



The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

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Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum
Don't Forget About Me
A Girl Called Dusty - the book

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Topic

daydreamer Moderator

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 16:20:36



As I mentioned on another thread, A Girl Called Dusty is now on the shelves of The Works bookshop. It's at a discounted price (£6.99) and the cover is different to the full price edition, different photo and it's just called 'Dusty'.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 25/09/2008 16:55:51

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 17:50:09

Will Moderator



I can't wait for it to come out, Carole. I finished DWD late last night so I need more Dusty books to read lol. We seem to be doing well with all the forthcoming releases, tho I have to say I am most excited about Annie's release.

Anyway, what was the cover like?

Will

"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."

Blog- http://askyofhoney.com/

United Kingdom 7603 Posts

Baby Blue Moderator

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 18:40:06



This is the first I heard of this book. Please tell me more!!! More of the same and all the inaccuracies?

Marty

USA 3185 Posts

Cas19 Moderator

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 18:46:47



Haven't seen it yet Carole, but will look in town tomorrow, tho' its like the back of beyond here and unlikely to be in our small 'Works' store

Casx



'Something in your eyes'

8313 Posts

daydreamer Moderator

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 20:03:46



quote:

Originally posted by Baby Blue

This is the first I heard of this book. Please tell me more!!! More of the same and all the inaccuracies?

Marty

United Kingdom 5404 Posts

As in her introduction Sharon says ..."(thanks) To Pat Rhodes, whom I've known since we had small beehive hairstyles, for believing in me and inviting me into her friend's world. To Carole Gibson and Paul Howes who travelled with me on this journey, unravelling my muddled thoughts and astounding me with their knowledge...." I certainly hope not! Can't promise that there wont be any blips at all, but in no way is this book disrespectful to Dusty and unlike with DWD,

Sharon (and Annie), tried very hard to get things right.

Will, my scanner isn't attached right now but the pic on the front is the same as this one...

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Dusty-Springfield/dp/B0002NAF64/ref=sr_1_28?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1222369529&sr=8-28
Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 25/09/2008 20:12:16



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 20:15:21



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Did you proof read it Carole; I thought you'd been given an early copy? I'm looking forward to your words on the book because they'll mean a lot. It sounds like it's a proper biography and I know it includes copies of Dusty's birth and death certificates. It also sounds like it skirts over some issues; it's always going to be difficult to get the balance right though.

I went to my local Works book store (Croydon's Whitgift Centre) on Tuesday but they didn't have it. But out of London Works stores seem to be chocha with them. I guess I'll wait for my Amazon copy to come through.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Will
Wasn't born to follow
☆☆☆☆☆

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 21:43:52



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Now that sounds really good, Carole - I shall definitely look forward to getting a copy. Thanks, too, for the link to the cover image.
And how wonderful to get a mention!!! I'm thrilled for you :)

Will

"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."

Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>



Jenny
I start counting

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 22:13:10

45 Posts

My copy arrived from Amazon today! Plan on reading it ASAP! Gotta go 😊

Jenny



daydreamer
Moderator
☆☆☆☆☆

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 22:51:42



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

Did you proof read it Carole; I thought you'd been given an early copy? I'm looking forward to your words on the book because they'll mean a lot. It sounds like it's a proper biography and I know it includes copies of Dusty's birth and death certificates. It also sounds like it skirts over some issues; it's always going to be difficult to get the balance right though.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

We were being sent it bit by bit as Sharon was writing so I've not read the finished book with the paragraphs in the right order yet. I feel a bit too close to comment on it right now but I'd love to read the reviews of others and I'll point Sharon in the direction of the thread as it goes on. Yes, the certificates are in there, if a little small for these old eyes and there's a really nice, new (to me anyway) pic of the Lana sisters. The other pics are not rare and in fact, I believe that they weren't the ones that Sharon chose, the publishers picked their own.

It certainly doesn't delve into Dusty's private life as DWD's did (that's been done now anyway),but it can't ignore it either, that would just be silly in a bio.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



Chrispld
I'll try anything
☆☆

Posted - 26/09/2008 : 00:15:51



United Kingdom
1075 Posts

Thanks for that Carole.Just spotted the book in our local Works bookshop.Must buy it this weekend.!!

