# Prince William’s fury over Meghan Markle’s alleged bullying deepens rift with Prince Harry



The ongoing saga surrounding Prince William and Prince Harry's relationship continues to unfold, with revelations highlighting both familial tension and workplace dynamics linked to the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle. Recent insights from Robert Lacey's best-selling novel, "Battle of Brothers," suggest that William's outrage over allegations of bullying within their household may have precipitated a significant rift between the two brothers.

According to Lacey, concerns about Meghan's treatment of staff at Kensington Palace were raised as early as 2017. Allegations suggested that she fostered a "toxic environment," with reports describing team members arriving shaken for meetings and one individual suffering from PTSD due to their experiences. This atmosphere was characterised by a barrage of early morning emails from Meghan, occasionally dubbed a "dictator in high heels" due to her reputed management style. When royal aide Jason Knauf presented a portfolio of grievances to William, it reportedly led to a furious response: the Prince was reportedly "astonished" and "horrified" by what he learned, viewing it as a breach of the Royal Family's longstanding tradition of treating staff as part of the family.

This incident sparked a heated phone call between the brothers, during which tensions escalated. Harry, in defence of his wife, reportedly shut off the phone in frustration, prompting William to confront him in person. Their altercations are viewed as part of a growing divide, which reached a notable climax during the infamous Sandringham summit in early 2020, where Harry alleged that he was "screamed" at by William.

While the estrangement garnered significant media attention, it is not merely personal relationships under scrutiny; reports have painted a complicated picture of Meghan’s professional interactions as well. Former staff members have recounted experiences of intimidation and manipulation, echoing the allegations portrayed in Lacey's book, describing Meghan as a figure who oscillates between warmth and coldness in response to her expectations. A source in a Vanity Fair profile described Meghan as someone who plays "checkers" rather than "chess," indicating a calculated approach to relationships around her.

However, the narrative regarding Meghan's behaviour is not universally negative. Some former employees have offered more positive assessments, claiming supportive interactions and a sense of care within her team. Such conflicting accounts underscore the complexities of working with a high-profile figure under intense public scrutiny. For example, employees shared experiences that highlighted personal attention and support from Meghan, challenging the singularly negative portrayal.

This divide in perceptions extends beyond just Meghan, leading to significant allegations against Prince Harry as well. Sophie Chandauka, chair of Sentebale, co-founded by Harry, has alleged "harassment and bullying at scale" after a public dispute, underscoring the toll that their high-profile roles may have on personal relationships.

As the intricate web of familial and professional relationships continues to unfold within the Royal Family, William's and Harry's strides toward reconciliation remain fraught with complexities. Speaking earlier this year, Knauf reflected on the painful nature of their estranged bond, emphasising that family dynamics can fluctuate, particularly under the pressures of public life. Though they were last seen together during Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in September 2022, the path to healing remains uncertain.

While public discussions surrounding the lives of Harry and Meghan often focus on perceived bullying and difficult behaviour, it’s essential to note the contrasting perspectives offered by various insiders—each portraying a different facet of life within the royal household. As these narratives continue to develop, the interplay between personal relationships and professional reputations remains a defining feature of this modern royal saga.

