



Press Release

THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

William Shawcross

Penguin Books is delighted to announce that it will publish William Shawcross's forthcoming official life of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in the UK. The book will appear first in hardback in 2007 under Penguin's Allen Lane imprint.

William Shawcross will tell the story of the Queen Mother's life in the context of the century on which she made her mark. Shawcross has been granted access to an archive which includes the Queen Mother's private diaries, letters written to or by her over the course of a very long life, and her Household papers. The Queen, The Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family have agreed to talk to the author for the book.

William Shawcross said, "It is a great privilege and a great responsibility to be entrusted by the Queen to write the official life of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Her life spanned and reflected the century, and she always remained in touch with the momentous changes that took place in Britain and the world. The outpouring of affection for her after her death was an eloquent testimony to the role she played in British life. Her story is the story of the kingdom over 100 years of astonishing change. I have already started interviews and will be working full time on the project very soon.

"I am absolutely delighted that Penguin, which itself has a very distinguished history, will be publishing the book."

Stuart Proffitt, Publishing Director at Penguin, said, "As the official biographer, William Shawcross will be given unique access to the Royal Archives. As well as a biography, the book will also be a history of the century from the perspective of one of its most extraordinary and iconic women. There could be few more significant projects with which to be involved and I am looking forward immensely to working with Shawcross."

For further information, please contact

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