Chris



Cas19
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



8313 Posts

Posted - 26/09/2008 : 07:49:09

"As in her introduction Sharon says ..." (thanks) To Pat Rhodes, whom I've known since we had small beehive hairstyles, for believing in me and inviting me into her friend's world. To Carole Gibson and Paul Howes who travelled with me on this journey, unravelling my muddled thoughts and astounding me with their knowledge...." I certainly hope not! Can't promise that there won't be any blips at all, but in no way is this book disrespectful to Dusty and unlike with DWD, Sharon (and Annie), tried very hard to get things right."

Its always wonderful to be mentioned in books and on cds. You are always so knowledgeable Carole, brilliant stuff.

Casx



'Something in your eyes'



Heather
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
268 Posts

Posted - 26/09/2008 : 08:53:14

Lovely to see you have a mention in this book. Carole I will wait till Will buys it and borrow it from him!!
Heather xx



Cas19
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



8313 Posts

Posted - 26/09/2008 : 13:54:45

quote:

Originally posted by Cas19

Haven't seen it yet Carole, but will look in town tomorrow, tho' its like the back of beyond here and unlikely to be in our small ' Works ' store 😞😞

Casx



'Something in your eyes'

I take that back 😞 they did have 5 copies in store, and at £6:99p who could resist. I look forward to reading it later.

Casx



'Something in your eyes'



dusty_freak
I've got a good thing
★★★★★



Australia
5805 Posts

Posted - 26/09/2008 : 15:40:27

I think i may have pre ordered this on amazon but if not i'll definitely get another copy online 😊

Clare xoxo

"You know you've got it if it makes you feel good..."



allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★



USA
14235 Posts

Posted - 29/09/2008 : 00:58:42

<http://astore.amazon.co.uk/letadu-21/detail/0233002375/203-2629102-2102313>

Please support LTD and buy your amazon purchases here. thanks.

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



Cas19
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★

Posted - 29/09/2008 : 14:05:31

I finished reading the book last night, and although it was easy reading, and I was awakened to all the facts again, I



8313 Posts

didn't feel there was anything we didn't already know.

Casx



'Something in your eyes'



Posted - 29/09/2008 : 16:14:57

daydreamer Moderator



United Kingdom 5404 Posts

I agree that it's not a book written especially for die-hard fans, I think that's more likely to be Annie's one, you will know most of what's in this one unless you're new to Dusty, or know just a little about her. There are stories from other people in there that are a bit different, Leon Shaier's for example, it's really an overview of Dusty's life and career with no shocks. I've only re-read a couple of chapters so far and I've only spotted one obvious error....nothing to do with Dusty, but the Animals did not come from Manchester! Newcastle and the NE, so that's one of my corrections that didn't get changed....if anyone spots any others, don't hold back!

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



Posted - 30/09/2008 : 00:16:08

Chrispld I'll try anything



United Kingdom 1075 Posts

Just received the book Dusty by Sharon Davis as an early birthday present from my daughter. I found it quite informative about Dusty, and there were various facts mentioned that I hadn't heard about before.

Chris



Posted - 30/09/2008 : 00:29:41

memphisinlondon Where am I going?



United Kingdom 3565 Posts

Are there any deep insights?

It sounds like there is more accuracy around facts but do we learn more about Dusty as an artist ie her work in the studio and how she created her music?

Memphis

Ever since we met...



Posted - 03/10/2008 : 17:07:44

daydreamer Moderator



United Kingdom 5404 Posts

I can't say there is great insight into what went on in the studio with Dusty, there aren't many ways of getting that type of information any more, as almost all the people who worked closely with Dusty in the studio have passed away. So all information must come from researching archives and talking to those who are still around and knew Dusty. Pat was involved in the book all the way through and was happy with the outcome, we all know she hated DWD, so she was looking for it's opposite. I'm sure that Annie Randall's book will offer all the insight and analysis we need into Dusty's recording techniques, Sharon's book is a biography, the first thing Annie says about her book is that it's not. I have room for all books on Dusty on my shelves, two of each if they change the covers!

