

## KING CHARLES III

Mike Bartlett

KATE: It is bewildering that even now  
These little rooms of power are stocked full  
With white, and southern, likely Oxbridge men.  
Without the Queen, the bias is more stark  
The King's a man, Prime Minister as well  
Combine the front benches of both sides  
You'll have a female total of just four.  
And so despite emancipation we must look  
Towards the harder sex to find the power.  
But I know nothing, just a plastic doll  
Designed I'm told to stand embodying  
A male-created bland and standard wife,  
Whose only job is prettying the Prince, and then  
If possible, get pregnant with the royal  
And noble bump, to there produce an heir.  
Or two. And oft I'm told I don't have thought  
Or brains to comprehend my strange position.  
But being underestimated so  
Does give me what these men could never have  
Since no one asked me what I think, I can  
Observe and plan and learn the way to rule.  
For I will be a Queen unlike the ones before  
My mother's dad was in the north a miner born  
My father came from Leeds, and both of them  
When young and inexperienced did risk  
Their house and all they had to try and make  
A business of their own. But it's not just this stock  
I bring to these most distant regal realms  
But something more important and precise  
I have ambition for my husband yes  
And hope my son will grow the finest King  
But if I must put up with taunts, and make  
So public everything I am, then I  
Demand things for myself, I ask no less  
Than power to achieve my will in fair  
Exchange for total service to the State.  
Yes this is what, enthroned, that I will do.  
Not simply help my husband in his crown

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But wear one of my own.

But here's my husband, he's been on the phone.

*Enter WILLIAM.*

How did it go?