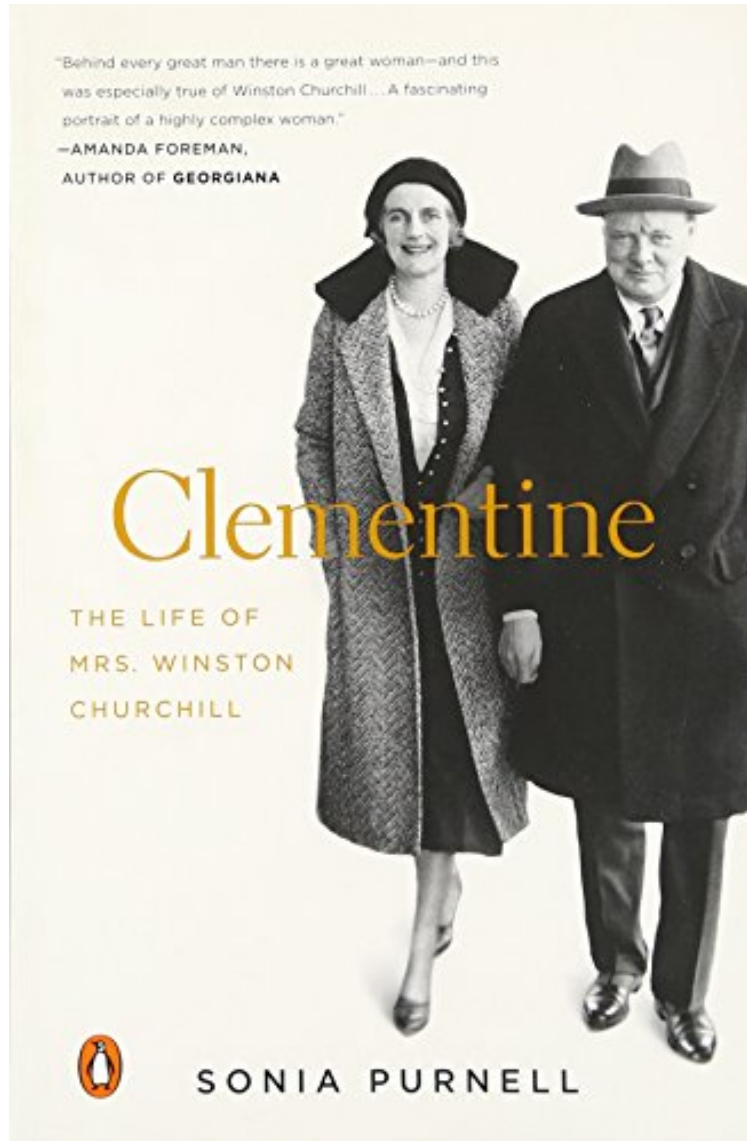


Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill

Sonia Purnell

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#14156 in Books Purnell Sonia 2016-10-25 2016-10-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.40 x .95 x 5.41l, .81 #File Name: 0143128914448 pagesClementine The Life of Mrs Winston Churchill | File size: 48.Mb

Sonia Purnell : Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill:

35 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Just the wife for WinstonBy CustomerShe put Winston before everyone, including children and her own health. This excellent book focuses on Clementine's family, origins, marriage, and her interactions with the political elite between the world wars. Highly recommended biography!31 of

32 people found the following review helpful. A remarkable woman. By IJLoved this book. Very good information on the remarkable Mrs Winston Churchill. Does not whitewash her character flaws. She was very critical of her mother in law, Jenny Churchill for her neglect of her children. But she herself was a distant and aloof mother of all of her older children, who all had major problems with alcohol, drugs, depression, mental illness and suicide. She did get it right with her last child, Mary. Clementine was a devoted and diligent advocate for her husband, Winston. It is hard to imagine that he could have overcome the obstacles he placed in his own way, without her help. Winston was notoriously oblivious and obtuse about the feelings of others. This would have been a career killer if he had not had a wife who was able to influence and get him to become more self aware. Strangely enough her friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt, was reflective of two women who had a lot in common. Both women came from aristocratic families. Both had been troubled with severe insecurity that they overcame to become major personalities in their own right. Both women were also the "Conscience" of their husbands. The difference between them is that Clementine's relationship with Winston was a love match. Eleanor's relationship with FDR's was notably a platonic friendship after his affair with Lucy Mercer. Winston remained devoted to Clementine and quite dependent on her for the rest of his life. Winston would have driven most women crazy, he was a very difficult man, and it was probably the best decision he ever made to marry Clementine.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lots to learn, even for history buffs. By A. Lee Well-written, honest, eye-opening book about an amazing woman. I had never heard about her, and I had no idea about the influence she had over this powerful man with such a powerful personality. I also learned a lot more about the history of events that I thought I already knew well. Purnell really humanizes each person in her book, yet she is respectful and truthful. Her research seems precise and thorough, and she presents it in an engaging way -- this is not boring history! I also really loved the Audible version -- a true pleasure to listen to as well as read.