I was in town today but forgot to look in Waterstones to see if the full price edition with different cover and title, has hit the shelves yet. Anyone seen it?

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 01:16:57

memphisinlondon Where am I going?



United Kingdom 3565 Posts

Yes, I have it. I flicked though it, was a little disappointed and almost sent it back to Amazon. But I'm going to read it. I'd better get started!

Memphis

Ever since we met...

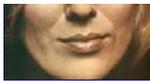


Posted - 05/10/2008 : 22:30:24

memphisinlondon Where am I going?



I finished the book today. First off I was impressed by Sharon's introduction. She has great credentials. She is an original fan, came to love soul music and Motown through her love of Dusty, and has met Dusty several times as a fan and as a 'Blues and Soul' journalist. Dusty told Sharon she'd like to see a biography written by her and asked her to 'be kind'. Pat Rhodes has been directly involved in the book and our Carole Gibson is referenced several times.



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Then I basically read through the book non-stop. I read for an hour last night and finished it today. What I value about it is that it brings many of the references we already know from radio interviews, press interviews, record reviews, web articles etc into one place in an organised manner. It includes lots of details that I didn't know, for instance, Dusty did tour the States just after 'Memphis'. And I hadn't realised how kind Martha Reeves was to Dusty in the early days.

Sharon doesn't exclude the more difficult areas of Dusty's life but she dwells so little on them she leaves the reader asking questions that aren't answered. She seems to expect that readers have read DWD but that won't always be the case. I could almost feel the struggle Sharon must have had to be truthful yet respectful to Dusty. But the book is not a total airbrushing exercise and it does have some edge to it now and then. Dusty comes across often as a very normal ordinary person who happened to be an international superstar and then you get a flash of someone who was very complex and not ordinary at all (which is what I would expect of most superstar artists).

I was left with an overall impression of a tightly strung woman that worked tremendously hard especially throughout the '60s and that this effort was eventually unsustainable. I hadn't quite realised how successful Dusty was from the very start. At almost regular intervals she would crash and burn out and be forced to rest. She was harassed by the paparazzi in the UK (but it was nowhere near as bad as it is now). We get some details of her record deals and at least one snapshot of her working in the studio shoes off and a head scarf running from the vocal booth to work the control desk. There could have been more as Dusty herself is on on record eg explaining how she got the piano sound on 'Some of Your Lovin'. But that's a small gripe and as Carole has pointed out many of her co-producers aren't here to explain and there are other books to be read.

At the back of the cover are 3 quotes from Lulu, Bacharach and from Dusty herself - the quote we read in the advance blurb *'My face is white but my soul is black'*. There is so much in this quote including Dusty's sense of otherness maybe alienation, and, the racial fusion she seemed to represent, embody or aspire too (at least in the 60s). There is really nothing about this complexity in the book. The quote isn't even included in the text. This for me is the biggest omission but maybe Annie Randall will fill in this gap.

The other omission is Dusty's childhood and family background. This is dealt with in very few pages and, for instance I still don't know if Dusty knew her grand-parents or had any aunts and uncles and cousins. But, overall, I liked this book.

Memphis

Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 06/10/2008 23:21:09



daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★

Posted - 06/10/2008 : 22:20:58



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Thanks for the review Memphis, it's good that you ended up enjoying the book. I asked Pat, not that long ago, about Dusty's relatives and it seems that apart from Tom, she just has some cousins left. I've seen flowers left by them at the memorial stone. As for her grandparents, I've never really given them any thought. As Dusty's parents weren't young when they married, I guess it's possible they had passed on by then. I certainly never heard Dusty talk about them, even in the early days.

I was pleased that Sharon got hold of Gib Hancocks eulogy to print in full in the book. I remembered parts of it from the funeral service and had wanted, for a long time, to be able to read it in full again. It tells of the Dusty the Hancocks knew, the friend and neighbour, not the star. Obviously a diva in both cases though 😊

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 06/10/2008 : 23:02:15



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Carole - I was writing while you posted. Thanks for the information and I must say thanks to you for I don't know what exactly but it's about caring about Dusty. I'll leave it at that. I also appreciated Sharon's inclusion of Dave Godin's essay.

