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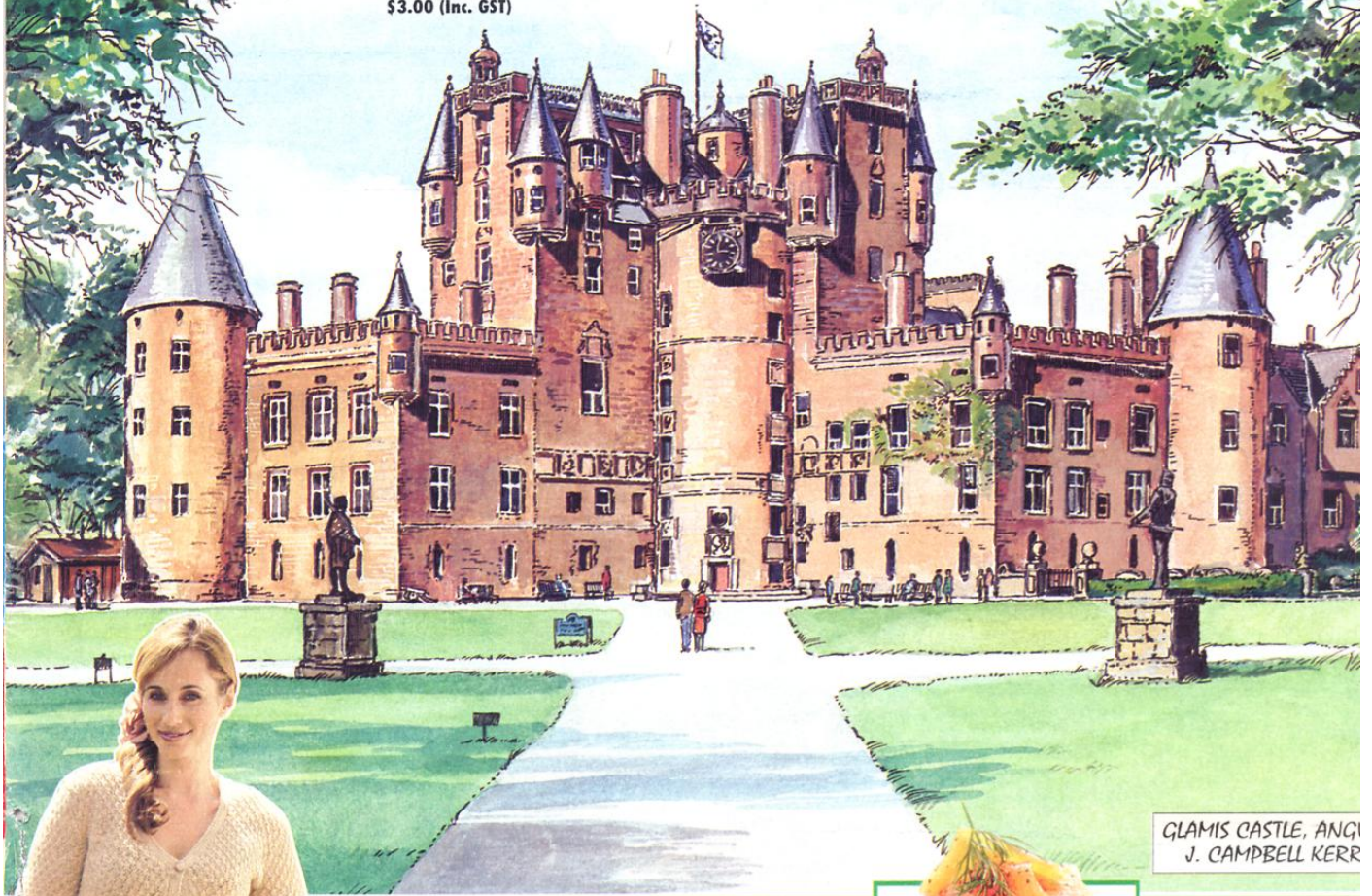
**THE FAMOUS STORY MAGAZINE**



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GLAMIS CASTLE, ANGL  
J. CAMPBELL KERR



**We Explore GLAMIS  
and Visit  
APPLEBY HORSE FAIR**



*Delicious*  
**Scottish  
Food!**

*Packed With Entertaining Stories*



**T**HIS is as near to a fairytale castle as you'll find in Britain. There's something mystical about the way the building emerges, slowly and majestically, as we drive down the tree-lined avenue.

Those ancient, rugged pink sandstone walls topped by turret after turret have an irresistibly theatrical air — it's a child's dream of a castle. Fittingly, Shakespeare set Duncan's murder here.

It's also fitting that Glamis should be the birthplace of that most theatrical of women, Princess Margaret. Of course, the Duchess of York had gone home to Mother to have her second daughter.

During my visit to Glamis I have the great good fortune to learn about its history from a more recent chatelaine, Mary, Dowager Countess of Strathmore. If "Dowager Countess"

conjured up a vision of Lady Bracknell or Queen Mary, I can assure you there's nothing at all formidable about Lady Strathmore. She's as friendly and down to earth as anyone you could hope to meet.

We're due to meet over a cup of tea in the restaurant, and my mother is with me. She gets quite a surprise when the Countess arrives!

