless, it is a very interesting phenomenon that we have in this country with our royal family.

[09:58] **Luke:**

Mm.

[09:58] **Gill:**

Um, and it's in- it's just interesting and fascinating. And this wedding was (laughs) like another chapter in the whole saga because it was so different.

[10:10] **Luke:**

Really?

[10:12] **Gill:**

Yes. (laughs)

[10:12] **Luke:**

Go on. Tell- tell- tell me, tell me why. Why was it so different?

[10:16] **Gill:**

Well, um, partly because of the bride. Well, mainly because of the bride, I think, because she's her own person, she's a professional woman, she's older, she's older than Harry, she's experienced, she's been married before, which was incredible. I mean, in the days of Diana and Charles, there was no way that, um, um, one of the me- a member of the royal family could marry a divorced person. I mean, remember all the fuss over Edward VIII and Mrs. Simpson?

[10:43] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[10:43] **Gill:**

She was similar in a way, if you want to look at it that way, because, um, Meghan Markle is American and she's a divorcee. But the differences are huge. And the way she arranged the wedding, and I'm sure it was mainly her, that was another difference-

[10:57] **Luke:**

Qu-

[10:57] **Gill:**

... 'cause in the past, ro- royal weddings have always been organized by the royal family and they've all been very traditional and a bit stuffy and a bit worthy.

[11:05] **Luke:**

Mm.

[11:06] **Gill:**

But I get the feeling this- this was her wedding. She organized it. She wanted to have a, um, a Black representation.

[11:15] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[11:16] **Gill:**

Um...

[11:16] **Luke:**

In- in terms of things like the, uh, the minister who, who did the, uh-

[11:20] **Gill:**

Yes. (laughs)

[11:20] **Luke:**

... that extraordinary, uh, service and-

[11:23] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[11:23] **Luke:**

... also the gospel choir that was there

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[11:25] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[11:25] **Luke:**

... and stuff.

[11:26] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[11:26] **Luke:**

Yeah. So...

[11:26] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[11:27] **Luke:**

Yeah. Go on.

[11:28] **Gill:**

Uh, I've lost track of where I was now. Um, yes, and the really fascinating thing to me was, uh, to see Harry because he's always... We- we tend to think of him as, um, a bit of a lad, you know? A bit of a cheeky chappy.

[11:42] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm.

[11:42] **Gill:**

But i- it was noticeable how nervous and emotional he was throughout the whole thing. Uh, he really seemed to be feeling it very deeply. And she was entirely in control and kept sort of reassuring him all the way through. Holding his hand and all the rest of it.

[12:00] **Luke:**

Right.

[12:00] **Gill:**

And I thought that was, that was really touching.

[12:03] **Luke:**

... yeah, you mean, it- for you, it felt really genuine, like-

[12:07] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[12:07] **Luke:**

... like he was genuinely moved and-

[12:09] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[12:10] **Luke:**

So, um, what does this reveal about their relationship then do you think?

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[12:16] **Gill:**

Well, certainly on his side, it looks to me like a love match, and I've got no reason to, um, believe that it's not on her side. But, uh, she was so composed and, um, uh, um, of course she's an actress, so she could have been acting the whole thing. (laughs) But I don't think she was. I mean, they just genuinely did look very happy, the two of them. And you don't often get that in royal weddings 'cause they're so staid and, um-

[12:42] **Luke:**

Staid?

[12:43] **Gill:**

Staid. Sort of traditional and formal. Whereas this wasn't at all formal. And I thought the, uh, Black preacher, what was his name? Collins or something?

[12:52] **Luke:**

Not sure actually.

[12:52] **Gill:**

Curry? Can't remember. He was a bi- he was a bishop, an episcopal- episcopal bishop, um, from America. And he was a real breath of fresh air. Um-

[13:02] **Luke:**

Michael Curry. Michael Curry is his name.

[13:03] **Gill:**

That's it, Michael Curry.

[13:05] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[13:05] **Gill:**

Um, I thought his address was just something else. It was hilarious really, and uh, and it was fascinating to watch the reaction of the older members of the royal family, like Charles and Camilla and, um, the Queen and Prince Philip.

[13:22] **Luke:**

What was their reaction?

[13:23] **Gill:**

Well, they just didn't quite seem to know what to do. They were all looking down and playing with their, um, orders of service, and they just looked rather uncomfortable.

[13:32] **Luke:**

Why do you think they would be uncomfortable?

[13:34] **Gill:**

Well, because it's such a different form of, um... You don't get that kind of address, that kind of delivery in the Church of England. It's all very, um, well, like I say, formal and follows a certain pattern, and it's all very worthy and serious, and, uh-

[13:51] **Luke:**

So just describe to us then what Michael Curry's, uh, delivery or what his

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[13:56] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[13:56] **Luke:**

... was like then. Many people-

[13:58] **Gill:**

Well, he d-

[13:58] **Luke:**

Sorry, many people listening to this will have seen it, and so they know exactly what-

[14:02] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[14:02] **Luke:**

... we mean. But it's worth putting it into words because that's what this is all about, isn't it, on Luke's English Podcast?

[14:07] **Gill:**

Well it was, it was a performance. I mean, it, he didn't do the service, he just did the address.

[14:12] **Luke:**

Okay.

[14:13] **Gill:**

Um, but it was a real performance. I don't quite know how to describe. It was very, very energetic and enthusiastic and very, um... (sighs) I mean, the, the Church of England is very... I keep saying the word formal-

[14:28] **Luke:**

It's, it's-

[14:28] **Gill:**

... but they never get excited about things. They never-

[14:30] **Luke:**

It's very reserved. I mean, it's the Church of-

[14:32] **Gill:**

Yes, that's the word.

[14:32] **Luke:**

It really is the Church of England.

[14:34] **Gill:**

Yes.

[14:34] **Luke:**

So it's very kind of, uh, reserved and stiff upper lip and the-

[14:38] **Gill:**

Exactly.

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[14:38] **Luke:**

... the emotions are held back and-

[14:40] **Gill:**

Yes.

[14:40] **Luke:**

... everything is done, um, in this kind of fairly sort of almost cold manner.

[14:45] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[14:45] **Luke:**

I mean, like, there's, there's not really a lot of passion and-

[14:48] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[14:49] **Luke:**

... not really a lot of, um, authentic sort of feeling-

[14:53] **Gill:**

Exactly.

[14:53] **Luke:**

... and stuff. In, in the Church of England, it's all very kind of... Yeah, it's difficult to explain, isn't it, really?

[14:57] **Gill:**

A bit hushed and reverent.

[14:58] **Luke:**

Yeah, very, very solemn, um-

[15:01] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:01] **Luke:**

... and also everything's, uh, very quiet and-

[15:05] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[15:05] **Luke:**

... we don't, um, get, uh, over emotional and-

[15:09] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:09] **Luke:**

... uh, we just express, uh, sentiments, uh, very carefully and very soberly in this kind of way.

[15:15] **Gill:**

In the way they've always been done.

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[15:16] **Luke:**

In the way they've al- always been done.

[15:18] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:18] **Luke:**

And uh, whereas this guy was very informal. He was, uh, uh he appeared to be improvising the entire thing.

[15:24] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yes.

[15:25] **Luke:**

Um, there was a lot of emotion in there, uh-

[15:28] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:28] **Luke:**

... he was very animated, uh-

[15:30] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:30] **Luke:**

... moving, gesticulating, um, and talking in very emotional terms about-

[15:35] **Gill:**

Yes, about love.

[15:36] **Luke:**

... about, about love. And, and also being (laughs) , I mean quite, uh, vague and um-

[15:42] **Gill:**

Yes.

[15:43] **Luke:**

... uh, ambiguous and weird. I mean, a lot of the things he was saying were kind of weird cosmic, uh-

[15:48] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[15:48] **Luke:**

... things that... It was quite incoherent I thought.

[15:51] **Gill:**

We, well we thought he was coming to an end, and then he seemed to start up again and started talking about fire, the invention of fire. And at that point, the red- the, um, Charles and Camilla, and Charles and William sort of looked at each other, and you could see they were... And Charles said something to William, I don't know what, but he was obviously saying, "Is this fellow ever going to finish?"

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[16:11] **Speaker 3:**

Controlled fire in that plane got me here. Fire makes it possible for us to text and tweet and email and Instagram and, and Facebook, and socially be dysfunctional with each other. (laughs) Fire makes all of, all of that possible and, and de Chardin said fire was one of the greatest discoveries in all of human history.

[16:33] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[16:33] **Gill:**

'Cause I think he went on for about 20 minutes, didn't he, all together?

[16:37] **Luke:**

I can't remember, but I, I was watching this during my lunch break at work-

[16:41] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[16:41] **Luke:**

... 'cause I was at work w-, um, on Saturday, uh, but during the lunch break, um, I got one of the laptops out and started watching it. And uh, I don't know how long it was, but for me it felt really long.

[16:54] **Gill:**

It was too long.

[16:55] **Luke:**

It-

[16:55] **Gill:**

He should have stopped in the middle when he, when we thought he was going to stop-

[16:58] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[16:59] **Gill:**

... uh, and not, not gone on about fire and everything. I think-

[17:01] **Luke:**

It felt really uncomfortable, I have to say, when I was watching it. I felt so awkward.

[17:06] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[17:06] **Luke:**

Uh, I ju- I could just feel the atmosphere in the church where you'd, uh, expect some of the people who are a bit more relaxed and laid back and cool, you know, people like, you know, some of the celebrities and maybe some of the-

[17:18] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[17:18] **Luke:**

... people on Meghan's side, uh, some of her friends and her guests and things probably found it hilarious and, um-

[17:24] **Gill:**

Well, they were probably used to it maybe.

[17:26] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[17:26] **Gill:**

I mean if they were American, they're probably used to that style of, um, address. But, uh-

[17:31] **Luke:**

Y-

[17:31] **Gill:**

... English people aren't on the whole.

