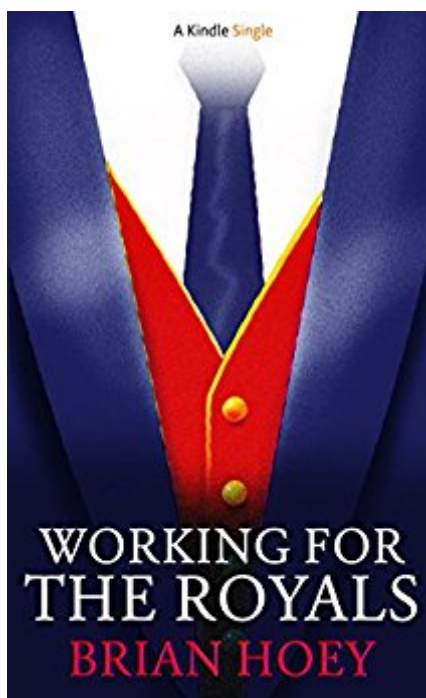


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Working For The Royals (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Ask any visitor to London, from Tokyo to Tennessee, what is their number one priority in places to see, and the answer will invariably be: Buckingham Palace. It is by far the most famous building in the world and the lady who lives there, Queen Elizabeth II, is easily the most famous woman on the planet. Her Majesty employs some 1,200 men and women, full and part-time, permanent and temporary in her various Royal residences with over 400 working for her at Buckingham Palace alone. So, what is she like to work for? Is she a generous employer? Does she encourage friendliness among those whose salaries she pays or does she prefer to keep her distance? Is it true she hates her servants to have facial hair – beards or moustaches? Why do the housemaids have to vacuum while walking backwards at all times? How are the servants told to react when they meet the Queen or any member of her family? What does the money like? In many ways Her Majesty is a model employer, providing food, drink and accommodation, at the best address in London, to her staff, but one thing she does not offer is high wages. So why do most of them stay for many years? This book gives all the answers from the inside. Brian Hoey has written 26 books about Britain's Royal Family and as a former reporter and presenter with BBC Television and Radio he has interviewed Prince Charles, Princess Anne (whose official biography he wrote), the Duke of Edinburgh and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Hoey was a television commentator at the wedding of Charles and Diana in 1981 and again, sadly, in 1997 at the funeral of Diana. He has also interviewed many of Hollywood's Royalty including; Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, Ray Milland, Cary Grant, David Niven, Gregory Peck, Sophia Loren, Kirk Douglas, Jean Simmons and he conducted the final TV interview with Charlie Chaplin.

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Customer Reviews

About fifteen years ago, I spent a day on a barge in Hong Kong with, among others, a man who had risen in the Disney ranks. I recall my fascination at his commitment to the organization, and his determination to be part of it. He had identified eleven ways to get employed by the organization, if his first attempt at working there failed. While Disney deals in fantasy, the business of the organization is very real. It employs 175,000 people and has a market capitalization of \$46b. I recalled my day on the barge as I read Hoey's account of work at Buckingham Palace, residence of the British Royal family. In Britain, the number of huge properties and estates that once belonged to aristocracy have dwindled to less than ten. One, however, stands out - Buckingham Palace, London. Set in 45 acres of prime residential property in the heart of the city, the property would easily fetch £1 billion on the open market. It is the home of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. It has about 365 rooms, 19 state apartments, 52 bedrooms, and 92 offices. Buckingham Palace has a bank, post office and police station. There are hundreds of servants, with male staff dressing in formal tail-coat uniforms with brass buttons. Among staff and servants, there is a strict hierarchy and a clear divide between them and the Royals. Little has changed here in centuries. A "delicate etiquette" permeates this Palace and is most evident in the relationships between the Royals and staff. New recruits are warned never to mistake apparent friendliness for familiarity. Royals are never familiar with staff but may well be friendly. Staff are always deferential. The whim of a Royal is an instruction to be fulfilled immediately and fully. "Royalty may not always be right, but they are never wrong," Hoey explains. The Palace is not without a lighter side. William Tallon was a page to the Queen Mother for some 40 years, and they had a particularly close relationship. The tale goes that William and his partner Reg were having an argument so loud that neither heard the Queen Mother ringing for them. Eventually, she stormed into the pantry and said, "When you two old queens have finished arguing, this old