Forty minutes later we haven't even begun the interview, or poured the tea, as we chat over every topic under the sun.

Finally I ask the Countess how she felt when she first arrived. "I was absolutely horrified,"



**THIS WEEK'S COVER**



The perfect fairytale castle.

she replies frankly. "We had this lovely manse in East Lothian, and after my husband's cousin died, we moved to what seemed an enormous, gloomy castle. It felt like my private life was coming to an end!"

"Then as soon as I got here I began tidying things up and making it a home."

How does a place like Glamis feel when you take over the day-to-day care of it?

"Well, it takes you over. We enjoyed working with a team of people, though, and I suppose we became one big happy family."

"I did enjoy it, though it was hard work, especially with a young family. One of my daughters was only five."

The castle first opened to the public in 1950, and "it was all very amateurish. A lady would stand near one of the statues and collect half-crowns from the public, and other local ladies would take visitors round. You really need an administrator to make it work."

The new Earl and Countess sought suggestions from the staff, and received the best advice from a down-to-earth Scot.

"Tea and toilets, in that order," and that's what happened.

If you want legends, this is the castle for you. Ghosts of all kinds have been sighted or sensed, though the Countess is serenely unaware of them.

"Come six o'clock, I used to be alone here, but I always felt the place was so big, it appeared to be looking after me."

"Having said that, I had a



Mary, Countess of Strathmore with a castle lion.



The drawing-room.

# Glorious Glamis

**Ian Lloyd explores a Scottish castle that looks the part, and holds thousands of stories within its walls — including a royal romance.**

Norfolk terrier, and one day in my study I saw its hackles rise and it growled at the door. I'm not going through there, I thought, and didn't open it. It was probably a spider anyway!"

**N**ATURALLY, I'm keen to know how the Queen Mother felt about her summer home as a child.

"She loved Glamis. They came here every summer till 1914, and then she spent the war here."

"She loved galloping down the drive on her horse in the wonderful air, and arriving back starving for breakfast. She always said that as an adult, if she couldn't sleep, she thought back to that. I think it was an important part of her life."

"In fact, she told me her earliest memory was of her grandparents' golden wedding in 1903. She recalled sitting on her grandfather's knee watching the fairy lights in the trees, outside what is now my son's study."

After tea, Lady Strathmore takes us round to the Italian Garden, pausing to show us a small pet's cemetery where even a much-loved guinea pig has its own little gravestone.

The Italian Garden was the work of Cecilia, the 14th



Heaven for royal watchers!

Countess, whose mother owned a villa in Italy which influenced the design.

Back in the castle, Mum and I are given a tour of the main rooms by Maureen Prentice, one of the guides.

You begin in a high Victorian dining-room, with its formal portraits of the Earls, and a grandfather clock with the names of all the 13th Earl's grandchildren inside — the Queen Mother's generation.

From Queen Victoria you move back with a jolt to the Middle Ages. The crypt is a spookily lit

chamber with suits of armour and animal trophies, a link with a more barbaric age.

In those days castles were fortresses first and foremost. When you look at how thick the walls are, you realise they'd withstand any onslaught. They make it chilly indoors, too!

On the spiral staircase is a



The spiral staircase.



Lady Elizabeth and her brother, David.

magnificent marquetry screen designed by David Linley, great-grandson of the house.

This part of the castle is more or less as Lady Elizabeth knew it, and as always, it's the personal touches that delight visitors, from the small chairs designed for the York princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, to the workbox belonging to their grandmother, Cecilia.

The most exquisite room in the castle has to be the chapel, with Biblical scenes painted on the ceiling, and a warm glow from crimson carpets and drapes.

When Lady Elizabeth married in 1923, her father set aside a suite of rooms for her so that she'd always have a home at Glamis, and there are more personal touches here.

The bed canopy was embroidered by Cecilia, and inside are the names of all thirteen of her children.

**F**ROM another eerie part of the castle,

Duncan's Hall, we descend to the bright room which houses the family exhibition. Anyone interested in royal memorabilia, from Coronation robes to family photos, will be in clover here.

Look out for a charming letter from twelve-year-old Princess Elizabeth to her grandmother, signed with her pet name, Lilibet, and ending with an enormous kiss!

The castle has witnessed many changes down the centuries, and there are more to come. The Queen Mother Memorial Gates will be up shortly.

Glamis has so much already that its administrator could be forgiven for sitting back and relying on what's already here to attract visitors. But there's more!

There are many eagerly anticipated annual events here, from the Strathmore Highland



The Italian Garden.

Games and the Transport Extravaganza to the famous Firework Proms.

This weekend Scotland's Countryside Festival is in full swing, so there's no excuse for putting off your visit!

Mum and I have many fond memories of our time at Glamis — not just the history or even the stories, but the warmth of everyone on the estate from Lady Strathmore down.

You can't help but enjoy yourself!

The End.



Mum with the Dowager Countess.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Glamis is open from the end of March to the end of December each year.

Tel. 01307 840393, or visit [www.glamis-castle.co.uk](http://www.glamis-castle.co.uk).

Scotland's Countryside Festival is on September 2 and 3, 2006, with the launch of Scottish Food Fortnight on September 1.