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NEWS> " THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRACY IS POIGNANT "

" The English aristocracy is poignant "

Created 19-04-2011 at 3:02 pm - Updated 20-04-2011 at 6:41 pm [24 reactions](#)

By

Martin Amis, the writer the most hated for England, evokes in unkind terms the princely marriage which will unite on April 29th prince William and Kate Middleton. He(it) takes advantage of it to cut a suit to the royal family. Interview shock

Recommander

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REACT



Prince William and Kate commoner will say to themselves "yes" April 29th. It seems to please everybody, so as Martin Amis. The author of "Money, Money" indeed judges that " something [] does not turn(shoot) circle in this history(story) ". (Sipa)

Keywords: Martin AmisThe United KingdomPrince WilliamDavid CameronElizabeth IINews

Le Nouvel Observateur.- Does the princely marriage irritate you?

Martin Amis. - There is indeed something who(which) does not turn(shoot) circle in this history(story). It is because we cannot, in the era of the media ascendancy, oblige his(her) children to undergo all that implies(involves) the similar marriage: not only the abandonment(relinquishment) of its private life, but even the sacrifice of one pure and simple. The royal family is so spied,

ON THE SAME SUBJECT

" Princely marriage: " New the Ob " and Martin Amis wastes(spoils) the party(holiday)

" Our complete file on the marriage of Kate and William

" They are crazy these English

scrutinized by the media, that the life of these children must be rather unbearable. Harry and William rebelled eight or new(nine) years ago and more or less exploited(asserted) that they were not going to continue to sacrifice themselves for the needs of the crown. We probably answered them that this institution was the most the former(ancient) of Europe and that it was necessary to protect her(it) by all the means. The princes finally bent the spinal column. But how can we ask for it, today, so much to a human being?

people!

" The enemies of Friends

N O. - The popular enthusiasm will be however sincere...

Mr Amis. - Doubtless. The atmosphere is going to be irrational, very British in a sense(direction). Usually, when the crowd comes down(falls) in the street, it is to look for shop windows to be broken. There, the crowd will be peacefully outside. Difficult not to be moved by this moose(run-up). Difficult not to consider the thing(matter) in a positive way. Over and above the fact that, in the crowd, there will be many Pakistani, African immigrants - the most enthusiastic maybe. It is certainly a good thing(matter) from the point of view of the social integration.



N O. - You know personally the members of the royal family?

Mr Amis. - I met the queen, indeed, with the other writers gathered(combined) in I do not know any more which opportunity(occasion). The problem, it is because the queen does not listen to what you say to him(her). Because she(it) is not supposed to hear(understand) the remarks which we send him(her). I allowed all the same to throw(launch) passionately, when she(it) greeted me: " you ennobled my father " [the writer Kingsley Amis, makes knight by the queen in 1990, EDITOR'S NOTE]. For any reaction, she(it) looked far off, fixing vaguely a picture(board) to the wall. It is everything. In another opportunity(occasion), I participated in a lunch with the duke of Edinburgh II seemed very surprised of my profession: " ah, you are a writer? "

N O. - And prince Charles?

Mr Amis. - We dined twice together, in rather small committee, four or five persons. He(it) was still married to Diana, but his(its) name was never pronounced. He(it) is charming, he(it) has a rather extraordinary laughter, as a porcine snore. I remember a rather memorable conversation with him about Salman Rushdie, just after the fatwa, in 1989. He(it) was very anti-Rushdie. I asked him(her) why. He answered me: " I am sorry, but when somebody offends the deep convictions of people... " He always speaks like that, very learnedly. And he(it) very may on the religious questions, of whatever nature, because king of England is supposed " to protect the faith ". I said to him(her) of what I thought: that a novel is not a stand. That offends nobody. That asserts nothing. A novel is a game(set,play), an activity of the spirit. And if the book of Rushdie was taken for target by ayatollah Khomeini, it is less because the book was shocking that to give to the Islamic revolution a new moose(run-up), and fight(dispute), on the left, his(her) opponents of the inside.

N O. - You are severe with the royal family...

Mr Amis. - They are Philistines.

N O. - Could you one day be ennobled, as your father?

Mr Amis. - I said that I would not accept him(it). I want to be bound(connected) not at all to the British empire. It is so ridiculous. No, that does not risk to arrive. In reality, I would prefer not to be English. Moreover I soon leave England to settle down in the United States, for family reasons. When you live in the United States (I cross(spend) every summer there for a long time), you realize in which point he(it) becomes more and more rare that the English business(affairs) made the headlines(Channel one) of "New york Times". Both or three weeks, there is a small paragraph at the bottom of page. Since the Second World War, what takes place in Great Britain does not really count any more. The biggest empire which never existed became a power of the second or the third order. Even in the time(weather) when met Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, there were in reality only two superpowers. And Stalin and Roosevelt messed quite a lot of Churchill.

N O. - When you meant settling down, in 2006, in Great Britain, having stayed for a long time in South America, how did you find the country?

Mr Amis. - What struck me, it is the omnipresent power of the media. The second landmark was the evolution of the company(society) towards a soft left, having to face in of insoluble problems as the debt or the terrorism, or still the feeling anti-Israeli which took a worrisome development. The politics(policy) of Israel is maybe difficult to support, but how to expect from people who suffered as much as he behaves in a totally rational way? The British company(society) is mined(undermined) by inept moral questioning today. I remember having asked, in 2006, in front of a public of 150 persons, which felt morally upper to the Talibans. About forty trembling hands got up. No more than a third(third party)! It tells its own story on the state of mind of the English people today. There was a travel(movement) of the political belief on the left, and those who were considered, as me, as people of the center, seemed very marked to the right.