Queen would like a glass of champagne. After staying at the Palace, Hillary Clinton said, "It was like stepping inside a fairy-tale. The palace runs like clockwork, through the dedication of an experienced team who are devoted to their work. They have only one aim in mind: the comfort of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. In July each year, everyone moves from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle for the annual Royal Ascot horse race, the Queen's favourite sport. Special guests are invited to stay at the Castle, and all are assigned a footman or housemaid to look after their every need, and to brief them on how they should deport themselves. They are required to have at least three changes of clothing each day: a jacket and tie for breakfast, a morning suit for the races, and a tuxedo for dinner every night. Ladies wear hats at the races and an evening gown for dinner, preferably with a tiara. Guests are also given a small map of the Castle in case they get lost. The Queen is addressed as "Her Majesty" or "Ma'am, pronounced like "ham. Men should give a short neck bow and women should curtsy, (a small bob is sufficient.) Real work does go on at the Palace. The Queen hosts many State Banquet for as many as 180 guests. "Afternoon Parties" usually held in July, have up to 9,000 guests served 36,000 cups of tea and coffee, 55,000 cakes, pastries and sandwiches, and 500 gallons of ice-cream. The Queen is indeed the nation's hostess. In addition to this aspect of the Royal activities, there is the business of being the Queen. Her senior staff member, The Private Secretary to the Queen, is the Chief Executive of the House of Windsor. He is the conduit between the Queen and her Prime Minister and all other Government departments. He links the Queen to her 15 realms as well as every foreign ambassador and High Commissioner in London. To keep the Royal Palace and the Queen's activities in perfect order requires hundreds of people. Of these, only a dozen are allowed daily contact with the Queen. Most employees are of a lower status doing work more mundane than attending to affairs of State. They clean windows, make food, vacuum acres of carpets and keep the palace and is functioning in impeccable order. There are four rules governing everyone who works for the Queen: "Restraint, Elegance, Resolution, and Calmness under stress. This is Downton Abbey in the extreme. So why do employees choose this work? At every level, employees earn less than they could elsewhere. Fewer than 50 members of the Royal Household earn six-figure salaries. Those in highest levels in the Palace can command many times what they currently earn. The lower domestic staff are not even paid the average working wage in Britain. Some even work unpaid. All are required to sign a confidentiality contract. Royal Chef, Mark

Flanagan, is among the highest paid at the staff level earning about £ 45,000 per annum. For people like him a reference from Buckingham Palace almost guarantees access to any job in any country. Several footmen have found high paying jobs in the United States working for very wealthy men. However, this is not the norm. "Ask anyone who has been at the Palace for a couple of years, why they do it and what satisfaction they receive and the answer will invariably be: "Because we do the job to the best of our ability, we are perhaps, making life just a little easier for Her Majesty," Hoey explains. The organisation that is the Palace today has changed little since Queen Victoria's time 150 years ago. There are now more than 400 men and women catering for just one woman and one man: the 88-year-old Queen, and her 93-year-old husband. Together they maintain an ideal of a stately world, partially arrested in time. Together they are committed to something almost ethereal, the extension of this era. The answer to whether this is justifiable or valuable bears a striking resemblance for me to the discussion I had on the barge in Hong Kong about Disney. Disney is devoted to fantasy that makes people happy, allows a benign escape, and entertains. Buckingham Palace is devoted to preserving the ideal of grandeur, lest it fade away. Those who choose to commitment their working lives to this cause, see a valuable contribution.

Readability Light +---- Serious
Insights High ---+-
Low Practical High ----+ Low

*Ian Mann of Gateways consults internationally on leadership and strategy and is the author of Strategy that Works.

It was marginally interesting but do not waste your time or money unless you want to read page after page after page of what people earn. He threw in a few minor non-interesting tidbits so he could use Kate and William's names. Even at a \$1.99 should be ashamed...it is a short story and not a book. Don't waste your time.

I found this book very interesting and very enlightening. It's amazing to read about the running of royal establishments and the astonishing number of people involved (400 people working at Buckingham Palace) that's apart from all other royal residences - these range from cleaners, maids, mechanics etc. to the Lord Chamberlain and titled Ladies in Waiting also known as Ladies of the Bed Chamber. Seems like stepping back in time when you read of the pecking order and snobbery which exists. Nonetheless, the book is a very revealing insight into the lives of our Royal Family, well written and very informative.

I found it very interesting that people work at the palace, due to the respect they have of the queen.

The various names that are given for different jobs is very interesting..

This book skims the surface of each position in the palace. Facts such as a few of the areas each position is responsible for, what positions pay and a few anecdotes from those who have filled the position are included. You can read it in a few hours but it's not highly information nor gossipy, it's like an essay on working for the royal family with a touch of history followed by a touch of modern descriptions of each position. I would have liked to find a more complete picture of each area, more history, more anecdotes. I read it on kindle, I would not invest in the book.

For anyone interested in the British Royal family, this is a worthwhile read. It is a factual account of what goes on day to day at Buckingham Palace. What positions members of the household hold, and what their responsibilities involve. Who actually has power who controls the purse strings, and what they are like to work for. If you are looking for salacious gossip, there is none. In fact the point is made that working for the Queen is a vocation. Apparently the pay isn't great but, life is never dull! I enjoyed this book, and learnt quite a bit about life within palace walls.

I am kind of obsessed with the royals as it is one of the most unique lives someone can have. I liked getting some insight into what it is like working with them. I would have loved some "dish" but it wasn't that kind of book. Good read.

A rare look into behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace & the people who work for the Queen of England. I highly recommend this book if you enjoy reading about Royalty

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