"Sonia Purnell has at long last given Clementine Churchill the biography she deserves. Sensitive yet clear-eyed, Clementine tells the fascinating story of a complex woman struggling to maintain her own identity while serving as the conscience and principal adviser to one of the most important figures in history." Lynn Olson, bestselling author of *Citizens of London* Shortlisted for the 2016 Plutarch Award A long over-due tribute to the extraordinary woman who was Winston Churchill's closest confidant, fiercest critic and shrewdest political advisor that captures the intimate dynamic of one of history's most fateful marriages, as seen on *The Crown*. By Winston Churchill's own admission, victory in the Second World War would have been impossible without her. Until now, however, the only existing biography of Churchill's wife, Clementine, was written by her daughter. Sonia Purnell finally gives Clementine her due with a deeply researched account that tells her life story, revealing how she was instrumental in softening FDR's initial dislike of her husband and paving the way for Britain's close relationship with America. It also provides a surprising account of her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt and their differing approaches to the war effort. Born into impecunious aristocracy, the young Clementine was the target of cruel snobbery. Many wondered why Winston married her, but their marriage proved to be an exceptional partnership. Beautiful and intelligent, but driven by her own insecurities, she made his career her mission. Any real consideration of Winston Churchill is incomplete without an understanding of their relationship, and Clementine is both the first real biography of this remarkable woman and a fascinating look inside their private world.

Engrossing. . . . Purnell's book is the first formal biography of a woman who has heretofore been relegated to the sidelines. The *New York Times* "Winston Churchill kept nothing from Clementine. "You know," he informed FDR, "I tell Clemmie everything." Purnell has delivered an astute, pacy account of a woman who hardly ever emerged from the shadows. It is a sharp analysis of what it meant to be a politician's wife. . . [and] shows how much we can learn about Winston Churchill from his wife and marriage." *The Wall Street Journal* Thorough and engaging. . . Purnell's extensive and insightful biography offers a much welcome portrait of Clementine Churchill, a woman whose remarkable life has long been overshadowed by her famous husband. *Washington Post* "Until this biography, Clementine's influence had been completely overlooked and undervalued by Winston's biographers. Clementine was a complicated, mercurial figure, and Purnell does a wonderful job painting a full picture of a woman who was an excellent wife, a mediocre at best mother, and privy to some of the most profound moments of the modern era. Jessica Grose, in *Lena Dunham's Lenny Letter* Fascinating [Purnell's] book may leave you thinking Clementine is one of the most underrated, complex women in British history. *The Daily Beast* Sonia Purnell's fine biography. . . brings out of the shadows this formidable woman who was much more than strictly a spouse. *Newsday* A fascinating and well-written account of a woman who played a key role in many pivotal moments of early-20th-century British and world politics. *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* A sharply drawn, absorbing portrait of Churchill's elegant, strong-willed wife, who was also his adviser, supporter, protector, and manager. . . Purnell argues persuasively for Clementine's importance to history: she functioned as her husband's astute political strategist; insisted that he consider her feminist views; vetted his speeches; and campaigned for his successes. . . A riveting, illuminating life of a remarkable woman. *Kirkus* (Starred) [A] probing, well-researched and wise biography. *Washington Times* This exemplary biography illustrates how Clementine's intelligence, hard work, and perseverance in often difficult circumstances made her every bit a

