



Wonder what a *real* prince is like?

The son of the Queen of England, the ex-husband of Sarah Ferguson and the father of two princesses is also surprisingly funny and down-to-earth. Over lunch, Prince Andrew chats with Carole Radziwill about princely behavior and his day job (yes, he has one!).

CAROLE RADZIWILL: Aside from being a prince, you work as the United Kingdom's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment. That's a big title. What does it mean?

PRINCE ANDREW: It means I was asked, as a member of the royal family, to take a greater interest in the business community of the country. So I travel around the world and recognize the work people are doing to create prosperity for the United Kingdom.

CR: Where have you traveled?

PA: Well, from the odd European country to as far afield as China, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. I'm planning a trip to the United States later in the year.

CR: And before that?

PA: For 22 years I was in the British Navy, most of it flying helicopters. I was 22 when I went to war; I thought I was invincible.

CR: We *all* think we're invincible at 22. How old are you now?

PA: Old enough to know I'm not invincible. [Laughs.]

CR: Your title is His Royal Highness the Duke of York. So you're a duke *and* a prince? Or just a prince? Which is higher?

PA: In the British royal family, sons and daughters of monarchs are princes or princesses. So you go in as a prince. I was given the title of Duke of York when I got married, so [I went] up a level to a royal duke. I was His Royal Highness the Prince Andrew, now I'm His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

CR: Do you get paid as a prince?

PA: [Laughs.] No.

CR: What is your typical day like, as an unpaid prince?

PA: It's exactly the same as the day you have, except that I happen to be a prince.

CR: You mean you buy 2 percent low-fat milk and pick up dry cleaning?

PA: I do the same things everybody else does. You're a prince and you get on with it.

CR: What is the most unprincely thing you do?

PA: Clean the loos and take the rubbish out.

CR: Do you really take the garbage out?

PA: If I happen to be going that way, why ever not?

CR: So, can you believe you're the father of an 18-year-old daughter?

PA: Before you go any further, I'm not old enough to have an 18-year-old daughter. [Laughs.]

CR: What do you do when a boy comes to take her on a date? Do you interrogate him?

PA: It's not my business.

CR: Wow, you're a good dad!

PA: Both Sarah and I trust our daughters entirely.

CR: Is it difficult for *you* to date when you have your security detail following you? Or is it a good exit strategy?

PA: Exit strategy?

CR: Say you're having a bad date...

PA: I've never had a bad date.

CR: You've never had a bad date?

PA: What do you classify as a [bad] date?

CR: You have dinner with someone and you realize you have nothing to say. Before I go on a date, I'll tell a girlfriend, "Call me in an hour." So when the phone rings, if I'm not having a good time, I'll say, "I've got to go—my friend's in the hospital." That's an exit strategy.

PA: I believe that if I'm out to dinner with somebody, then I'm out to dinner with them. But remind me when I'm next having a date with you, and I'll ring and ask for an exit strategy. [Laughs.] ©

COMING NEXT MONTH: Rachel Weisz

LUNCH DATA

WHERE: The Fox and Hounds, Egham, England

WHAT THEY ATE: Prince Andrew had poached Scottish salmon and asparagus salad. Carole ordered baked fillet of hake, crayfish and cucumber salad.