[17:32] **Luke:**

All the English people, especially the royals-

[17:34] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[17:34] **Luke:**

... they must have felt so uncomfortable and awkward.

[17:38] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah, well like I say, I think Charles, the older, the older ones certainly did. But, um, the younger ones, I mean, uh, actually I was watching it, um, again yesterday because I knew I was going to talk to you about it and I wanted to refresh my memory.

[17:51] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[17:51] **Gill:**

And, uh, in fact, Harry really seems to be taking it all in. He looked quite serious and sort of, again, in one of his emotio- more emotional looking moments. Um, and it did then make me wonder..... whether he... 'cause it was very Princess Diane, wasn't it? 'Cause she-

[18:08] **Luke:**

Diana.

[18:08] **Gill:**

... she, Diana, 'cause she was always very emotional and talked about love and all the rest of it. And it made me wonder whether it re- was reminding him of h- of her.

[18:16] **Luke:**

Right.

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[18:17] **Gill:**

Because he did look quite... You know, he was blinking his eyes quite a lot and at one point he did wipe away a couple of tears.

[18:22] **Luke:**

Yeah. Well I wouldn't be-

[18:23] **Gill:**

And-

[18:23] **Luke:**

... surprised. He, he probably, uh, yeah, he must have been thinking about her.

[18:28] **Gill:**

He must have.

[18:29] **Luke:**

Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

[18:32] **Gill:**

Um, you know, and I f- I really felt quite sorry for him at that point. Well, not sorry for him, 'cause I was happy for him, but it reminded me of, um, that awful funeral, you know, where this little boy was walking behind the coffin.

[18:44] **Luke:**

Yeah, it's so sad, isn't it? That, that-

[18:46] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[18:46] **Luke:**

... that image of, uh-

[18:48] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[18:48] **Luke:**

... yeah, when... Yeah. The, him and William, but particularly-

[18:51] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[18:51] **Luke:**

... Harry, 'cause Harry was that much-

[18:52] **Gill:**

Particularly, yeah.

[18:53] **Luke:**

He was that much smaller and he probably-

[18:54] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[18:54] **Luke:**

... didn't know what was going on and just-

[18:56] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[18:56] **Luke:**

... with these crowds, masses of people-

[18:58] **Gill:**

Yeah. Weird.

[19:00] **Luke:**

... uh, all there and, and just this poor little kid just-

[19:02] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[19:02] **Luke:**

... uh, probably dealing with his own very personal grief-

[19:05] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[19:06] **Luke:**

... while all these other people around just-

[19:08] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[19:09] **Luke:**

Yeah, it's so odd.

[19:09] **Gill:**

He must have been thinking, "Why are all these people weeping and wailing about my mother?"

[19:13] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[19:14] **Gill:**

You know?

[19:14] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[19:15] **Gill:**

I don't know. It must have been terrible-

[19:17] **Luke:**

Yes.

[19:17] **Gill:**

... for that little kid, uh

[19:19] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm.

[19:19] **Gill:**

... you know? And it, and it reminded me, seeing him, the way he was reacting during that sermon. And it was only towards the end when everyone was beginning to think, "Okay, that's enough now," (laughs) when he and, uh, Meghan looked at each other and had a bit of a la- a bit of a smile, you know?

[19:34] **Luke:**

Yeah, yeah. (laughs)

[19:35] **Gill:**

As though they were thinking, "Okay, that's enough." (laughs)

[19:38] **Luke:**

Um, but I mean, you, you were talking about his reactions and, um, the way she seemed so composed and stuff.

[19:46] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[19:46] **Luke:**

Um, and so you think it's all genuine then? You think it's-

[19:50] **Gill:**

Well it-

[19:50] **Luke:**

... all completely genuine?

[19:52] **Gill:**

It certainly looked it. Certainly looked it from his point of view.

[19:54] **Luke:**

Isn't there a chance that this is, it's all been engineered? That the whole thing was kind of-

[19:58] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[19:58] **Luke:**

... prepared in advance? That, you know, all of it, like even the, the way she removed the veil and, and looked up at him?

[20:05] **Gill:**

Oh, you mean, oh you mean that?

[20:07] **Luke:**

All of it.

[20:07] **Gill:**

Oh, well

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[20:07] **Luke:**

Maybe the whole thing was choreographed, like every single-

[20:10] **Gill:**

Of course it was.

[20:11] **Luke:**

... part of it. Yeah?

[20:11] **Gill:**

Of course it was. It's all rehearsed. It, nothing goes off smoothly if you don't rehearse it. A big event like that has to be rehearsed.

[20:18] **Luke:**

But I mean-

[20:19] **Gill:**

But when it came to it-

[20:20] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[20:20] **Gill:**

... I thought it was very human.

[20:23] **Luke:**

Okay.

[20:23] **Gill:**

And that, you know, he d- he, he removed the veil and he did it, you know, in a typical male way. He didn't quite know how to do it, and he was a bit sort of awkward about it, which made it even better.

[20:35] **Luke:**

Yeah. What people always ask me-

[20:38] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[20:38] **Luke:**

... um, and I'm talking about like students of English and stuff, what people always ask me is, "What do British people think of the royal family? What do we

think of the Queen?"

[20:48] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[20:48] **Luke:**

So we've, we've heard what you think about them but, uh, what does the country as a whole... I mean, how would you generalize our attitude towards the, the, the monarchy and, uh, towards this particular wedding?

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[21:01] **Gill:**

Well, uh, it's very difficult to say because I think as you said, we're very split. Some of us are most definitely republicans and would like to do away with them, you know, at a stroke, and don't see the point of them and think they're... You know, it's old-fashioned to have this privileged aristocracy, um, having this privileged position in the country. Um, and some people are completely g- berserk over them, you know, like film stars and, and, uh, other celebrities. They treat them like that and just love them and follow everything about... Well, you could see that on the streets.

[21:34] **Gill:**

There were these people who'd been sleeping on the streets for two nights beforehand to, uh-

[21:39] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[21:39] **Gill:**

... so that they could see, and they're all wrapped in the Union Jack and they've got pictures of them all and-

[21:43] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[21:43] **Gill:**

... I mean, they're completely over the top.

[21:46] **Luke:**

I do find it a little embarrassing when there's a big event like a royal wedding and the media all around-

[21:53] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[21:53] **Luke:**

... the world is just full of images of-

[21:56] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[21:56] **Luke:**

... British people lining the streets-

[21:58] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[21:58] **Luke:**

... wearing Union Jack jackets and Union Jack hats and-

[22:01] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[22:01] **Luke:**

... waving their flags, and you think, "This is not really representative of what people are like." We're not all mad, uh-

[22:07] **Gill:**

No.

[22:07] **Luke:**

... Union Jack wearing, uh, sort of loonies.

[22:10] **Gill:**

Definitely not.

[22:11] **Luke:**

Um, I mean, I'm-

[22:12] **Gill:**

But I think a lot of the newspapers stoke it up and I did get so sick of the whole thing beforehand.

[22:18] **Luke:**

Yes.

[22:18] **Gill:**

You know, the fir- the two weeks before the wedding it seemed to be everywhere, and all this fawning attention and, um, ins- you know, just going on and on about it, and even the television news, and, and I just got sick of it. But, um-

[22:31] **Luke:**

But I mean, it's, it's an industry though, isn't it? I mean that's-

[22:33] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[22:33] **Luke:**

... that's a large part of this, that it's sort of-

[22:35] **Gill:**

(sighs)

[22:35] **Luke:**

... a big in- industry. People treat them like celebrities because, I mean they are, aren't they? I mean they are just celebrities, really.

[22:42] **Gill:**

A lot of them are, yeah.

[22:43] **Luke:**

When you, when you, when it comes down to it. A- I mean, are they though? (laughs) I just said-

[22:48] **Gill:**

(laughs)

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[22:48] **Luke:**

... that they are, but are they?

[22:51] **Gill:**

Well, I think that the Qui- as I say, I think the Queen is extraordinary. She is, um, very hardworking, she's very serious. Uh, I mean she's 90... What is she? 93, 94, for God's sake.

[23:04] **Luke:**

Hmm.

[23:05] **Gill:**

And she, the amount of work she does. How many 93 or 4-year-olds do you know who work as hard as she does? And Philip, I was amazed to see him there

because it's only a month ago he had a hip operation.

[23:16] **Luke:**

But you know like what, what some people will say is, "Well yeah, it's, you know, you can say that she's a very hardworking 90-something-year-old, but, um, not every 90-year-old in the country gets the same treatment that she does." That she's in, as you said, such a privileged position that perhaps (laughs) it's, it's much easier when you're being chauffeur-driven around in the, the, in the most luxurious, uh, Rolls-Royce car or when, you know, ev- every single need is taken care of and that you're looked after. You're given the highest level of care and attention it's possible to get.

[23:53] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[23:54] **Luke:**

So it's not, it's not the same as it is for everyone else, for these people.

[23:58] **Gill:**

I know that. I realize that. But, um, I mean can you imagine how tedious it must be and how... I mean I would be-

[24:06] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[24:06] **Gill:**

... completely exhausted after about an hour-

[24:08] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[24:09] **Gill:**

... of the kind of things that she does.

[24:11] **Luke:**

Yes.

[24:11] **Gill:**

Never being able to relax.... you know?

[24:13] **Luke:**

Yes, yes.

[24:14] **Gill:**

Um, always being on duty, always being the center of attention. Everybody looking at you all the time, but-

[24:19] **Luke:**

Just constant protocol all the time.

[24:23] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[24:23] **Luke:**

You know? All that protocol, which is like-

[24:25] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[24:25] **Luke:**

... all that formality about-

[24:27] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[24:27] **Luke:**

... how you're supposed to dress and how you're supposed to greet people.

