



Grace and Rainier preside at a state function.

# Princess Grace

## Is She Really Happy?

By ELSA MAXWELL

THE NEWS that Her Serene Highness, Princess Grace of Monaco, will return to Hollywood to make a movie—with Prince Rainier's complete approval—came as a great surprise, especially to their friends.

When Grace sent me word of her plans in advance of the newspaper headlines, I was frankly incredulous. For a long time, I sat staring at her cable, reading over and over the words: "Looking forward very much to doing this picture with Alfred Hitchcock."

Unquestionably, the fact that a Hitchcock production will mark her return to the screen was an influence on her decision to make another film. She always has enjoyed working with this imaginative and stimulating Englishman, who is well liked by Rainier, too. Several of her outstanding successes were made with Hitchcock: "Rear Window," "Dial M for Murder," and "To Catch a Thief."

The Princess obviously was also intrigued by the script of her new Hitchcock movie, "Marnie." It is a psychological suspense story in which she will play a working girl who is a compulsive thief until she marries a wealthy businessman and is reformed.

Obviously, it is an emotional need that brings Grace back to Hollywood—not a matter of finances, as some insisted. I have been told that Prince Rainier is on Monaco's official civil-service payroll for several million dollars a year. In addition, he has whatever wealth the

Grimaldis have built up over 900 years as rulers. And, what's more, Grace has the fortune inherited from her father. In tax-free Monaco, all this should go a long way.

I suspect it was to silence all these money rumors that Grace announced she was donating the fabulous sum she will receive for "Marnie" to a charity for needy children.

There has been another rumor, too—that Prince Rainier might be considering abdication. Like any other head of state, the Prince has his political problems, but I would be amazed if he ever abdicated. He has a very strong feeling for the ancient dynasty of the Grimaldis.

No, it would seem that the reason Princess Grace is returning to Hollywood is that she and the Prince have at last so firmly established themselves as husband and wife and as rulers of Monaco that they can afford a little more freedom in their lives.

To understand this, let's go back to the grave crisis faced by Princess Grace when she, a Hollywood movie star, married Prince Rainier, playboy of the European world.

Author Elsa Maxwell chats with Princess Grace.



Four-year-old Prince Albert poses with Mommy.

Palace protocol required that these gaudy images be replaced by dignified ones of a dedicated sovereign and his devoted consort. For years, it was vital that Prince Rainier and Princess Grace use the greatest discretion as to where they went, what they did, what they said, and whom they saw.

During this time, they appeared at innumerable functions, he resplendent in uniform with sash and medals, she beautiful in a Dior or Balenciaga gown. The sensitive understanding they both brought to this important job and the finesse with which they executed it should endure them forever to their ministers, their people, and their many admirers around the world.

WITHOUT DOUBT, the Prince was relieved to stay at home and settle into his job. And as Princess Grace redecorated their private apartments, supervised menus, and made frequent trips to the kitchen and the housekeeping departments, the ancient Palace of Monaco began to change from a gloomy pile of stone to a warm, bright, lived-in home.

Their greatest salvation has been their love for each other. Many times I've caught them holding hands beneath the table. This remarkable attraction brought excitement to whatever they did. Working together brought them a closeness they might never have achieved in any other way.

Wherever they went, whatever they did, Grace was every inch the princess—far more a princess, I must say, than many who are born to this high estate. And Rainier, slimmer as a result of menus carefully planned with his girth in mind,