I had to come back and I apologise for treating this site as my 'blog' sometimes. Sharon's book didn't move me deeply or make me want to play any Dusty songs. That's not a good sign. There is not enough in the book to make Dusty step out of the pages and connect with the reader. After I'd finished the book I picked up the Sunday newspaper. Today on the way home I read one of the free evening papers. Latent questions were answered:

St Mary's hospital is in Paddington (Mandelson has just been treated there); Dusty was taken here after harming herself. I hadn't realised this was happening in the UK too and presumably at the Aubrey house.

Women aren't often aware (today) that there is a clear link between alcohol and breast cancer. And alcohol dries up the vocal chords (so Michelle Williams, 28, of Destiny's Child doesn't drink very much at all).

The memories the book has left with me are Dusty spending a long time sorting through her large record collection before she left the States for Amsterdam. She couldn't afford the import taxes to bring them all over. The book doesn't say if these records, a big part of Dusty's life, ever crossed the Atlantic. I'd buy a book that just listed this collection.

Her volatility. Dusty's huge bank of emotion included negative energy and anger too. I imagine she must have alienated many friends because of it.

The executors of Dusty's Will/Estate were her old beloved neighbours. They knew Dusty as a friend and treated her like that rather than a superstar. They would have known next to nothing about Dusty's business details or her beneficiaries. There's a question over whether Dusty left any cash at all if the taxman was eventually able to take his cut.

The too hasty almost thoughtless bagging up of Dusty's possessions within hours of her passing, and then their disposal as if she was being erased.

Dusty's funeral hearse carrying Dusty all alone after the funeral with Carole watching over her along with Neil Tennant. Most of the other guests had gone to the reception. There may have been more people watching over her but the picture I have is of her truest fans being like close friends, even family, watching until she was finally gone. This is the strongest image I have from the book.

I've been waiting for a fully comprehensive biography. But given that Dusty is in the care of people who loved her and will always love her, as Dusty Springfield rather than Mary O'Brien, and want to protect her memory this may never happen. For the first time I thought well maybe that's how it should be. Books on Dusty don't extend beyond 300 pages. I have no other biographies that are this short. I'm puzzled why such an important person can be so reduced. The new Lennon biography is over 800 pages long; this helps show how little substantive information there is on Dusty and how few of her remaining family, ex-lovers and old friends are willing to fill in the huge gaps. Maybe it's already too late for the biography I want to read and maybe it doesn't matter. It's just her music, it's just her Voice as people say here.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 07/10/2008 01:08:11

daydreamer
Moderator
☆☆☆☆



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Posted - 07/10/2008 : 07:57:32

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

[i]Dusty's funeral hearse carrying Dusty all alone after the funeral with Carole watching over her along with Neil Tennant. Most of the other guests had gone to the reception. There may have been more people watching over her but the picture I have is of her truest fans being like close friends, even family, watching until she was finally gone. This is the strongest image I have from the book.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

To be honest, what Sharon has written there isn't quite as it happened. When we came out of church from the side entrance, we were stopped a distance from the hearse (see picture), the main guests were at the front door. When the hearse drove away, they were still at the front door as far as I could see and it was after that that they went off to the hotel. Dusty left alone but the guests were all still there, watching. Even an hour or so later, Pat was still around talking to fans.



Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 08/10/2008 : 01:05:16



Thank you, Carole. The photo knocked me back a bit earlier but I'm glad you shared it. I wish I had been there. I like the daisies.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 08/10/2008 01:15:13

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Rob
Administrator
★★★★★



Posted - 09/10/2008 : 18:11:17

Got mine at lunchtime today. I'll enjoy it during a week away in the caravan next week.

Rob 😊

United Kingdom
4205 Posts

allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★



Posted - 09/10/2008 : 19:32:30

Carole, are those priests in the white garb in the center of the photo? Also, how far down Hart street did the crowd stretch?

Looks like a couple of TV satellite trucks parked there, also.

