

A Summary and Excerpts

"Amalia" by Claudia de Breij

Princess Amalia will celebrate her eighteenth birthday on December the 7th. This is a historical moment and that is why Claudia de Breij, a Dutch female cabaret artist, was invited for a series of interviews. You can read the full result in the book 'Amalia'; below are the highlights.

Amalia & Duty

On the one hand, Amalia is an ordinary teenage girl, on the other hand, also our future queen. Duty is discussed several times in Claudia de Breij's book, and the many quotes show that the princess is dutiful and knows well what is expected of her. For example, on pages 28/29, you can read: "You never do it all right," she already knows that. She had to make peace with the fact that you can never satisfy everyone at primary school because if you go more to one side, some people are angry, and if you bend the other way, other people are angry.

"I'm a perfectionist, but it's never perfect. So I try to do it in such a way that I can say to myself: I know I did my best." She thinks she's doing well if she can help the Netherlands. "If I can avoid a dire situation through diplomacy and if I've made the world a little bit better, I'm happy. I am in the service of my country. I give my life to the Netherlands."

The embrace of her office is yet to come, the princess also says. But the recognition that it is her destiny is already there. "By the age of fourteen, she was reconciled to the idea of her future," she says. Her father laughs; that was a lot earlier than him.

"Did you embrace it then?" The author asks. There is a haze over those brown eyes. Amalia's resigned herself to it, she says, but hasn't embraced it yet. There is now a wall that she has to cross first, and "only behind that wall can I maybe embrace something."

Amalia & Her Parents

With three teenage girls, Huis ten Bosch Palace can really get wild. In 'Amalia' this is neither denied nor concealed, but there are also many positive words. Amalia: "My mother is really a buddy to me, a kind of friend, who sees how I feel, who is always there for me. Well, on the one hand, she is really my mother,

on the other hand, my buddy. I can dance with her until six in the morning, but the next morning she can just remind me to clean my room. Sometimes I get, what do you call it, corrected, but we can also really have fun together. With the whole family, by the way, especially now that my sisters and I are getting older. Those more serious trips used to be pretty boring for us as kids, but now it's different. For example, when we went to Japan with our family, we laughed so much together." She talks about the jokes with her sisters, about how nice it is that her parents now also make adult jokes in front of them. "They used to speak French if we weren't allowed to know something. Now that I am no longer a child, everything is just in Dutch. Open book."

Amalia & Love

When I read the biography, I spontaneously felt like a royal wedding because Amalia - just like me - loves dresses, carriages, and horses. "I am very romantic," she says. She already knows what kind of dress she wants to wear when she gets married, and when she shows the author the carriages at the Royal Stables, she points out a few in particular.

There is the carriage that is used for funerals: a large and impressive thing, hopefully parked here unemployed for a long time. The Glass Carriage, of which she demonstrates how tiny and shaky the steps are on which you have to step. "I'll have to practice on that for a while before I take it to the States General." And a fairytale cream-white carriage, the Crème Calèche, where she says: "I might want this one when I get married."

She shows no hesitation about the fact that she wants to get married and would like to have children. But later on. Much later. Romantic as she is, she likes it when guys aren't rude, but have a bit of gallant manners, and she notices that German guys generally understand that a bit better than Dutch guys. When she was very young, she got enough clumsiness in that area. For example, she heard through the grapevine that there were guys who had been betting with each other about who could get a date with Amalia first; someone had more than a hundred euros in the computer game Fifa from the others. No, there was no winner."

Amalia & Her Sisters

Amalia: "I can enter into a conflict. With mom anyway.' Her father and sisters, too, sometimes. Things can start quickly, but they are just as suddenly completed, and 'we are all just joking about each other'. In friendships, it is also something you have to learn. She feels she can do better. And vice versa, she also likes it when friends can just say: 'Am, that was not a good move on your part.' And with her sisters?"

It's going well, she says. Ariane is a bit of a dreamer, and Alexia and Amalia are getting along better since they started both started dating. One can, if necessary, keep the other a little out of the way from mom and dad the next morning."

