

'Grief is the price we pay for love' - Queen Elizabeth



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THE Queen's death will touch us all. Whether we have Royalist or Republican leanings, our futures in this country will now change with a new King.

Once again, we are seeing a public outpouring of grief. Did everyone really queue for hours out of genuine grief? Or respect? Or love? Or was it that people felt drawn to be part of a significant piece of history, with its pomp and pageantry as we always do so well?

Whatever the reason, the nation's actions bring a social cohesion and demonstrate a great respect for a woman who could not help being born into a royal family, and then being unexpectedly catapulted into the role of heir to the throne.

Speaking as someone who is not a Royalist, I still believe that she earned our utmost respect. The Queen has been a positive role model, taking on a job she may never have wanted and didn't anticipate in her early days.

She carried out her work every single day, up to the age of 96. A significant achievement and we should take pride in that being played out on the world stage - most of us wouldn't dream of working until that age.

She demonstrated tolerance when meeting world leaders, diplomacy and discretion all qualities our

world can lack nowadays. Alongside this, though, were the flashes of humour (007 and marmalade sandwiches will stay with me), and her devotion to her family and pets.

And now we have the era of Charles III. (I for one have learned a new word recently - Carolean.) Clearly a man who cares deeply about the world, he starts a new job at an age when most are retired.

Again, a huge commitment to his pre-determined role in life. I might personally believe we are in an age when birth should not automatically grant titular sovereign status, but whilst we do have that system, I also believe we should afford our monarchy our respect where they have earned it, and yes, where we feel it, our love.

So for the royal family who have had to play out their grief with dignity in such a public manner; for those experiencing pain in their lives - be it through bereavement, break-up, betrayal, or the burden of illness, all of which impact in the same raw way; it's pertinent to remember the words of Queen Elizabeth herself: 'Grief is the price we pay for love.'

She was a wise woman, clearly much-loved by the people of Somerset.

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Standing in for Trish Caller