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)

USA
14235 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★



Posted - 10/10/2008 : 08:54:32

The daisies were tied to the railings by a fan, he said because of the daisies Dusty used to fix in her hair. The two men in white are the clergy Nancy and as for how far down the road the crowd went, I would imagine to the corner where the hearse would turn left, I never really noticed, I was too concentrated on what was happening in front of me.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



Posted - 10/10/2008 : 18:39:40

I thought the daisies were such a beautiful and heart-felt touch. I'll bet Dusty would have been really touched to see that - and, of course, the crowds gathered respectfully for her.

Will

"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."

Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>

United Kingdom
7603 Posts

dusty_freak
I've got a good thing
★★★★★



Posted - 14/10/2008 : 12:37:38

I got my copy in the mail today 😊 I never read books ever, i havent even read all of the Dusty ones i have already 😊 But im gonna read this one coz i love the cover and also so i can pass the time on my lunch breaks quickly without spending money!

Clare xoxo

"You know you've got it if it makes you feel good..."

Australia
5805 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★



Posted - 14/10/2008 : 18:23:13

Sharon asked me in a mail today if I would pass this on...

"...I've been a regular visitor because I wanted to see what was being written about the book, and was pleased to read constructive criticism alongside nice words! Am really chuffed that folk have taken time out to put fingers to keyboard to air their views, and for showing such positive interest in the book. I like the nice words best though!!! Thanks muchly".

So keep your reviews, good or bad, coming folks!

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★☆☆



Posted - 14/10/2008 : 22:38:35

Well, how cool is that? Thanks Sharon for sending us such a nice nmessage. 😊 I forgot to say I liked the useful index too and the Norma Tanega quotes. Your book is now one of my references.



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I hope we get more reviews too. And if you ever feel like posting here I'd be interested to know how difficult or easy the book was to write. The obstacles (from the budget to the people) you encountered as well as the open doors. And what were your objectives for the book.

Lastly, thanks very much for a lovely Sunday spent with Dusty on my sofa!

Memphis

Ever since we met...



Dutchgirl
I start counting

Posted - 02/11/2008 : 22:13:27



Netherlands
18 Posts

Saturday I received the book 'A girl called Dusty'. I read it nonstop. 😊

I love the book. It is written with love and respect, you can feel that between the lines.

I think it is a challenge to describe a strong, charismatic and authentic person. (How can you ever be sure?) Especially when the person has had a unique life and a closed character.

I am glad that the writer makes it clear that Dusty went for it in live. (One of the many reasons why I like this book so much more then dvd.) How else could she have done the things she did? Being a solo female artist in the 60. Travelling around the world when that was not common, living in different countries (that takes courage). And finding out that you are (a little bit) different, for instance. As Dave Godin wrote, Dusty managed to be a star and a human being.

Reading a biography is good for your interest in the person and of course to please your curiosity. Personally I am reading it also to learn. The way Dusty invested in people around her (being a giver) is touching, knowing she has been disappointed by people as well, she didn't give up.

I didn't know that she was offered the part of Grizabella in Cat's. That is new to me. O, I wish she had done it. She would have been a fabulous Grizabella.

I felt a little bit sad after reading the book. Funeral and lost has that effect on me. But the legend Dusty Springfield lives on.

Thanks Sharon Davis, I think you have done her proud. 😊

Belinda

[black" Just one smile to make my life worth living
A little dream to build my world upon."[/black]

Edited by - Dutchgirl on 03/11/2008 09:33:29



Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Posted - 02/11/2008 : 22:25:40

Sharon - never mind just reading... join the forum :)

Will

"...I tried so hard, all summer through.."

Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>



allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★



USA
14235 Posts

Posted - 03/11/2008 : 02:56:00

So nice to see a post by you, Belinda, and glad to hear you enjoyed Sharon's book. I look forward to reading my copy!