[24:30] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[24:30] **Luke:**

And what you should and shouldn't do and all the formal dinners and, and-

[24:33] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[24:34] **Luke:**

... having to meet these leaders from different countries and-

[24:37] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[24:38] **Luke:**

Oh, God, yeah. It must be exhausting-

[24:40] **Gill:**

Utterly tedious.

[24:40] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[24:40] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[24:41] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[24:42] **Gill:**

So, um, you know, I think she does a brilliant job and I, as I say, I don't know, I can't imagine what Charles will be like 'cause that was another thing that was noticeable at the wedding. How sort of tense and ill at ease he is all the time.

[24:54] **Luke:**

Charles?

[24:55] **Gill:**

Yes.

[24:56] **Luke:**

Is he tense and ill, ill-

[24:57] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[24:57] **Luke:**

What was that? Ill at ease?

[24:59] **Gill:**

Ill at ease.

[25:00] **Luke:**

Uh-huh.

[25:00] **Gill:**

Never looks comfortable or in a position. And I noticed again when I was watching (laughs) again yesterday to remind myself before talking to you, um, when they were saying their vows, which again was very touching, the two of them, because they were both looking at each other and really seemed to mean it.

[25:17] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[25:18] **Gill:**

Um, one of the shots showed, um, Charles in the background and he, all the time, he was looking down at his program. He didn't watch his son during that important part of the ceremony at all, which I thought was bizarre.

[25:33] **Luke:**

But maybe Charles, maybe he didn't wanna burst into tears.

[25:37] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[25:38] **Luke:**

'Cause if he'd looked

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[25:39] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[25:39] **Luke:**

... if he'd been watching, maybe he would have started crying, you know?

[25:42] **Gill:**

Maybe.

[25:43] **Luke:**

Maybe that was just him attempting to keep himself under control 'cause you could imagine it would all be a little bit intense-

[25:48] **Gill:**

Yes.

[25:49] **Luke:**

... for him as well.

[25:50] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[25:50] **Luke:**

You know? Not just because he was watching his son get married, but also because the eyes of the world were, were on him.

[25:57] **Gill:**

And he must've been remembering his marriage to Diana as well.

[26:00] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[26:00] **Gill:**

Must have been.

[26:01] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[26:02] **Gill:**

And that was such a different thing.

[26:04] **Luke:**

It must be quite hard for Charles to sort of justify it all to himself, don't you think?

[26:10] **Gill:**

Well, that was all-

[26:10] **Luke:**

Considering, con- considering the way in which his marriage to Diana was not a sincere marriage, on his-

[26:15] **Gill:**

No, it wasn't.

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[26:16] **Luke:**

... from, from his point of view. And that to an extent, she was kind of, um, she, she, she was brought into the thing on false pretenses, uh-

[26:25] **Gill:**

She was a lamb to the slaughter.

[26:27] **Luke:**

Sh- she was a lamb to the slaughter?

[26:30] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[26:30] **Luke:**

(laughs) Um, but, but-

[26:31] **Gill:**

Yeah, I mean, that was a true royal arranged marriage.

[26:35] **Luke:**

Right, and she didn't realize.

[26:36] **Gill:**

The problem was, she didn't know that.

[26:38] **Luke:**

Yeah, it was an arranged marriage but she didn't realize.

[26:41] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[26:41] **Luke:**

And she'd been chosen by the Queen Mother because-

[26:44] **Gill:**

Yep.

[26:44] **Luke:**

... she fit the profile correctly.

[26:46] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[26:46] **Luke:**

She thought sh- that it was a marriage of love and-

[26:49] **Gill:**

She did.

[26:49] **Luke:**

... she completely bought the entire thing as a romantic, uh, fairy tale.

[26:54] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah.

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[26:54] **Luke:**

And she thought she was in a Disney film or something.

[26:56] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[26:57] **Luke:**

And then when reality struck, like, probably immediately afterwards when she realized-

[27:01] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[27:01] **Luke:**

... "Oh, I'm just, I'm just a part of a, this system."

[27:06] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[27:06] **Luke:**

"Um, and this wasn't really a, a, a love marriage. It's just more of a, a, a, that it's more that I was just the, I looked like the right person for the job and this guy

doesn't love me. In fact, he loves this Camilla woman and I, I now have to just work every day and just go out and look pretty and, uh, uh, and, and all that sort of thing."

[27:24] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[27:25] **Luke:**

And, um, and it wasn't, yeah, it was, it must've been hard to deal with, but-

[27:28] **Gill:**

Very.

[27:28] **Luke:**

... Charles now, thinking back on it, he must feel some level of guilt or responsibility over what essentially ended as a huge tragedy. The story of Diana-

[27:37] **Gill:**

Well, in a way-

[27:38] **Luke:**

... the story of Diana is a tragedy, isn't it?

[27:40] **Gill:**

Yeah, and in a way he, uh, was as much, um, a victim of it all as she was 'cause he-

[27:46] **Luke:**

Well, almost.

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[27:47] **Gill:**

Well, he was in that he was a victim of the system. He d- wasn't able to break away from the old idea of, um, things being a certain way, so he couldn't marry someone who'd already been married to someone else. He couldn't marry a Roman Catholic. He couldn't marry this, he couldn't marry that. Um, and, you know, even though he loved Camilla, he couldn't marry her because she'd... Although that was ridiculous as well because he, he could've married her early on in their relationship. She got fed up and went off and married someone else. I mean, he vacillated all the time.

[28:20] **Luke:**

Vacillated.

[28:20] **Gill:**

He couldn't make his... Vacillated. Couldn't make his mind up.

[28:23] **Luke:**

Right.

[28:24] **Gill:**

Um, and it, and it came to the point where he was getting embarrassingly old (laughs) and he needed to get married, and as you say, the Queen Mother saw this girl and thought, "She's ideal." And in fact, Charles had been out with her sister.

[28:37] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[28:38] **Gill:**

Um, so he already knew this little girl as she was when he went out with her sister.

[28:44] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[28:44] **Gill:**

I don't know. The whole thing (sighs) was just a terrible mess really.

[28:49] **Luke:**

It, it was all very mismanaged.

[28:51] **Gill:**

It was.

[28:51] **Luke:**

And, and also, it was a symptom of the fact that the royal family had not really modernized. It hadn't, uh, been able-

[28:58] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[28:58] **Luke:**

... to keep up with the times.

[28:59] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[28:59] **Luke:**

Because the other people of Charles' generation were probably marrying a little bit later.

[29:05] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[29:05] **Luke:**

Um, they, they were operating in a different way. The culture had changed.

[29:09] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[29:10] **Luke:**

And Charles probably wanted to behave in line with the, with the way the culture had changed, which was-

[29:17] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[29:17] **Luke:**

... you know, sort of post-'60s, uh, post-'70s, um, a l- a much more relaxed, um, situation where he probably-

[29:25] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[29:25] **Luke:**

... wanted to, you know, be with more women before he finally got married to, to one. And so, it was hard to choose the right one or something like that.

[29:33] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[29:33] **Luke:**

Um-

[29:33] **Gill:**

I don't know.

[29:34] **Luke:**

And, but the royal family didn't really manage to, to, to account for that change in, in culture.

[29:40] **Gill:**

They couldn't accommodate it.

[29:41] **Luke:**

No.

[29:41] **Gill:**

And it's only, um, which is why that wedding on Saturday was so extraordinary, because it was, um, a real demonstration of the fact that they're being forced to change. Um

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[29:52] **Luke:**

Being forced to change.

[29:53] **Gill:**

Well, you know, that, that, that it, it's inescapable. They can't get away from the fact that times have changed.

[30:00] **Luke:**

Yes.

[30:00] **Gill:**

And the fact... I mean, it was, it was lucky that, um, Harry is not the heir to the throne. Um (sighs) -

[30:07] **Luke:**

Well, I was-

[30:07] **Gill:**

... I mean, William has married just the right sort of... You know, he's done it perfectly for the heir to the throne because he, his marriage, I'm sure, is a love marriage as well. But, um, you know, he's chosen a-... an ordinary English girl. (laughs) He hasn't gone for a divorced, um, American who's, um, biracial, um, and who's divorced. Um-

[30:31] **Luke:**

Right. Yeah, I mean, I was thinking about this, that some people are sort of suggesting that this, uh, wedding, you know, the, the Harry and Meghan wedding-

[30:40] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[30:40] **Luke:**

... is evidence of this dramatic shift in, um-

[30:43] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[30:44] **Luke:**

... in the royal family and how, how much they've modernized and how radical-

[30:48] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[30:48] **Luke:**

... it all is and stuff like that. But on, on the other hand, you kinda think, "Well, Harry's wedding is really a low-risk venture." Um-

[30:56] **Gill:**

Absolutely.

[30:57] **Luke:**

And it's not as if ... Yeah, as you said, it's not as if he's the heir to the throne

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[31:00] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[31:01] **Luke:**

... because if William had done what Harry has done, then it-

[31:04] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[31:04] **Luke:**

... would be a totally different story because-

[31:05] **Gill:**

Probably would.

[31:06] **Luke:**

... e- e- essentially, the, the core nuclear family, uh, the core of the royal family is still exactly as conventional and as conservative-

[31:16] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[31:16] **Luke:**

... as it was before. We've got William, uh, married to Kate. It's all very safe and very conventional-

[31:23] **Gill:**

Except, of course, that-

[31:24] **Luke:**

... and stuff.

[31:25] **Gill:**

... uh, Kate is not a member of the aristocracy.

[31:27] **Luke:**

Right. She v- wasn't ... Yeah, she's not a member of the aristocracy. Yeah.

[31:30] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[31:30] **Luke:**

Okay, yeah. So a slight ... That's, that's like the slight hint of modernization that we got-

[31:36] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[31:36] **Luke:**

... from William and Kate, is that she didn't come from the aristocracy, that she was just a-

[31:40] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[31:40] **Luke:**

... ordinary commoner.

