

In early June 2019, President and Mrs. Trump were invited to a state dinner in the United Kingdom hosted by Queen Elizabeth II. All of us at the senior staff level would get to attend—as well as meet the queen, Prince Charles, Prince William, Kate, Prince Harry, and the rest of the royal family. We were all beyond excited, but none more than the Trump children. It was the only trip in all four years that every single member of the family expected to attend, including Javanka; Eric and Lara; Don Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle, his girlfriend and Fox News fixture; and Tiffany and her boyfriend. All of them wanted seats at the state dinner that the queen would be hosting, as well as the dinner at Winfield House, the US ambassador's residence, which would also be attended by Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. Because of course, everyone began maneuvering almost immediately.

That trip is a good example—not that I needed another—of the complications caused by Jared and Ivanka's various ideas and requests. With seating and accommodations so tight, “the interns” used their role as family members to intimidate those in the advance and travel offices to allow them to have their own staff accompany them. It was a running joke in the East Wing that Ivanka and Jared each had a chief of staff. In a normal White House, only the two principals—the president and vice president—have a chief of staff. In the East Wing, the first and second ladies generally do, too. But in the Trump White House, having one's own chief of staff was a cool affectation.

The First Lady's chief of staff Lindsay Reynolds had dreamed of meeting the queen since forever, and in her role, she was hell-bent on making sure the Trump kids didn't ruin it for her just so they could be “seen.” In particular, it seemed that she intended to move heaven and earth to keep the kids off of Air Force One and Kimberly as well as Tiffany's boyfriend out of the official state dinner. “We are going to look like the Beverly Hillbillies,” she told me. “We'll be an embarrassment to the whole country.” Lindsay did ultimately succeed in keeping them off Air Force One, but her victory had repercussions. Don Jr. and Eric made their displeasure known to their father and when Lindsay got on board Marine One with the first lady to head to Joint Base Andrews, the president blew up at her. He told her that his children are “flying on a commercial plane right now” (as if that was the greatest burden any person ever had to bear) and she better never “fuck with his kids again.” As the president launched his verbal barrage, Mrs. Trump tried to intervene. “Don't talk to her like that,” she said. But the president didn't care; he was pissed. He let it be known that if anything else went wrong with his children on that trip, Lindsay would not be coming back to the United States with us. She was on his shit list for a long while after that and I felt terrible for her. I think we didn't realize that Trump was already sick of having his kids bitch to him about the trip and so our staff was a convenient outlet for his frustrations.