N O. - And David Cameron?

Mr Amis. - Cameron or the other one. They are nothing; they can nothing without the United States.

N O. - You will make one day the peace with your fellow countrymen?

Mr Amis. - I have never had problems with the "English people". I had problems with the British press. That a little gets(fits) better now. In reality, I like the English people. They have some spirit, they are tolerant, full good-humored. But the press is a dirt. I work on a novel which will be subtitled: " The State of England ". I am persuaded that it will be considered as a last insult for my country. I tell the history(story) of a violent criminal who gains(wins) billions at the lottery. It is the metaphor which translates well, I find, our state of moral decline: an immense reward(award) obtained effortlessly nobody. You can have no talent, no ambition, and you win all the same. All the young people dream about that. The girls dream to become a model. The celebrity is the new religion. But we want that she(it) falls you above like that, effortlessly, without anything to deserve her(it). Thus it is a book on the decline of my country, on the anger, the dissatisfaction, the bitterness, even unconscious, caused by this decline. It is maybe subliminal. We can have the impression(printing) that the life in London is rather pleasant. But everything is ruined inside.

N O. - What to be English, according to you?

Mr Amis. - In my youth, Great Britain was a company(society) of castes. That is not it any more. It is a company(society) based(established) on the money(silver), as everywhere else. And she(it) is based(established) on the difference in age. Your membership in a social class and your skin colour do not count any more; what counts, it is be 30 years old. It is universal in the western companies(societies). It is moreover a better system than that of castes. If the company(society) must be unequalitarian by definition, as much as the privileges are not the ones of the aristocracy or the race, but the age: we are every young people at some point. As for the British aristocracy, she(it) is poignant. All this snobbery is ridiculous today.

N O. - Who makes you proud of Great Britain?

Mr Amis. - Shakespeare. Absolute giant. And our political, very advanced system. We made the revolution hundred years before the French people. And our civil war was not so horrible. We can, I believe, pull(fire) pride of this moderate, calmed political life, which we know since so for a long time. Without speaking about the decolonization, which, to us, relatively well took place. Who, in India today, would assert that the effects of the British colonization were only negative?

N O. - And what puts you the angriest?

Mr Amis. - The superficiality. Scandal newspapers. All these incited models. These rock stars in shorts.

N O. - That is the end of Great Britain such as we know her(it) since the origins?

Mr Amis. - Doubtless, even if we believe, in Great Britain, in the genius(engineering) of every people. Does England remain elegant by definition? Orwell said that the British were more attached than everything to flowers. And my father had on the subject a rather funny point of view. He(it) had tried to know if there was some relation between the genius(engineering) of a nation and the quality of the gastronomy. That gave something like that: " England: nice people, rotten cooking(kitchen). France: rotten people, nice cooking(kitchen). Spain: nice people, rotten cooking(kitchen). Italy: nice people, nice cooking(kitchen). Germany: rotten people, rotten cooking(kitchen). " What a wonderful irony! It remains, Thank God, a national sport!

Comment taken in by Didier Jacob

Credit photo: Martin Amis by Javier Arce

By

J'aime 202 0 Send Translate REACT

REACTIONS (3)

AlphonseSTmar In 18:41 29-04-2011

Frustration

It is clear that this Sir one is deprived. On the contrary England contrary to Europe in particular France, respects its traditional values thus all which makes the size(greatness) of this country and livens up(leads) the blood which flows(sinks) into the veins of every English patriot. England did not know a bloody revolution which divided the country into two, characteristic of France, and when we ask him(her) for an effort as in past and now with the economic crisis it advances(moves) as a single man by clenching teeth. I am ready to bet that England will go out of the economic crisis and will prove that she was right not to adopt the Euro. I wish long life the English aristocracy.

Alert(Notify) React

Stopsvp In 10:17 27-04-2011

@Laylavoileuse

Seriously, stop spitting at high schools, what they made you? You got it all wrong in the competition(help)? It is at the moment moreover, look at the subjects, and you will see that there is no privilege. Furthermore, contexts of creation of all these schools, that inquire about the various dates and would avoid you writing of such comment.

The privileges are ready(in position) well before, from the primary sector(primary school,Primary) and the middle school(college) where immense delays are taken. To type high schools, it is finally to make the ostrich and to refuse to see that the whole educational system is to be seen again(to be revised,to see again,to revise).

There is no report(relationship) with the article, it is bad for the health so much frustration.

Alert(Notify) React

Almifrel In 21:10 26-04-2011

We laugh at it!

The French people regicides have a royalist press!! Moneychangers in the Temple have no scruple and the broadcast of this non-event will be made in the public channel thanks to our royalty. What a decline!!!

" What did you make to be a great lord? You gave the punishment(effort) to be born and nothing more. " Wrote Beaumarchais. To meditate.

Alert(Notify) React

All the reactions (3) Conditions of moderation REACT

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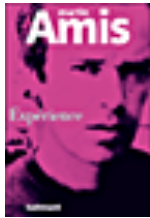
Yellow dog
 Martin Amis
 Gallimard, 21,38 €
 BUY HIM(IT)



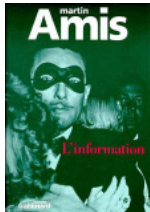
Money, money
 Martin Amis
 Gallimard, 11,88 €
 BUY HIM(IT)



Experience(Experiment)
 Martin Amis
 Gallimard, 26,13 €
 BUY HIM(IT)



The information
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 Gallimard, 23,17 €
 BUY HIM(IT)



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