[31:42] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[31:42] **Luke:**

Um, you know, uh, the daughter of, uh, a couple of, uh, middle-class people, let's say.

[31:47] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[31:47] **Luke:**

Middle-class people who'd done very, very, w- very well for themselves.

[31:50] **Gill:**

Well, yes, self-made people.

[31:52] **Luke:**

Yeah. Um-

[31:53] **Gill:**

They didn't have old money.

[31:55] **Luke:**

Right. Um, so a little hint of modernization there-

[31:58] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[31:58] **Luke:**

... but, I mean, the, the one with, uh ... But Harry's wedding is just that taken much, much further.

[32:03] **Gill:**

Yeah, yeah.

[32:04] **Luke:**

Um, but, um, has there been any critical response to the wedding? Have you read any or seen any negative-

[32:12] **Gill:**

I haven't read t-

[32:12] **Luke:**

... responses?

[32:13] **Gill:**

Well, um, not to the actual wedding. Uh, we ... In the g- ... In The Observer on Sunday, 'cause of course The Observer is not a royalist, uh, newspaper-

[32:25] **Luke:**

Uh-huh.

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[32:26] **Gill:**

... um, the, the criticisms, criticism seemed to be for the BBC coverage, which I thought was a bit mean of them. They said it was all very worthy and, uh-

[32:36] **Luke:**

Worthy?

[32:37] **Gill:**

... and boring.

[32:37] **Luke:**

What do you mean worthy? 'Cause you've said that-

[32:39] **Gill:**

I-

[32:39] **Luke:**

... a couple of times now, worthy.

[32:40] **Gill:**

Oh, sorry. (laughs)

[32:41] **Luke:**

No, no, don't apologize. I'm just, I'm just, um, looking at-

[32:44] **Gill:**

Wanting to ... Yeah.

[32:45] **Luke:**

... the definition of this.

[32:46] **Gill:**

Well, worthy means, um ... Oh gosh.

[32:50] **Luke:**

It basically means morally respectable-

[32:52] **Gill:**

Yes.

[32:52] **Luke:**

... or morally correct.

[32:53] **Gill:**

Yeah, that's right.

[32:54] **Luke:**

Okay? Morally c- ... Morally respectable, morally correct. Doing-

[32:58] **Gill:**

And the-

[32:58] **Luke:**

... the right thing.

[32:59] **Gill:**

... the w- the way they, the way they based ... What they based that on was the fact that ... Another thing I didn't know about this wedding was that ... I don't know if it happens in all royal weddings, like, royal weddings, I doubt it, but the couple had said they didn't want any presents and they wanted the guests who would've

brought presents instead to donate to some chosen charities.

[33:18] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm.

[33:20] **Gill:**

And so the BBC decided that at times when there wasn't much going on, um, mainly before the wedding, that they would interview representat- representatives of these various charities. And a lot of them were, um, LGBT type charities and the Terrence Higgins Trust and all that sort of thing, which, again, is very modern, and also follows on from, um, Diana 'cause th- those were her charities, the ter-

[33:46] **Luke:**

So what-

[33:46] **Gill:**

... Terrence Higgins Trust-

[33:47] **Luke:**

What's the-

[33:48] **Gill:**

... which is the-

[33:48] **Luke:**

... Terrence Higgins Trust?

[33:49] **Gill:**

It's the HIV charity basically.

[33:51] **Luke:**

Okay.

[33:52] **Gill:**

Um, for people with HIV.

[33:54] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

[33:54] **Gill:**

Uh, and she, uh, Diana took a great interest in that and she ... I think ... I don't know whether she was their patron but she certainly did a lot of work for them. So Harry probably chose that, uh, in memory of her. Anyway, they had interviews with various people who were recipients of the, um, donations from the guests, and I thought that was very good.

[34:15] **Luke:**

But The Observer newspaper was

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[34:16] **Gill:**

But The Observer, all The Observer could say about it was that, uh, the BBC coverage was rather boring and worthy, which I thought was a bit-

[34:22] **Luke:**

But I don't know why, I don't know why The Observer w- w- was making that criticism because-

[34:26] **Gill:**

No.

[34:27] **Luke:**

... The Observer and The Guardian are kind of the same paper.

[34:30] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[34:30] **Luke:**

They, they are, you know, quite leftwing. They're quite socially oriented. You would've thought that they would approve of the, of, of the BBC's focus on the charity work.

[34:39] **Gill:**

You would. You would. No, no.

[34:40] **Luke:**

So I don't really understand what The Observer's doing.

[34:43] **Gill:**

Well, I think it was very difficult for them and The Guardian to report on the wedding at all because they are, of all the papers, they're the ones most likely to have, um, republican views I think.

[34:53] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

[34:54] **Gill:**

So they probably didn't want to go overboard about it at all, but, um-

[34:58] **Luke:**

I read a few little snippets from the Daily Mail.

[35:01] **Gill:**

Oh, yeah? (laughs)

[35:02] **Luke:**

The Daily Mail being one of the most popular newspapers in the country.

[35:06] **Gill:**

And one of the most royalist, I think.

[35:08] **Luke:**

And one of the most conservative, traditional, and rightwing-

[35:12] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[35:12] **Luke:**

... and probably, uh, royalist in, in the traditional-

[35:16] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[35:17] **Luke:**

... sense. Uh, The Daily Mail also, as a website, is one of the most, uh, visited news websites in the world.

[35:23] **Gill:**

Really?

[35:24] **Luke:**

Yep, absolutely. I mean, they were playing their cards quite close to their chest, but there were some editorial, uh, pieces-

[35:32] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[35:32] **Luke:**

... uh, which basically said things like, "Meghan Markle had better not use, uh, her position as a platform to talk about Black issues or feminist issues," um, "and if she does then she will lose the support of," uh, you know, the, uh, people like The Daily Mail. But-

[35:54] **Gill:**

Really?

[35:55] **Luke:**

Yeah, the ... I mean, it was one of those editorial pieces where they were saying, "How do you think Meghan Markle will get on as a member of the royal family?" And the general piece, uh, the, the general, uh, opinion was, "She'd better keep

her mouth shut, uh, and not use the royal family as a platform." Now-

[36:13] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[36:13] **Luke:**

... on one hand, this sounds like a threat.

[36:16] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[36:16] **Luke:**

Right? It sounds a bit like a threat as if to say, "If you g- if you start promoting feminist, um, campaigns and stuff, then we will, um, we'll destroy you in the press."

[36:28] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

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[36:28] **Luke:**

But then again-... maybe they've got a point because you, you're talking about the fact that the Queen has been such a successful figurehead over the years and why has she been so successful? Partly it's because of the work that she's done, the hard work, the way that she's, you know, you know all of the, um, public work that she has to do as we've said-

[36:49] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[36:49] **Luke:**

... and stuff like that. But also it's because she's never ever given-

[36:52] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[36:52] **Luke:**

... an opinion on anything.

[36:54] **Gill:**

Yeah, she never says a word about anything.

[36:55] **Luke:**

That's how she's survived.

[36:57] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[36:57] **Luke:**

That's how she's, she's been such a success-

[37:00] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[37:00] **Luke:**

... is 'cause she's never had a political point of view which is, I think, probably the, the only way that the Royal Family has managed to, to-

[37:08] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[37:08] **Luke:**

... to stay alive. They, they, they-

[37:11] **Gill:**

And it's probably one of the, it's probably one of the ways that Charles has, um, made himself unpopular with certain people is because he doesn't keep quiet.

[37:19] **Luke:**

Yes. He goes on-

[37:21] **Gill:**

About certain things.

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[37:21] **Luke:**

... about environmental issues.

[37:22] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[37:22] **Luke:**

He goes on about organic food and homeopathy-

[37:24] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[37:24] **Luke:**

... and things like this and, and he gets into all sorts of trouble for doing that-

[37:28] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[37:28] **Luke:**

... because the arrangement is, the deal that we have with these people is-

[37:34] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[37:34] **Luke:**

... "Okay, you can, you know, you can live in Buckingham Palace. You can,-"

[37:37] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[37:38] **Luke:**

"... uh, have the Crown Jewels, you can have all this stuff, you can have this status."

[37:41] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[37:42] **Luke:**

"Um, but, um, you, you can't ex- you can't use it as a platform for... You can't have opinions, okay? You're not allowed to have opinions. You kind of work for the country as, as, uh-"

[37:53] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[37:53] **Luke:**

"... our representatives and all that stuff, you, but you don't get to give your opinions on things."

[37:58] **Gill:**

Exactly.

[37:59] **Luke:**

So it's-

[37:59] **Gill:**

Yeah, you've got it, you've got it right there.

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[38:00] **Luke:**

It's, it's kind of a, a tricky thing for, for Meghan Markle because-

[38:04] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[38:04] **Luke:**

... you sort of think, "Well this is wonderful in a sense that the Royal Family is being modernized."

[38:10] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[38:11] **Luke:**

"And, and that we, we've now have a mixed race person in the Royal Family which is, you know, great because why not? What's, what's wrong with that? I can't see any-"

[38:19] **Gill:**

Exactly.

[38:19] **Luke:**

"... reason why we shouldn't have that in the Royal Family."

[38:22] **Gill:**

It's a representation of the way the world is.

[38:24] **Luke:**

It's also a representation of the Commonwealth because-

[38:27] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm, absolutely. Yeah.

[38:27] **Luke:**

... I mean, I saw a picture, one of the official pictures of, uh, the family after the wedding in Buckingham-

[38:33] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[38:33] **Luke:**

... Palace or in, it must have been in, in, um-

[38:35] **Gill:**

Windsor.

[38:35] **Luke:**

... Windsor, Windsor Castle.