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



Duztfan
I start counting

Posted - 05/11/2008 : 00:26:16

Hi everyone! I just finished reading Sharon's book this past weekend. It is the third Dusty book I have read (DWD+ O'Brien's "Dusty"). I agree with earlier posts about new news:

1. Cats opportunity – I would have loved to see her do it early in her career and would have loved a recording of her doing it at any time in her career! However, I think there would have been other plays more appropriate for her.
2. Food: She liked Thai and Indian food! I also read somewhere, maybe in this book as they are blurring together now, that she liked donuts and KFC. On one of the interviews she also said her cats ate human food like pizza! Me thinks Dusty may have enjoyed food in general as many of us do. Nice to think of her as easy to please on that front.
3. Did I read 14 stone? If I did and a stone is 14 lbs, I can not imagine Dusty ever weighed that much. She was only 5'3" and in every one of the 687 pictures I have found that cover the span of her life, I never saw her even look slightly heavy. Does admiration and love blind one that much? And even if she did, she would still have been stunning!
4. Her hellish work schedule was almost unbelievable! It is no wonder she collapsed on occasion! I resent the way they (the record companies) seemed to have just used her!
5. I did not know she sometimes lost money just to pay the musicians she knew she wanted/needed. Where were those record managers to let her do that?
6. The seeming disrespect allotted her belongings following her death. OMG, every single thing that was her, every

thing she had touched were priceless treasures. Whoever did that was/is awful! Even her black personally chosen cashmere suit that she wanted to be put to rest in was not to be found! I cried for two days (and am still enraged) that a simple request like that was not honored!

7. Her receptivity and approachability to her fans must have been really something! To think she would stay around and sign autographs and invite fans to her dressing room (what a privilege) was way cool! I wonder if any ever got to be an 'insider' with her?

I will stop there and address the fact that I liked this book overall. The tone was distinctly from a person who admired Dusty. She was treated with respect. The book had breadth in that it covered many years from several perspectives. What I missed here (and what I have missed in other 2 books) is depth. I want more insight into Dusty. What was she like to be with? Was she a diva or was she just a regular person? I would love to hear some stories from her friends: where are the tennis women? Where are her lovers? Where is Lee? I want more stories like Douggie shared with us recently. I am blessed and have a few very good friends. If one of them joined Dusty and I were asked to contribute to a biography, I could tell hundreds (perhaps thousands) of stories that would provide insight into them as a person AND I could do it in a way that respected their privacy. What are Dusty's "friends" protecting? Whatever she was, whatever she did, she, like each of us, was human. We who love her will love her humanness as well as her public persona. Hope I did not exceed some word limit....Ro

"the woman wants to make an album every time she steps on stage"



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 05/11/2008 : 02:36:50



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I really enjoyed reading the new reviews from Belinda and Duztfan. I certainly agree with Duztfan that we still need an in-depth biography. Because of the pressure to 'protect' Dusty I am left wondering what or who is being protected. Maybe it's not just Dusty who is being protected. It's like there is a Pandora's box out there that is just not worth opening because the 'secrets' would hurt people, distort our memory of Dusty and maybe there'd even be parts of Dusty that we wouldn't like, could not understand or would find just too painful to know about.

An in depth book would also cost money and encounter obstacles. If face to face interviews were going to be used then the writer would have to travel to the UK, USA, Canada and Australia and have a lot of time to absorb the facts and then write. Ex lovers may not want to be in the spotlight talking about very personal times with Dusty. Tom, Dusty's brother, does not give interviews. He's the only person that can give a rounded portrait of Dusty from childhood through to the 60s; without him we can have only scant details of Dusty's childhood and early womanhood. Dusty's childhood is crucial to our understanding of her as a grown woman. It's as if Dusty's childhood has been erased apart from a few stock details. Why? And Dusty's 'family' extends to people like Douggie and Madeline who knew her very well. I don't think interviews with them are referenced in this book.

What we have here is the best possible biography at this time given the constraints (Dusty's own papers appear to have been destroyed) and pressures. There is a lot of valuable material in this book and many valuable and new insights that I have not come across before. They point to yet another book which will build upon Sharon's research for 'A Girl Called Dusty'.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 05/11/2008 04:01:49



daydreamer

Moderator



Posted - 09/12/2008 : 08:55:33



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

'A Girl Called Dusty' has been listed in the Times recommended music books for Christmas 2008.

