

Ferguson," this person continued. "Andrew feels responsible for Sarah. She walked away from their divorce with nothing, unlike Princess Diana, who got millions from Prince Charles. There have been newspaper reports that Sarah got £15,000 [\$24,500] from Jeffrey, but I think that Sarah has actually received hundreds of thousands of dollars from him." (Ferguson's spokesman confirmed that she had received £15,000 from Epstein but wasn't aware of any additional amount.)

"You have to understand that Andrew still loves Sarah," the friend went on. "I was with Andrew and Sarah one day when they discussed getting remarried. At the time, Sarah didn't want to remarry Andrew, because she thought she had a great career in America with Weight Watchers and books and all that. She thought her career would continue to support her expensive lifestyle, and she didn't want to give all that up to become a boring royal again. Then, after Sarah's American career col-

her cool relationship with Prince Charles, with whom she never properly bonded when he was a child. Charles was born just after World War II, when Elizabeth was overwhelmed by her awesome new public responsibilities. She was frequently away on extended foreign trips, and when she was at home she deferred on family matters to her husband, Prince Philip, who was known to belittle their shy, sensitive son cruelly in public.

By the time Andrew was born, 12 years later, things were different. The Queen had gained a great deal of self-confidence, and she wanted to make up for the shortcomings in her parenting of Charles. Right after Andrew's birth, she sent a note to her cousin Lady Mary Cambridge. "The baby is adorable," she wrote. "All in all, he's going to be terribly spoiled by all of us, I'm sure."

The spoiling never stopped. "Whenever she hears that Andrew is in Buckingham Palace, she'll send him a handwritten note, and he always goes to see her," a former Pal-

which was the face of the foolishly laughing prince," she said. "I told him, 'Go away!' It turned out that he had gone to all the girls' rooms."

Another woman who knows Andrew well told *The Times* of London that he looks uncomfortable at parties unless he's got a girl fawning over him. "[He is] pretty base in terms of women," she said. "He is a boobs-and-bum man. There is nothing sophisticated about it. One minute you're having your bum pinched, and the next minute he is reminding you he is Your Royal Highness."

Since his divorce, Andrew's most serious romance has been with Amanda Staveley. Andrew invited her to Buckingham Palace and Balmoral, the royal estate in Scotland. He called her "darling," and she called him "babe."

"He all but got down on bended knee to ask Amanda to marry him," Richard Kay, the *Daily Mail's* veteran royal writer,

A GORDONSTOUN CLASSMATE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED THE ADULT ANDREW AS "A MAN WITH A FAT BOTTOM WHO LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKES."

lapsed, it was Andrew who didn't want to remarry her. He told me, 'Given Sarah's weaknesses, she wouldn't make an appropriate royal anymore.' Also, for the sake of his daughters, Andrew didn't want to cause a commotion at Buckingham Palace.

"After Jeffrey was convicted, I phoned Andrew and told him, 'You cannot have a relationship with Jeffrey. You can't do these things.' And he said, 'Stop giving me a hard time. You're such a puritan.' From there, our conversation descended into a screaming match, and finally Andrew said, 'Leave me alone. Jeffrey's my friend. Being loyal to your friends is a virtue. And I'm going to be loyal to him.'

"Andrew has a stubborn streak. He does stupid things out of hubris, to show that he can do them. If he likes someone, he'll ignore the truth about that person. And that goes both for Jeffrey and Sarah. He thinks that he can power his way through everything. He's an adored second son. His mother, the Queen, dotes on him, favors him above all her other children, and excuses his every foible."

A framed photograph of Andrew in his naval uniform is prominently displayed on the Queen's desk in her study at Buckingham Palace. Her undisguised affection for her second son stands in sharp contrast to

ace aide told Geoffrey Levy and Richard Kay of the *Daily Mail*. "If he's in jeans, he'll change into a suit. And he always greets 'Mummy' in the same way—bowing from the neck, kissing her hand, and then kissing her on both cheeks. It's a little ritual that she adores. Believe me, he can do no wrong."

Like many spoiled younger sons, Andrew often comes across as arrogant, self-indulgent, and thoughtless of other people's feelings. A classmate from his days at Gordonstoun—the school that Philip, Charles, and Andrew all attended—reportedly described the adult Andrew as "a man with a fat bottom who laughs at his own jokes." At a recent lobster dinner, one of the guests turned to Andrew and said, "Sir, you've got the big one." To which Andrew shot back, "How do you know?" and broke into peals of laughter.

The Ladies' Man

His behavior toward women runs the gamut from boorish to oafish. A woman who attended a weekend party with him at a country house in Dorset recalled his clumsy manners. "I woke up on Saturday morning with a fire extinguisher pointed at my face, behind

told me. "He clicked with Amanda. She's a feisty girl, a strawberry blonde, and an extrovert. Andrew's fascinated by money, and Amanda's got plenty of that. She sounded out a lot of people, including me, about what life would be like as a member of the royal family, and she came as close as possible to saying yes. But to become the Duchess of York she'd have had to put herself in the background and give up her career, and she didn't want to do that."

There were reports that Fergie encouraged Andrew to marry Staveley. However, given the unconventional nature of Fergie's relationship with her former husband, there is reason to doubt that. In fact, those who know Fergie wonder if she has sabotaged

most of Andrew's female relationships and would have found a way to scuttle the marriage if Amanda had accepted Andrew's proposal. According to this line of reasoning, Fergie still exercises a powerful hold over Andrew and counts on her access to his sources of money.

"Andrew hired a team of accountants to investigate Fergie's debts," said a royal-watcher. "He paid off several million pounds' worth of

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