[38:36] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[38:36] **Luke:**

A big picture of like, you know, members of both sides of the family all

gathered together. Page 37 of 68

[38:41] **Gill:**

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

[38:41] **Luke:**

And, you know, it looked a bit like the Commonwealth in a way. I know that-

[38:46] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[38:46] **Luke:**

... the, that the USA is not part of the Commonwealth.

[38:48] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[38:49] **Luke:**

But we, we have, uh, countries in the Commonwealth. We, we, you know, we mustn't forget that the, the Queen, the Royal Family, they don't just represent the UK, they represent the entire Commonwealth. And so many of those places is, are populated by, you know, people of different ethnic backgrounds.

[39:06] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[39:06] **Luke:**

You've got sort of dark-skinned people, uh, who have the Queen as their, um, their figurehead. And so, having that in the Royal Family just makes total sense. It represents the, the, the diversity that we have in the Commonwealth as a whole. So-

[39:23] **Gill:**

Absolutely, which it, which again is why it's, it's, it's perfect that it's Harry that's done this because he's in a position of some, um, authori- not authority but privilege and whatever. Um, but he's not the heir, so he's not the number one, he's the number two, and so that gives him freedom to do this-

[39:42] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[39:42] **Gill:**

... kind of thing.

[39:43] **Luke:**

It's a low risk, it's a low risk move in a sense.

[39:45] **Gill:**

Yeah, and he apparently, they have said that they're going to take the Commonwealth as their special interest.

[39:51] **Luke:**

Ah, right, well there you go.

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[39:51] **Gill:**

And they're going to be doing a big tour of the Commonwealth later in the year.

[39:55] **Luke:**

Well there you are. Um-

[39:56] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[39:56] **Luke:**

What some people will be, will be thinking right now, they'll be thinking-

[39:59] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[40:00] **Luke:**

"But the royal bloodline."

[40:02] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[40:02] **Luke:**

That's what they'll be thinking, "The royal bloodline." Like, like this is-

[40:05] **Gill:**

Whatever that is.

[40:06] **Luke:**

... like this is Harry Potter.

[40:08] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[40:08] **Luke:**

The royal bloodline.

[40:10] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[40:10] **Luke:**

And they'll be thinking, um, and I've seen it in comments on, as I said-

[40:14] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[40:14] **Luke:**

... the Daily Mail's website. Have a look-

[40:16] **Gill:**

Terrible.

[40:16] **Luke:**

... have a look at the comments of the people who, who read that website and you can see what people really think.

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[40:22] **Gill:**

Oh, god.

[40:22] **Luke:**

And, and you start to see people saying, you know, "Sh- I think it's disgusting, that it's polluting the royal bloodline."

[40:29] **Gill:**

Oh, that's dreadful.

[40:30] **Luke:**

I mean, it, it, it's, it's dreadful but these, these people don't think it's dreadful, they think that they've got a point. And they-

[40:37] **Gill:**

Ugh.

[40:37] **Luke:**

... they think, "Well look at the Royal Family. Look at, uh, the fact, look at the family tree and you'll see that it's a certain ethnic kind of group that dominates the, the, the family line." And that they, they think it's not right that someone from a different ethnic background should be brought in.

[40:58] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm. Well-

[40:59] **Luke:**

But I mean, I don't think that really makes any sense, does it?

[41:01] **Gill:**

No.

[41:01] **Luke:**

I mean, it doesn't.

[41:02] **Gill:**

It doesn't make any sense at all.

[41:03] **Luke:**

Yeah, when you, when-

[41:03] **Gill:**

Well that was one of the reasons why Diana was chosen because she was perfect, her bloodline was perfect and unsullied and all the rest of it. Look what happened there.

[41:12] **Luke:**

Yeah, it was a disaster. Yeah, so based, you know, if you, if the Royal Family is managed based on those kinds of ideas then it just won't work because-

[41:23] **Gill:**

No.

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[41:23] **Luke:**

... that kind of ideology is nonsense.

[41:26] **Gill:**

I mean, I don't know. It's all, it's all madness really. (laughs)

[41:30] **Luke:**

Yeah, once you start getting into all that stuff-

[41:32] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[41:32] **Luke:**

... it's just like, "Well, what? Uh?"

[41:34] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[41:35] **Luke:**

Yeah, it's, it's, it's nonsense isn't it?

[41:37] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[41:37] **Luke:**

Um-

[41:37] **Gill:**

No, I think it, I think it's good. I think inclusivity is a good thing.

[41:42] **Luke:**

What about the dress?

[41:44] **Gill:**

Oh, it was beautiful. (laughs) Pure class, as you might expect from an Englishwoman designing in a French firm and it being made in Paris. Perfect.

[41:53] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[41:54] **Gill:**

But no, I thought it was beautiful. I love, I love the fact it was so plain, so unadorned and-

[42:00] **Luke:**

Yes.

[42:00] **Gill:**

... uh, just gorgeous.

[42:02] **Luke:**

Yeah. Okay, gr- real class.

[42:04] **Gill:**

Absolutely. Classy is the word.

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[42:06] **Luke:**

Okay. Uh, guests?

[42:09] **Gill:**

Oh. (laughs)

[42:09] **Luke:**

Did you, did you notice any particular guests?

[42:13] **Gill:**

My goodness, and that was different as well 'cause most royal weddings are full of, um, dignitaries from foreign countries and so on and I don't think there were any. Um, no, we got j-

[42:23] **Luke:**

No, but the, the, sorry, the politics was completely kept separate so, uh, the prime minister wasn't there.

[42:28] **Gill:**

No.

[42:29] **Luke:**

There weren't really any-

[42:29] **Gill:**

No politicians which was good.

[42:31] **Luke:**

Um, John, John Major was there.

[42:32] **Gill:**

Yes he was. That was interesting, wasn't it?

[42:34] **Luke:**

I don't know why he was there.

[42:36] **Gill:**

No.

[42:36] **Luke:**

He's the only politician that, that, that made an appearance, I think.

[42:39] **Gill:**

Yeah, I think so.

[42:41] **Luke:**

I guess-

[42:41] **Gill:**

But no, I mean it was, it was fascinating to see them. Um, everybody raved about, uh, Amal Cloo... Is it Amal?

[42:49] **Luke:**

Yes.

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[42:49] **Gill:**

... Clooney, and she did look fantastic, but she was a bit too cool for my liking.

[42:54] **Luke:**

(laughs) Nice.

[42:55] **Gill:**

Um, and I thought the Beckhams just looked extraordinary.

[42:59] **Luke:**

In- e- extraordinary in a good way or...

[43:02] **Gill:**

No. I mean-

[43:03] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[43:03] **Gill:**

... Victoria looked like she was at a funeral.

[43:06] **Luke:**

Yeah, she did. Yeah.

[43:07] **Gill:**

I- I don't think she smiled once.

[43:08] **Luke:**

I don't think she can smile. I think-

[43:10] **Gill:**

No.

[43:10] **Luke:**

... her face, I think her face is just locked now.

[43:13] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[43:13] **Luke:**

I think... Honestly, I think she's had so much work.

[43:16] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[43:17] **Luke:**

I don't know. Maybe I'm wrong, but it- it- it-

[43:18] **Gill:**

I don't know. It's just-

[43:19] **Luke:**

... it seems that it's like her face is just stuck like that now

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[43:22] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[43:23] **Luke:**

... and she, because she can't express emotions.

[43:25] **Gill:**

No, she looked as miserable as sin all the way through.

[43:27] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[43:28] **Gill:**

And David, I mean, all those tattoos, I just-

[43:30] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[43:30] **Gill:**

... can't bear them. It's just ruined his looks, as far as I'm concerned.

[43:35] **Luke:**

But he was qu-

[43:36] **Gill:**

Um, but E- and Elton John was funny.

[43:38] **Luke:**

Yeah?

[43:38] **Gill:**

Oh, dear.

[43:39] **Luke:**

Yeah? Why?

[43:40] **Gill:**

But he's, well, uh, th- his expression is so funny. Whenever he's got, uh, his face is at rest, his mouth turns down more like any oth- any other person's mouth

I've ever seen.

[43:51] **Luke:**

Wait, you mean that he's got resting bitch face?

[43:54] **Gill:**

(laughs) I've never heard that before.

[43:57] **Luke:**

You've never heard that before?

[43:58] **Gill:**

No.

[43:59] **Luke:**

Okay. Resting bitch face.

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[44:01] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:01] **Luke:**

That's- that's when a person's... Normally it's for a woman, but I mean, for Elton John I think it it also applies.

[44:07] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[44:08] **Luke:**

Um, resting bitch face is when, uh, a person's fa- when their, when their face is just resting-

[44:14] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:14] **Luke:**

... so when it's just like the neutral position of their face-

[44:17] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:17] **Luke:**

... they look-

[44:17] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:17] **Luke:**

... like a mean bitch.

[44:19] **Gill:**

Yeah. Well, that's how he looked, yeah.

[44:21] **Luke:**

So that's resting cho- he's got resting bitch face.

[44:24] **Gill:**

Well, yes, if that's the definition, then he has.

[44:26] **Luke:**

Yeah, but, uh-

[44:26] **Gill:**

But John, uh, what's it, David Furnish seemed to be loving it.

[44:30] **Luke:**

That's his husband, right?

[44:31] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:31] **Luke:**

Yeah.

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[44:32] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[44:32] **Luke:**

Yeah, yeah. Well, I, I, I... (laughs) One of the things, one of the moments that made me laugh out loud was when, um, what was his name? Michael Curry, the- the preacher.

[44:40] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:40] **Luke:**

... was doing his thing.

[44:42] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:42] **Luke:**

And at one point we saw Elton John, and his face, he just looked-

[44:46] **Gill:**

Uh. (laughs)

[44:46] **Luke:**

He just had this look of like, "Oh my God- "

[44:49] **Gill:**

Yeah. (laughs)

[44:49] **Luke:**

"... what is g- this guy doing?"

