

# Princess Diana

**R**OYAL celebrity, fashion icon, wronged wife, shrewd manipulator, unstable bulimic, devoted mother and charity worker – the contradictions are endless.

**Diana, Princess of Wales**, the English rose who blossomed and wilted under the world spotlight, was the source of endless gossip and adoration – a quintessential idol for our times.

She incurred royal displeasure for behaving more like a movie star than a princess, but her cult status as a pop diva entranced the world.

The marriage that began with a fairytale romance and magnificent wedding to **Prince Charles** soon plummeted to the depths of tabloid melodrama, with every twist and turn reported like a serial soap opera.

But Diana was clever enough to play the media to her advantage, projecting herself compellingly as a victim of a philandering husband and dysfunctional British monarchy.



With her downcast, big blue eyes, the **“Queen of Hearts”** hugged AIDS patients and land-mine victims to focus world attention on her campaigns.

Even in death she remained the victim of her own fame, her car pursued through Paris by paparazzi.

The global outpouring of grief – and the award that year of the Nobel Peace Prize to **The International Campaign to Ban Land Mines** – became fitting tributes to the **“People’s Princess.”**

## Life and times...

1850 1900 1950 2000

1982: Prince William born. 1984: Prince Harry born

**1961:** Born Lady Diana Frances Spencer, July 1, Sandringham, England

**1979:** Starts work as kindergarten teacher in London

**1981:** July 29, marries Prince Charles

**1992:** Diana and Charles announce separation

**1996:** Divorce finalized

**1997:** Aug 31, dies following high-speed car crash in Paris