match for her remarkable, intimidating husband, and a fascinating figure in her own right. Publishers Weekly (Starred) The extensive research shines a deserved spotlight on Britains first lady through wartime and beyond."Fort Worth Star-Telegram Purnell does a remarkable job of proving that Clementine had a large impact on Winstons life. . . He seems to have known immediately upon meeting her that she would be the one who could support his great ambitions and moderate his mood swings and gambling. . . She edited his writing, advised him on political decisions, and volunteered in many ways throughout both world wars. Her significance, in many way, can be compared to that of Eleanor Roosevelt. --Library Journal Sonia Purnell has restored Clementine Churchill to her rightful place in history. Behind every great man there is a great woman and this was especially true of Winston Churchill. Clementine is a fascinating portrait of a highly complex woman who only ever showed a brave and elegant face to the world. At last, thanks to Sonia Purnells excellent book, we see her true nature. Amanda Foreman, author of A World on Fire At last Sonia Purnell has given us the first political biography of Clementine Churchill, a woman of power and progressive vision. Although she was her husband's best guide and most astute advisor during the worst of times, her essential role is generally unacknowledged. Boldly written and illuminating, this is a generative restoration of a fascinating woman who transcended family grief and marital agonies to lead her husband and the nation with grace, commitment and persistence. Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of Eleanor Roosevelt An acute and sympathetic biography which brings Clementine Churchill out of the shade into which her illustrious and domineering husband has cast her and shows how key she was to his success. Sonia Purnell makes us ask how Clementine endured life with Winston, and provides the answers. Margaret MacMillan, author of Paris 1919 and The War that Ended Peace "In this wonderful book Sonia Purnell has at long last given Clementine Churchill the biography she deserves. Sensitive yet clear-eyed, Clementine tells the fascinating story of a complex woman struggling to maintain her own identity while serving as the conscience and principal adviser to one of the most important figures in history. Purnell succeeds brilliantly at an almost impossible task: providing fresh and thought-provoking insights into Winston Churchill in the course of examining his complicated marriage. I was enthralled all the way through." Lynn Olson, bestselling author of Citizens of London and Those Angry Days An excellent book Both scrupulous and fair-minded, Sonia Purnell has done her subject proud in this eye-opening and engrossing account of the strong-willed and ambitious woman without whom Winston Churchills political career would have been a washout. Miranda Seymour, The Telegraph It seems extraordinary that no one has given this remarkable woman proper biographical treatment before. . . She sacrificed her children and her health in the greater service of her husband, but she also kept him buoyant. This book is a salutary reminder that the Churchills were always a team. The Times (UK) Compellingly readable. . . Sonia Purnells biography of Winstons wife Clementine brings her out from behind the shadow cast by the Great Man. She became her husbands wise counselor, discreetly offering sound advice, re-writing his speeches, toning down his foolish or angry letters, preventing him from making certain terrible political mistakes. . . Her wheeling and dealing was done behind a veil of gracious femininity. The Independent (UK) Eye-opening. . . A bold biography of a bold woman; at last Purnell has put Clementine Churchill at the center of her own extraordinary story, rather than in the shadow of her husbands. Mail on Sunday (UK) In our own era of sturdy individualism, it is remarkable to read of Clementines resolve to subordinate her own desires and her childrens happiness to her husbands cause. . . An intriguing study of a character both deeply flawed and, in her way, magnificent. The Evening Standard (UK) About the Author Sonia Purnell is a biographer and journalist who has worked at The Telegraph and Sunday Times. Her first book, Just Boris, a candid portrait of London mayor and Brexit champion Boris Johnson, was longlisted for the Orwell prize. Clementine (published as First Lady in the UK) was chosen as a Book of the Year by The Telegraph and Independent and shortlisted for the Plutarch Award for biography. She is working now on a book on the daring exploits of Virginia Hall, Americas most courageous and unlikely wartime spy. Residence: London, UK Social: Twitter: SoniaPurnell Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Late in the evening of Monday, June 5, 1944, Clementine Churchill walked past the Royal Marine guards into the Downing Street Map Room wearing an elegant silk housecoat over her nightdress. Still fully made up, she looked immaculate and, as always, serene. Around her the atmosphere was palpably tense, even frayed. She glanced at the team of grave-faced plotters busily tracking troops, trucks and ships on their charts. Then she cast her eyes over the long central table, whose phones never stopped ringing, to the far corner, where, as expected, she spotted her husband, shoulders hunched, face cast in agonized brooding. She went to him as she knew she must, for no one else no aide, no general, no friend, however loyal could help him now. Clementine Churchill was one of a tiny group privy to the months of top secret preparations for the next mornings monumental endeavor. Fully apprised of the risks involved in what would be the largest seaborne invasion in history, she knew the unthinkable price of failure: millions of people and a vast swath of Europe would remain under Nazi tyranny, their hopes of salvation dashed. She also knew the ghosts that haunted Winston that night, the thousands of men he had sent to their deaths in the Dardanelles campaign of the First World War. She alone had sustained him through that disaster and the horrors of his time serving in the trenches on the Western Front. Churchill had delayed the D-day operation for as long as he could to ensure the greatest chance of success, but now British, American and Canadian troops would in a few hours attempt to take a heavily fortified coastline defended by men who were widely regarded as the worlds best soldiers. Huge convoys were already moving through the darkness toward their battle stations off the coast of Normandy. Earlier that

evening, Winston and Clementine had discussed the prospects of the gambits success, at length and alone, over a candlelit dinner. No doubt he had poured out his fears and she had sought, as so many times before, to stiffen his resolve. In the end, the command to proceed had been given. Looking up now as she approached, Winston turned to his wife and said, Do you realise that by the time you wake up in the morning twenty thousand men may have been killed?