[44:51] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:51] **Luke:**

He just had a look of horror on his face.

[44:53] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[44:53] **Luke:**

It was hilarious.

[44:54] **Gill:**

Yeah, yeah, it was. Yes. And there was a wonderful shot during Curry's, um, address of, um, Zara Phillips, Princess Anne's daughter, and her husband. Do you know the rugby player?

[45:05] **Luke:**

Mike Tindall.

[45:06] **Gill:**

Mike Tindall.

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[45:06] **Luke:**

Tindall.

[45:07] **Gill:**

Um, and she was... I mean, she's eight months pregnant, I think. Poor girl. And she was just sitting there, sort of spreading herself out on the, on the, um, uh, pew with her arms resting on either side. And the look on her face was just brilliant. She just looked completely stunned. (laughs)

[45:26] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[45:28] **Gill:**

But they were very sweet, those two. At one point they showed them, and they were having a bit of a cuddle, which I thought (laughs) was rather nice.

[45:34] **Luke:**

Yeah, it does make a change from the usual-

[45:37] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[45:37] **Luke:**

... sort of, um, lack of emotion that you see in these-

[45:40] **Gill:**

I think a lot of-

[45:40] **Luke:**

... these, these events.

[45:40] **Gill:**

... the younger generation are a bit more relaxed like that, which is good.

[45:44] **Luke:**

Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Um...

[45:45] **Gill:**

Um, but, uh... Yes, and, uh, I... It was funny to see James Corden there. You think, "God, he's come a long way."

[45:55] **Luke:**

Yeah. From, from back in his early appearances in, uh, what was it? Gavin & Stacey?

[46:00] **Gill:**

Yeah. Well, I first saw him years ago in Alan Bennett's play, The History Boys. When that first came out, we saw him at The National, and he was like a young, a chubby young teenager.

[46:10] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[46:11] **Gill:**

Never thought that he'd get as far as he has.

[46:14] **Luke:**

Yeah. He's done very well, hasn't he?

[46:15] **Gill:**

He has. Yeah.

[46:16] **Luke:**

It's incredible, actually.

[46:17] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[46:17] **Luke:**

Yeah, and there he is at the, in the absolute top f- top-

[46:21] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[46:21] **Luke:**

... level of celebrity that you can get.

[46:23] **Gill:**

(laughs) Yeah.

[46:23] **Luke:**

Rubbing shoulders with, uh, royalty and, uh, um, the- the Clooneys and Oprah Winfrey.

[46:31] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[46:31] **Luke:**

Serena Williams and El-

[46:32] **Gill:**

Yeah. I didn't realize that was Serena Williams until afterwards.

[46:36] **Luke:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[46:37] **Gill:**

Um, and, uh, who was the other one? Um, oh my... Oh, I've forgotten. There was another one that I specifically noticed and I've forgotten who it was.

[46:45] **Luke:**

I don't know. Sarah Ferguson? Uh-

[46:48] **Gill:**

Oh. She-

[46:48] **Luke:**

Sarah-

[46:49] **Gill:**

... looked a bit weird.

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[46:50] **Luke:**

Fergie, Sarah Ferguson. She turned up sort of on her own, didn't she?

[46:53] **Gill:**

She did. She's a bit like the, um, the- the-

[46:57] **Luke:**

The- the- the-

[46:57] **Gill:**

... bad fairy at the christening. (laughs)

[46:59] **Luke:**

... the, the evil stepmother. The evil godmother or something.

[47:02] **Gill:**

I don't know. I'm sure she's perfectly harmless, but she's a strange character, really.

[47:07] **Luke:**

But what about Andrew and Fergie's kids? Uh-

[47:10] **Gill:**

Oh.

[47:10] **Luke:**

... Eugenie and Beatrice?

[47:12] **Gill:**

Oh, very strange. They looked-

[47:13] **Luke:**

What were they wearing?

[47:15] **Gill:**

Well, really weird stuff. I mean, one of them looked as though... I don't know. She was dressed as though she was 80 years old.

[47:23] **Luke:**

Well... (laughs)

[47:24] **Gill:**

Um... (laughs)

[47:25] **Luke:**

One of the... I don't know which one it was, but one of them looked- looked-

[47:28] **Gill:**

I don't know which is which.

[47:29] **Luke:**

She looked like a nurse or something. She-

[47:30] **Gill:**

Yeah, that's right. That's the one.

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[47:32] **Luke:**

... she had like this sort of, this- this, uh, pale blue, uh, dress with this-

[47:36] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[47:36] **Luke:**

... white hat. Um-

[47:37] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[47:38] **Luke:**

... but I think, I guess because the last time at William and Kate's wedding, they wore those-

[47:43] **Gill:**

Mm.

[47:43] **Luke:**

... outrageous hats.

[47:44] **Gill:**

They did.

[47:45] **Luke:**

They looked like sort of, um... They looked like alien dignitaries.

[47:51] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[47:52] **Luke:**

Like- like- like they would be... They were visiting-

[47:53] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[47:53] **Luke:**

... from another galaxy. You know? (laughs) Like something, like extras from Star Trek-

[47:59] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[47:59] **Luke:**

... is what they looked like in- in William and Kate's wedding. But then this time, their hats were I- a lot more plain and-

[48:07] **Gill:**

Very much so.

[48:08] **Luke:**

... but- but equally, like, in bad taste.

[48:12] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[48:12] **Luke:**

Like, I don't... Just, they just looked so terrible. (laughs)

[48:15] **Gill:**

They did. Yeah. Poor girls.

[48:17] **Luke:**

Oh, dear. I mean, I, you know-

[48:19] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[48:19] **Luke:**

... it's- it's very mean of us to- to- to- to-

[48:21] **Gill:**

I know.

[48:21] **Luke:**

... ju- to judge them in- in this way-

[48:23] **Gill:**

It is.

[48:23] **Luke:**

... isn't it? I mean-

[48:24] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[48:24] **Luke:**

... you know, at least-

[48:25] **Gill:**

Well, this is the d- this is the downside of being m- part of the royal family, that you've got people commenting on the way you look all the time. People who don't know you from Adam.

[48:34] **Luke:**

Yeah. You got you and me on a-

[48:35] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[48:36] **Luke:**

... on a p- on a public podcast-

[48:38] **Gill:**

I know.

[48:38] **Luke:**

... judging them and laughing about them.

[48:40] **Gill:**

What gives us the right to do that?

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[48:42] **Luke:**

Y- well, pfff...What gives us the right to it?

[48:44] **Gill:**

Or is that, is that, that's the price they have to pay for all their privilege, I suppose.

[48:48] **Luke:**

See, this is what the, the press, the way that the press, uh, will justify this-

[48:53] **Gill:**

Hmm. Yeah.

[48:53] **Luke:**

... is they say, "Well, they're public figures."

[48:55] **Gill:**

Hmm.

[48:55] **Luke:**

And, you know, that's the deal, as we mentioned before.

[48:58] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[48:58] **Luke:**

The deal is that they get to drive around in Rolls-Royces and they get to be members of the, the royal family. They get top status and they have all this money and they get support from the taxpayer, although I don't know if Eugenie and Beatrice get any money from us.

[49:11] **Gill:**

I doubt it, I doubt it.

[49:12] **Luke:**

Uh, uh, and they get to go to these w- these weddings and drink the champagne and eat the canapes and stuff, and in return, we get to say whatever we want about them.

[49:21] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[49:22] **Luke:**

But, you know, um, on that point, we're talking about the, the royal family and, you know, whether we're happy to have a, a monarchy and all that stuff.

[49:30] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[49:30] **Luke:**

In some countries, they, they do have monarchies and yet, you can't, uh, criticize the royal family in some places. And, and criticizing them, uh, is, like, kind of criminal. Um, so in a, in a sense, for me it's, I'm quite happy that-

[49:49] **Gill:**

Hmm.

[49:49] **Luke:**

... we have a royal family and we have the freedom to mock-

[49:52] **Gill:**

Oh.

[49:52] **Luke:**

... to mock them.

[49:53] **Gill:**

Absolutely. I wouldn't be happy with that at all.

[49:56] **Luke:**

It would, it would be, it would be wrong, wouldn't it, to-

[49:59] **Gill:**

Totally.

[50:00] **Luke:**

... have-

[50:00] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[50:00] **Luke:**

... have law to make it illegal to, to make fun of them.

[50:03] **Gill:**

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

[50:03] **Luke:**

I mean, I don't, I don't mean to say that it's the right, that mocking them is, is okay, but
at least-

[50:09] **Gill:**

Hmm-mm.

[50:09] **Luke:**

But having the freedom to mock them-

[50:11] **Gill:**

Hmm.

[50:11] **Luke:**

... I think is a, a good thing.

[50:13] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[50:14] **Luke:**

Um, so, you know, I think it's all right. I think-

[50:18] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[50:18] **Luke:**

I think that they're okay, don't you? I mean-

[50:20] **Gill:**

They seem to be.

[50:21] **Luke:**

Don't you think they can, they can take it? Like-

[50:23] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[50:23] **Luke:**

... they could probably take a little bit of mockery.

[50:25] **Gill:**

Yeah, I suppose.

[50:25] **Luke:**

I mean, we all take it. I mean, good- for goodness sake.

[50:28] **Gill:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[50:28] **Luke:**

Like, we all get the piss taken out of us, don't we?

[50:30] **Gill:**

We do, yeah.

[50:31] **Luke:**

Uh-

[50:31] **Gill:**

Especially if we're members of the Thompson family.

[50:33] **Luke:**

Yeah (laughs) . Yeah. Uh, so I, I don't know. I mean, I, I do have some sympathy for them as individuals.

[50:40] **Gill:**

Mm-mm. Yeah.

[50:41] **Luke:**

Um, and I think it's a pity the way that they get examined so much in the press and

their privacy is, is, uh, invaded, um, a lot.