### Reference Map

1. 1, 3, 5, 6
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4. 6, 7
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14618019/How-Prince-William-went-ballistic-Meghan-treatment-staff.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.apnews.com/article/e32401f7e23cf38249e093dce5249523> - In his memoir 'Spare,' Prince Harry alleges that his brother, Prince William, physically attacked him during a 2019 argument over Meghan Markle. Harry asserts that William called his wife, Meghan Markle, 'difficult,' 'rude,' and 'abrasive' before knocking Harry to the ground. The book also delves into Harry's past, including his first sexual encounter, drug use, and his experience in the British Army, where he claims to have killed 25 people in Afghanistan. These revelations complicate Harry's hopes for reconciliation with his family, particularly with Charles III and William.
3. <https://time.com/6244729/prince-harry-william-altercation-spare-book/> - Prince Harry has alleged in his memoir, 'Spare,' that his brother, Prince William, physically attacked him during a 2019 argument over Meghan Markle. The Guardian reported that William 'knocked' Harry to the floor at Nottingham Cottage, causing Harry to land on a cracked dog bowl. The book details the incident, William's subsequent apology, and Harry's belief that their relationship has hit a low point. Despite the Palace's silence on the matter, 'Spare' is expected to be a revealing account of Harry's life, touching on his childhood, military career, and struggles within the royal family.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/prince-harry-accused-bullying-harassment-by-charity-chair-2025-03-29/> - Prince Harry has been accused of 'harassment and bullying at scale' by Sophie Chandauka, the chair of the charity Sentebale, which he co-founded. Chandauka made the allegations after Harry and the board of trustees resigned over a dispute with her, which he described as 'devastating'. In an interview with Sky News, Chandauka criticized Harry for publicizing his resignation without informing her or the charity's directors, claiming it inflicted significant damage. Harry and his co-founder, Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, stated that the relationship with Chandauka had deteriorated irreparably. Chandauka had previously voiced concerns over poor governance, weak management, and various forms of mistreatment within Sentebale. The charity’s trustees acted in its best interests by requesting Chandauka’s resignation, to which she responded by suing Sentebale to maintain her position. Representatives for Harry and Meghan did not comment on the allegations.
5. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/uk/dictator-meghan-markle-allegedly-terrifies-staff-reducing-some-to-tears-report-claims/articleshow/113356437.cms> - A recent report by The Hollywood Reporter has painted a rather grim picture of Meghan Markle’s leadership style, labelling her as a ‘dictator’ who instills fear in her staff. According to the publication, sources close to the Duchess of Sussex claim that she has intimidated employees to the point of reducing grown men to tears. One insider, in particular, described her as a 'dictator in high heels' who belittles those around her. The report delves into Markle’s management style, alleging that she belittles employees and does not take advice. Hollywood Reporter sources claim she often changes her mind and displays erratic decision-making, creating a challenging environment for those around her. Prince Harry, described as charming and personable, is said to enable her behaviour, making the situation worse, the report claimed. The high turnover rate among their staff has become a notable feature of the couple’s household, with several high-ranking aides leaving after short stints.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1675318/prince-william-praised-meghan-markle-bullying-claims-royal-latest-vn> - Reporter Valentine Low claimed in a new tell-all book, 'Courtiers: the Hidden Power Behind the Crown,' that Prince William offered a young female royal aide a shoulder to cry on following harsh treatment she had allegedly received from the Duchess of Sussex. His actions, which included asking her 'I hope you're ok?', have led to praise from British-Jamaican author and socialite Lady Colin Campbell. Speaking on GB News, Lady Campbell said: 'Good for Prince William. My understanding is he has been the one who was backing up the disadvantaged, bullied staff from the word go'. The socialite praised Prince William as he 'stood up' for Palace staff who were allegedly 'bullied' by both the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. One of the alleged incidents was reported to have happened in the run-up to the couple's 2018 marriage, with Meghan Markle purportedly erupting at a female member of staff in front of co-workers.
7. <https://www.newsweek.com/meghan-markle-staff-fightback-bullying-1958960> - Several staff members spoke out to Us Weekly to present a different account of Meghan as a boss. Most were ex-employees referenced in The Hollywood Reporter as examples of the way Meghan and Prince Harry were said to 'churn' through staff. However, their current head of communications Ashley Hansen was also among them. Josh Kettler was hired as chief of staff this year but left by mutual consent in August after only a few months and told Us he was 'warmly welcomed' by the couple. 'They are dedicated and hardworking. It was impressive to witness,' he added. Ben Browning, their former head of content, left shortly after the release of their Netflix documentary, which dropped in December 2022. He said his experience 'was positive and supportive,' adding, 'we all continue to be friends. The narratives we've seen suggesting the contrary are untrue.' Catherine St-Laurent, a former chief of staff from the early days of Archewell, said she 'remained close' to the couple and added: 'The time I spent working with Prince Harry and Meghan was incredibly meaningful to me.' Meanwhile Mandana Dayani, the former president and chief operating officer, said: 'Some of my favorite memories were during our weekly meetings in their Montecito home, where Meghan always served the most incredible lunches, snacks and her latest beautiful concoction.' She also described helping Meghan get ready for a gala: 'I walked into their room [and found] Meghan finishing her own makeup and steaming her jumpsuit. 'We all toasted with a sip of champagne while Meghan danced to her favorite oldies playlist.' Ashley Hansen, their global press secretary, told Us Harry and Meghan had been supportive after she had surgery: 'When I told them, I was met with the kind of concern and care a parent would express if it were their own child. 'I was asked what I needed, how and if they could help, and told to take as much time as I needed.' 'Most profoundly to me,' she added, 'Meghan would personally reach out to my husband daily to make sure that we both were OK and had support.'