Sharon Davis's A Girl Called Dusty (Andre Deutsch, £18.99/£17.09) is an almost diary-like telling of the Springfield story. It's a warm counterpoint to the singer's former manager Vicki Wickham's rather harrowing Dancing With Demons. This Dusty - super-musical but neurotic - is hard not to love, whether through her penchant for throwing cheap crockery, or recalling the first time she met Burt Bacharach: "I was falling off my stool in ecstasy. He gave me four nice songs and now I'm thoroughly concussed."

http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/article5250866.ece

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



Will

Wasn't born to follow



Posted - 09/12/2008 : 17:25:56



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

My copy arrived a few days ago - can't wait to get started on it :)
- and the first thing I did, I have to confess, was look up a certain someone in the index ;)

Will

"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com



Tim

Where am I going?



Posted - 11/12/2008 : 10:35:24



My dog Barney has bought it for me for Xmas - so I am looking forward to reading it over the holiday break (if I get one)

T



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>

Posted - 11/12/2008 : 15:35:55

I've been reading it before I go to sleep each night--it's a real page turner!



USA
14235 Posts

Duztfan
I start counting

Posted - 12/12/2008 : 03:05:51

Tim, Barney has good tastes in gift giving. What did you get him? Ro

"just one blond bird battling a bunch of blokes"

USA
87 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 29/12/2008 : 10:09:29

A review by Jim Stewart from Beat Magazine.



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Moving memories
A GIRL CALLED DUSTY
 by SHARON DAVIS
Andre Deutsch. ISBN: 9780233002378
 Normally a new book about my favourite female singer, Dusty Springfield, would be approached with caution, as recent efforts have either been views through rose-coloured glasses, or typed right-handed, with a six-inch blade in the author's other hand behind their back, however, 'A GIRL CALLED DUSTY' by SHARON DAVIS is in a totally different league.

Sharon knew Dusty for a number of years, asked for her approval about writing her story, to which Dusty's response was: 'Be kind', possibly aware of how many perceived her. Having read Sharon's work in 'Blues & Soul', and previous books, she knew that Sharon would not shy away from the troubled and complex aspects of her character, that others would exaggerate.

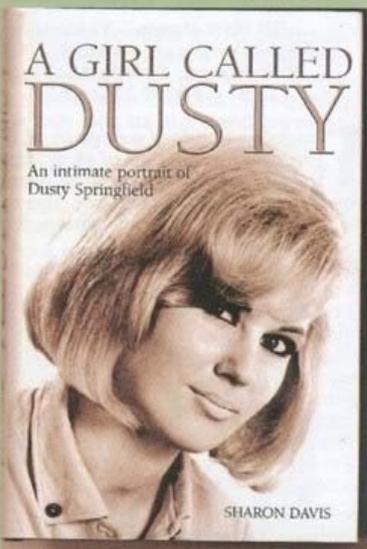
Writing from her personal recollections, and those of Paul Howes, Fan Club President, Pan Rhodes, her personal secretary, Vikki Wickham, and Simon Bell, among others, she paints a picture of the UK's most talented artist, the girl who re-invented herself in 1963 to become as much as an icon for the era as The Beatles, and went on to conquer the world on stage, while slowly losing control off stage.

The tantrums, the self-doubting, and other problems which turned Dusty into a recluse, are all covered, some answered, others not; but you feel that, with every page, honesty over-rides everything.

The photo section contains professional, and private, pictures of various stages of her life, but the use of the birth, and death certificates, on the first, and last pages, is particularly poignant.

This may not have been the easiest book for Sharon to write, but you get the feeling it's the most worthwhile, and if you only want one book about Dusty, this is the one to own.

Jim Stewart 2008




Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Kathy

Wasn't born to follow

Australia
6508 Posts

Posted - 29/12/2008 : 12:30:44

My brother bought it for me for Christmas 🍷🍷 Looking forward to reading it.

xx
Kathy

"You're still here on my mind..."

**Tim**

Where am I going?

United Kingdom
3422 Posts

Posted - 29/12/2008 : 22:48:44

Ro - my dog had lots of exotic dogtreats for Xmas in return for my book!

Back to the book itself - it suffers in a way from being late to the party in comparison to others already written.

On the downside - to us fans - it obviously takes the main weight of its material from information freely available on Dusty and adds little really new - and many of Dusty's stories have been more satisfyingly told elsewhere.