[50:51] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[50:51] **Luke:**

And I think that, you know, that's not very cool.

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[50:54] **Gill:**

No.

[50:54] **Luke:**

Um, but I think making fun of them a little bit is okay. And, and maybe, maybe-

[50:59] **Gill:**

(laughs) .

[50:59] **Luke:**

We don't know Eugenie and Beatrice. We don't know what they think.

[51:02] **Gill:**

No.

[51:02] **Luke:**

We don't know what they say. We don't know what they're like. Uh, maybe for them, they're, they are getting together and thinking, "What crazy stuff can we wear to this wedding?"

[51:12] **Gill:**

(laughs) .

[51:12] **Luke:**

You know? "What kinda crazy, what crazy things can we do this time to-"

[51:16] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:16] **Luke:**

"... give people something to talk about?"

[51:18] **Gill:**

Yes.

[51:18] **Luke:**

Maybe they're doing it on purpose.

[51:20] **Gill:**

It'd be good if they did, wouldn't it?

[51:21] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[51:21] **Gill:**

If they were doing that.

[51:22] **Luke:**

Maybe they've got a sense of humor and they're doing-

[51:24] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[51:24] **Luke:**

... the whole thing on purpose. They're thinking, "Well, we, we don't wanna just wear boring stuff."

[51:28] **Gill:**

Yeah, yeah.

[51:28] **Luke:**

"Let's, let's dress in some outrageous things and, uh, let's have fun with this."

[51:33] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:34] **Luke:**

So yeah. I, I quite enjoyed, uh, seeing what they were wearing and-

[51:39] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:40] **Luke:**

... having a bit of a laugh about it.

[51:41] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:42] **Luke:**

Just quickly, Charles and, and-

[51:44] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:44] **Luke:**

And what about when the Queen dies? You said earlier on that, you said, "God knows what will happen when the Queen dies."

[51:49] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[51:49] **Luke:**

What do you think, genuinely, what do you think will happen? First of, immediately, like in, in the, in the week, in the days and weeks immediately after?

[51:59] **Gill:**

Well, the moment the Queen dies, Charles becomes king.

[52:01] **Luke:**

All right, but I mean in terms of the, the, uh, public's reaction and the, um, the mood in the country and things like that. I, uh, yeah.

[52:11] **Gill:**

It'll be a big deal, um, because of course the Queen has been there for so long.

[52:17] **Luke:**

Mm-hmm.

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[52:17] **Gill:**

And it's almost like, you know, you feel as though everything will fall apart, but of course it won't. I mean, we've already c- and made things fall apart ourselves in what we've been doing democratically-

[52:29] **Luke:**

With Brexit.

[52:30] **Gill:**

... in the last couple of years.

[52:32] **Luke:**

Brexit, yeah.

[52:33] **Gill:**

Um, yeah, um, so I don't know. I mean, there'll be a huge fury. I mean, you know, with the, the funeral and the lying in, there'll be a lying in state and all that kind of stuff.

[52:45] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[52:45] **Gill:**

And, uh, I'm not quite sure what happens with Charles. I mean, he will just automatically become king, but, um, you know, he's, he won't be crowned for, I don't know, a few months because they'll have to prep- you know, organize the, um, coronation.

[52:59] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[53:00] **Gill:**

So I don't know. It'll be interesting, but, uh, it's very hard to imagine him as king.

[53:06] **Luke:**

I was, I, I've read various things, uh, online about what would happen when the Queen dies, and obviously, you know, there's the constitutional stuff about how Charles will become king and then he'll be-

[53:17] **Gill:**

Hmm.

[53:17] **Luke:**

... crowned and stuff like that.

[53:18] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[53:18] **Luke:**

But also things like the fact that, um, um, like no comedy will be broadcast on television for, for two weeks.

[53:27] **Gill:**

What?

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[53:27] **Luke:**

Yeah, I read that somewhere. Where did I read that? In the Metro, I think. Um, and, and all these other effects. There'll be a, a period of national mourning and, uh, let me see. I'm just trying to, I'm looking online here.

[53:40] **Gill:**

Oh, maybe. Yeah.

[53:41] **Luke:**

48 things that happen in the UK when the monarch dies. This is on indy100.com.
Newsreaders will wear black suits and ties.

[53:51] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[53:52] **Luke:**

Um, uh, the Royal Standard will appear on screen. The national anthem will play.
Comedy will be canceled until after the funeral.

[54:00] **Gill:**

Yeah. Surely not.

[54:00] **Luke:**

Well, apparently. Pilots will announce her death to passengers.

[54:04] **Gill:**

(laughs) .

[54:05] **Luke:**

The Lo- the London Stock Exchange will close, potentially-

[54:08] **Gill:**

Really?

[54:08] **Luke:**

... potentially costing the economy billions of pounds. Um, um-

[54:13] **Gill:**

Is all this written in stone or is this just what they, what's happened in the past?

[54:18] **Luke:**

Um-

[54:18] **Gill:**

I mean, just because it's happened in the past doesn't mean to say it'll happen this time.

[54:23] **Luke:**

Uh, there's been a pretty extensive plan in place ever since the 1960s. It's called
London Bridge is Down.

[54:30] **Gill:**

Hmm.

[54:30] **Luke:**

This will be communicated to the Prime Minister of the UK and it will kickstart Operation London Bridge, possibly the most detailed funeral plan in modern UK history.

[54:41] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[54:41] **Luke:**

Uh, and it, it just, it goes on and on and on. Camilla Parker Bowles, the Duchess of Cornwall will become Queen Camilla.... then there's the funeral, and after the funeral, all sorts of things. Just tons and tons of things. But in terms of the effect it's gonna happen on, on the UK, I mean, there will be all the constitutional changes, but the general mood I think will be quite a profound, uh, sort of sense of loss and grief.

[55:08] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[55:09] **Luke:**

Because the Queen has been a kind of a rock-

[55:12] **Gill:**

Mm.

[55:13] **Luke:**

... over the last s- 65-plus years.

[55:16] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[55:16] **Luke:**

Um, she's been so consistent-

[55:19] **Gill:**

Mm.

[55:19] **Luke:**

... throughout all of the changes. And, you know, one of the purposes of the monarchy is to provide a sort of, um-

[55:27] **Gill:**

Stability.

[55:28] **Luke:**

... stability and a, um, a, a kind of, um... Yeah. Stability throughout everything.

[55:33] **Gill:**

Mm.

[55:33] **Luke:**

Um, you know, even when there are all sorts of other changes, you- there's this kind of unbroken chain back through the years. And, uh, the Queen has kind of done that job very effectively.

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[55:44] **Gill:**

Mm.

[55:44] **Luke:**

And when she goes, yeah, th- I think it's going to... It, it could be very symbolic considering-

[55:51] **Gill:**

Mm.

[55:52] **Luke:**

... um, considering what's going on with, uh, Brexit and-

[55:56] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[55:56] **Luke:**

... the fact that the United Kingdom is under threat, you know, with Scottish independence and, uh, border issues in Northern Ireland, and all th- and all these sorts of things. I think the fact that the Queen... when the Queen goes, I think it will be, uh, quite a shocking-

[56:11] **Gill:**

Mm.

[56:11] **Luke:**

... um, and symbolic, uh, moment. And, uh-

[56:14] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[56:14] **Luke:**

... I wonder how Charles will, will get on as, as her rep- uh, her a- her what? Successor.

[56:21] **Gill:**

Yeah. That's what we're all asking ourselves.

[56:24] **Luke:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[56:25] **Gill:**

Mm.

[56:26] **Luke:**

We'll see.

[56:26] **Gill:**

I don't know.

[56:26] **Luke:**

Some people seem to think that they'll skip him.

[56:29] **Gill:**

I don't think that'll happen.

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[56:31] **Luke:**

I don't think it... I don't know how that can happen.

[56:34] **Gill:**

No.

[56:34] **Luke:**

They can't just skip, skip him.

[56:36] **Gill:**

I wouldn't have thought so.

[56:38] **Luke:**

I mean, th- the whole... There are rules. There are rules, you know?

[56:40] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[56:41] **Luke:**

Th- the, the whole thing is based on rules.

[56:44] **Gill:**

Did you ever see that play, King Charles III?

[56:47] **Luke:**

No, I didn't. But I think you told-

[56:48] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[56:48] **Luke:**

... me about it. But go on.

[56:49] **Gill:**

Yeah. Well, that, that's based on that scenario. The Queen has died, and, uh, Charles is getting ready to take over and... It's, it's, it's written like a Shakespearean play.

[56:58] **Luke:**

Uh-huh.

[56:58] **Gill:**

Like a Shakespearean history play. In fact, it's... That's why it's called... I think it's called King Charles III: A History, or something.

[57:06] **Luke:**

Okay.

[57:06] **Gill:**

Um, (clears throat) and, um, all sorts of things happen. You know, there's sort of uprisings in various places, and, uh, there's lots of machinations behind the scenes and, um, what's her name? Kate becomes the, the, um, the Lady Macbeth character who persuades her husband, William

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[57:26] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[57:27] **Gill:**

... to, uh, usurp his father and, uh, and the- it ends up with Charles being sort of cast out, cast aside, and King William takes the throne (laughs) in a sort of-

[57:37] **Luke:**

Really?

[57:37] **Gill:**

... coup d'état almost.

[57:39] **Luke:**

(laughs)

[57:39] **Gill:**

Yeah. I mean, it's... It sounds... It... Funny, but it... And it was funny in lots of ways,

but it was very good, very interesting and quite thought-provoking. But I can't see that happening.

[57:48] **Luke:**

Imagine, though, if, if, uh, Charles becomes king. We don't know when this will happen, of course.

[57:53] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[57:53] **Luke:**

The Queen could go on for ages more, you know? I mean, she-

[57:56] **Gill:**

Mm. Well, her mother was well over 100 when she died, wasn't she?