Amalia & Religion

She says. "It's more of a feeling than an actual thing. A bright spot.' (...) She is 'really not the most religious person', but does have the feeling that there is something overarching 'that I call God for the sake of convenience. But I can't give it a name, and I don't have that need either.' Sometimes it just happens that she asks: help me. "That's what I ask... I don't know. Something. And that something I call God."

Amalia & the Goldfish

We know that our future queen is an animal lover. But with the goldfish bowl, she has a less positive association. The fishbowl is mentioned several times in the book. "Did you actually think it was a good idea that we kept you away from official duties and the press as much as possible during those first eighteen years?" her father asks Amalia. She thinks about it for a moment. This is quite an essential question, and this is the logical time to ask. Yes, she appreciates it very much. Now she still has a bit of privacy, but after TV appearances, she is always more recognized.

Amalia & Her Exams

At the beginning of the book, Amalia says she is a "deadline junkie." "If you give me ten years to do something, I'll start after nine years and eleven months." Still, later in the book, it turns out that the desire for pressure says nothing about her sense of responsibility. "I was just really stressed out because my father had said to me, 'Amalia, you would be the first in the family to graduate cum laude from high school.' And I already stood cum laude, huh. It could only get worse if I didn't do very well on my exams. So I was so nervous about it. Then I was really in tears, and my father took my hands and said: 'It's not necessary, is it? I just wanted to say it.'" But I made it anyway!"

Amalia & Social Media

The princess tells Aan de Breij that she appreciates the courtesy of the Sissi films. What Amalia faces is the opposite. Rudeness squared, especially on social media. Even the baby photo where she is only half an hour old generates sour criticism. "I was there for half an hour," Amalia says with a surprised look. Being confronted with this behavior, and that "all your life. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy." To protect herself, she built a wall around herself, she says. She had to, when, for

example, when she was nine years old, she was told through the same social media that she had better hang herself. "Then you have two choices: you can go completely crazy, or not let it hit you and protect yourself against it." She has had that wall from the age of twelve, she says.

Amalia & the Death of Inés

"We got the news; I was woken up at six. We had to go to Argentina as soon as possible because the funeral was the next day. That's how it goes there. I did go to school that day. In hindsight, that was not a good decision. But yeah. Total stress. It was total stress. So I had dressed better than usual and completely made up. That way, you can sometimes hide it when you're having trouble, like a layer of paint over something that's broken. But yes, you still break. I could only cry. And then no mascara or dress can save you. I'm just trying to think she's better now that she's with my grandfather. "

Amalia & Money

The book is also about Amalia's allowance. She will repay the amount (1.6 million per year) until the end of her studies. Amalia: "I didn't know that it was an option to refund the allowance at all, but my parents had been working on it for a long time and then presented it to me in a conversation. So when I knew this was a possibility, I made a choice and wrote the letter."

Amalia & Bling Bling

If you ask me, we are headed for golden times because Amalia (just like her mother) loves jewelry. "Yaaaa! I love tiaras. Show me a tiara, and I'll know where it came from. I can recognize all the tiaras in Europe. I used to put them on from my mother. Then there would be one on her make-up table, and I would have it directly on my head. I really liked to be in my mother's jewelry anyway. When I was very little, she was preparing for an important dinner, and she shouted around the house, "Amalia, where's that ring?"

The royal clothing is also discussed. She does get pocket money, she says, but no clothing allowance. Her mother often chooses clothes for important moments, and she thinks that's fine, because 'of course she is serious about it'. When she goes shopping with her mother, she usually doesn't buy what she points out. Her mother sometimes buys it anyway, but for herself. She wears it, and after three times, Amalia says, "By the way, I took that one shirt from your closet." "I knew that" is usually the answer. "It was for you; you just had to check on me that it's fun."

What a great way to give your daughter ideas. As a mother, you generally do that a little less subtly. "She respects me," Amalia agrees. "You have to find your own way; she can only give tips, help you to find yourself. Of course, she has her idea of 'that's how it should be, but also has the space to see that things can be done differently.'