As befits an avid reader and part-time bookseller(!) - after a first read through I felt I was missing the fresh illumination of the subject that signifies a really good biography.

Many of the people having been involved in Dusty's story having passed on - and others remain silent - so getting any new interviews must have been a challenge - so on balance I think it would be unrealistic to expect too much more at this point.

It's nevertheless pleasant reading and brings a slightly softer focus Dusty to the sympathetic mind.

It's a kinder book than DWD to present Dusty to the world in general outside of her hardcore fanbase - and I appreciate the respect Sharon has shown to her memory and legend. It has a nice little place on my bookshelf.

For reasons of economy - I've waited to purchase but I'm going to treat myself to Queen of the Postmods next.

Wishing y'all a Happy New Year

T :-)

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>

**allherfaces**

Administrator

USA
14235 Posts

Posted - 29/12/2008 : 23:19:03

Oh the whole I agree with Tim's assessment. In the first part of the book I felt there were some fresh pieces of information, but as it went on it felt more like a collage of already gathered information. I think for someone who hasn't read a Dusty biography, it is an okay place to start, and as you say, is a pleasant read.

I was disappointed that the information from various sources was not credited in endnotes. Some other books have a similar problem, and it doesn't feel right to me to not credit where the information came from. Also, for a researchers and fans cannot easily find the original source, if it's not credited.

x N

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.

**Tim**

Where am I going?

United Kingdom
3422 Posts

Posted - 04/01/2009 : 20:45:11

Good points N (of course).

Being laid up with a horrid virus - I took the opportunity to read it again today. I had a kind of guilty feeling I had given it a bit of a mauling on here - maybe I was niffed at it for not throwing fresh light on Dusty.

However all too often it seems often guilty of slightly misquoting sources that I have read before - so I found myself not trusting what new info there is to be particularly accurate. It is surprising what a difference a single word can make to the meaning of what was said by whom at the time.

In this retelling of her story though what often transpires though is just how damaged Dusty's confidence and judgement became - for some reason this is clearer to me reading this account than in other biographies - perhaps because Sharon sidesteps some of the most controversial personal situations to focus on tracking Dusty's career.

As an example - what could Dusty's reasoning have been behind denying 'Donnez Moi' a dance remix? Why make an album in that style without taking it to the club scene? Very frustrating. But then we don't have all the facts. Perhaps it was a business issue. I do like the inclusion of fans bemoaning her lack of activity and her defensive reply. Sharon's partiality shifts at this point for a moment. I can remember wondering at the time where the hell Dusty was promotionally during the launch of 'Reputation'. I wanted to see the woman behind this amazing voice.

As another random point - Sharon refers to Dusty 'forcing her voice to reach notes beyond her natural range and how it would later affect her recording career' yet she never elucidates on this. I can't help thinking that in promising Dusty she would be kind - she kind of tied her own hands and limited the scope of her analysis.

In conclusion I do find this a likeable book though I wish the proof-reading had been better - Quaaladaas? Please. Reminds me of a Pina Colada - though somewhat more soporific I think LOL. Probably just what I need right now to blot out this bug...ha ha ha

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>



ErgoFergo
I'll try anything
☆☆

Posted - 26/01/2009 : 20:48:44



"though I wish the proof-reading had been better - Quaaladas?"

I'm glad someone else spotted that! I came across a few typographical and spelling errors. I did wonder whether the edition I have (the one sold on the cheap through The Works) was an earlier draft. I didn't want to mention it for fear of sounding pedantic - but I think Dusty deserves a little more editorial accuracy!

Vicky
x

United Kingdom
1047 Posts



daydreamer
Moderator
☆☆☆☆

Posted - 27/01/2009 : 18:17:53



I have both copies but have only read one of them, the cheaper version, but a quick scan through makes me think that both are the same. As for errors that should have been picked up by a proof reader, I couldn't agree more, that is after all, what they get paid for. I get cross whenever I find bad errors in any book and it's surprising how often it happens. If it annoys the reader, the author must be doubly incensed, if they ever read their own books that is!

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."

United Kingdom
5404 Posts



Topic

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