[57:59] **Luke:**

Exactly. Yeah. I mean, uh...

[58:00] **Gill:**

She could go on for another 10 years.

[58:01] **Luke:**

She could or, or more, you know? She seems to be in quite good shape.

[58:04] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[58:05] **Luke:**

Uh, but anyway, when it does happen, God knows, maybe Charles will start... still, will start, you know, uh, saying this, that and the other about, uh, uh, about the European Union, or he'll give-

[58:17] **Gill:**

Yeah. (laughs)

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[58:17] **Luke:**

... his opinion. He'll give his opinion on Brexit or... Yeah. It could create some-

[58:20] **Gill:**

Stir up all sorts of things.

[58:22] **Luke:**

Yeah. It could be a constitutional crisis. The press might turn-

[58:24] **Gill:**

Mm.

[58:24] **Luke:**

... against him.

[58:25] **Gill:**

Mm.

[58:25] **Luke:**

And then there'll be a referendum (laughs) .

[58:27] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[58:27] **Luke:**

Should we keep Charles or shall we chop his head off?

[58:30] **Gill:**

Oh, no. Surely it won't come to that.

[58:32] **Luke:**

No, it won't. O- of course not.

[58:33] **Gill:**

Mm-mm.

[58:34] **Luke:**

Um, yeah, well-

[58:35] **Gill:**

I know we've gone mad. We haven't gone quite that mad, have we?

[58:38] **Luke:**

Well, not yet.

[58:39] **Gill:**

Mm.

[58:40] **Luke:**

Um, Mum, thank you-

[58:41] **Gill:**

Right. Okay.

[58:42] **Luke:**

... th- thank you for talking to all of us and sharing your, um, your thoughts

on the royal wedding.

[58:48] **Gill:**

(laughs)

[58:48] **Luke:**

It certainly was an entertaining spectacle.

[58:50] **Gill:**

It was. It was great. And I do wish them well. I hope it all works out for them.

[58:54] **Luke:**

Yeah. Me too.

[58:56] **Gill:**

Mm. As human beings.

[58:57] **Luke:**

Yeah. Yeah.

[58:58] **Gill:**

Mm-hmm.

[58:58] **Luke:**

Absolutely. I just hope that they're happy and that they have a happy-

[59:01] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:01] **Luke:**

... a, a, a happy time, 'cause it's-

[59:02] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:03] **Luke:**

... it would just be horrible, wouldn't it? If we-

[59:05] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:05] **Luke:**

... if we observed them, like, getting unhappy and-

[59:09] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:09] **Luke:**

... if we saw them sort of breaking up and there was a-

[59:12] **Gill:**

Yeah.

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[59:12] **Luke:**

... painful divorce and... We don't want that. We just want everyone to-

[59:15] **Gill:**

We don't.

[59:15] **Luke:**

We just want everyone to live happily ever after.

[59:17] **Gill:**

W- we do. That's what princes are supposed to do.

[59:20] **Luke:**

Yeah.

[59:20] **Gill:**

And princesses.

[59:21] **Luke:**

Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

[59:22] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:23] **Luke:**

Okay.

[59:24] **Gill:**

All right.

[59:25] **Luke:**

Great.

[59:26] **Gill:**

Nice to talk to you.

[59:26] **Luke:**

Nice to talk to you too. And, um, well, you know, speak to you soon.

[59:31] **Gill:**

Yeah.

[59:31] **Luke:**

Okay.

[59:32] **Gill:**

Bye-bye.

[59:32] **Luke:**

Bye. So there you go. That was my chat with my mum. The, uh, the storm is still going on outside as I record this, um, this ending to the podcast. So, you can probably hear the rain as I said before. Um, so there you go. That was, that was, uh, what my mum thought of the royal wedding. Check out the page for this episode on the website because you'll see a couple of videos that I've posted there, including some extracts from that, uh, unconventional address by Michael Curry, the minister who spoke, um, during the ceremony. Uh, also, there's a little list of some bits of vocab. Not a full list, but, uh, at least some of the bits, some of the words that my mum used that you might not know. Words like staid and high-bound and stuffy and worthy and hushed and reverent and solemn and sober and gesticulating, and words like that which did come up.

[01:00:32] **Luke:**

I was talking at the beginning of the episode about the British Podcast Award, so I'd like to just say a few other words, um, about that now before the end of this episode. So yeah, I, I... Obviously I didn't get gold, silver or bronze, unlike last year when I got bronze. And yes, I was gutted at the time. Gutted, that means very disappointed. Uh, it's a sort of informal phrase to mean disappointed. So I was gutted on Saturday night when I got the results. So yeah, I was hoping for a medal this year, and even though many of you voted for me, I didn't get it this time. But it was always going to be a long shot anyway. I was always going to be an underdog candidate in this, um, and I was disappointed but now I'm totally fine with it.

(thunder rumbling) And, uh, I've won awards before for this podcast, so I do already have some awards under my belt and maybe I was expecting too much, I don't know.

[01:01:26] **Luke:**

But the main thing is this, that I'm thankful for what I've got, which is a wonderful audience and the opportunity to record my episodes and have them heard by people around the world. So, everything is absolutely fine in podcast land. Uh, the results: gold medal was for Mark Kermode and Simon Mayo's Film Review. No big surprise there, they won the gold medal last year as well. And this one is a, this is a BBC podcast and it's the BBC's flagship film review show, in fact, and it's sort of an institution. The podcast has been going for over a decade and it's got a huge and loyal following. Uh, Simon Mayo is a very, very well known, um, broadcaster who's

been on British TV and radio for years, and Mark Kermode is probably the UK's most famous film critic. Uh, and yeah, their podcast is, is massive and it's got a very loyal following and a huge audience, uh, including me and my mum. We both, uh, are fans of the WIT attainment podcast, as it's also known.

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[01:02:31] **Luke:**

So it's absolutely no surprise that they won again and I totally understand why, and in fact I'm very happy for them 'cause I'm a big fan of the podcast myself. The silver medal went to The Anfield Wrap, uh, who got the silver medal last year as well actually. The Anfield Wrap is the number one Liverpool Football Club fan podcast, so it- so it's for fans of Liverpool Football Club. And as you can imagine, uh, The Anfield Wrap is massive with Liverpool football fans who are very numerous and passionate about their club. (smacks lips) So that was the silver medal. And then the bronze medal, which was my position last year, that was won by a newcomer in the podcast game called George Ezra. His podcast is called George Ezra & Friends. George Ezra is a famous musician who's been on very well known TV shows in the USA like Saturday Night Live and The Late Show with James Corden, two of the most high profile TV shows on American TV.

[01:03:31] **Luke:**

So he's a, he's a high profile celebrity with a large fan base and connections with people at the very top of the pop world. The podcast is pretty new but his guests include people like Ed Sheeran, Lily Allen, and Elton John, so these are top tier celebrities. Obviously what I'm doing here now is I'm kind of ex- um, what am I doing? I'm trying to kind of make excuses for, for why I didn't win. Um, maybe. But I'm also just explaining what's, you know, what actually happened. (thunder rumbling) Check out that thunder. My god, that is loud. So anyway, um, George Ezra & Friends, this is the podcast that took my bronze medal away from me. Uh, I was usurped by George Ezra which, again, I mean I'm not surprised considering he's got Elton John and Lily Allen and Ed Sheeran on his podcast. (inhales sharply) But

anyway, not winning a medal, it feels a bit like an anti-climax, doesn't it?

[01:04:24] **Luke:**

I sort of expected to win something again and I probably raised your expectations by saying that I had a good feeling about it and I felt a disturbance in the force and so probably everyone expected me to win. (inhales sharply) Well, I might not have got a medal but I was in the top 10 and that's still a massive achievement. Um, um, so there was no shortlist of nominated podcasts in this category, by the way. You could vote for absolutely any podcast from the UK and apparently I count as being a British podcast. Um, so being in the top 10 is not nothing. I beat lots of other big people who didn't get into the top 10, people like Russell Brand, I beat him, and Adam Buxton, Richard Herring, and almost all the other big UK podcasts. So I'd like to say thank you very much to my listeners, um, and, uh, that's just wonderful. So thank you for voting even if I didn't get one of the medals.

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[01:05:18] **Luke:**

Um, (hums) I don't get, I don't get the satisfaction of putting a medal on my website and it's also a bit disappointing that I hassled all of you over and over again, I asked you again and again and again to vote, and many of you did vote, uh, but, you know, it's a pity that after hassling you like

that we don't have a medal to show for it. (thunder rumbling) Thunder in the background, but yada yada, still happy and that's that. All right then, good, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, fine, good. (inhales sharply) Thank you so much for listening to this. I'm, I- I look forward to reading your comments on the website, if you have any. Did you watch the royal wedding? Um, and, uh, what did you think? Do you have any thoughts about all of it? And, um, what do people in your countries think of the monarchy in the UK, and when you look at the TV footage of, of Britain, um, when there's an event like this happening, what do you think?

[01:06:16] **Luke:**

Do you think, "Oh my god, they're all mental. Look at them wearing their Union Jack clothes"? Or do you think, "Oh, they're greg- they're great. It's, like, really fun and, like, a great celebration"? Um, d- if you don't have a royal family in your country, do you sort of, d- do you feel like it would be nice? Would you... If you could have one, would you have one? Um, and if you do have a royal family in your country, how do they compare to the British royal family? And for example, can you criticize them publicly? Um, you know? (thunder rumbling) So, let me know your thoughts as ever on the website. Thank you very much for listening. I'll speak to you again on the podcast soon. Uh, but for now it's time to say goodbye, bye, bye, bye, bye, bye, bye. (rain pouring) (upbeat music plays) Thanks for listening to Luke's English Podcast. For more information visit teacherluke.co.uk.

[01:07:43] **Luke:**

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