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Snowbird

Little by little
★



USA
463 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 06:09:52

Can someone please tell me why there is such controversy over *Dancing With Demons??* Is there any solid proof that this book, or any part of this book, is untrue?? I read it, and thoroughly enjoyed it. It made me laugh and cry at the same time. I've always loved Dusty Springfield. This book made me love her even more. I'm hoping that the hours I spent reading and rereading this account of Dusty's life was factual. Has anyone researched and discovered that this book is anything other than the truth? Please, please tell me if you do. The controversy over *Dancing With Demons* fascinates me.

Love,
Leigh x

Snowbird

Little by little
★



USA
463 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 07:37:58

Sorry, I've posted this topic in the wrong place.

Leigh x



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?
★★★



USA
2606 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 08:06:43

I think it's mostly controversial because it was seen as exposing Miss Dusty's very private life in a very sordid way while she was barely cold in her grave. Her manager was supposedly one of the people Miss Dusty could have trusted, yet she used her trusted position and friendship with Miss Dusty to make a quick buck. I can't see any other reason to write such a biography so soon after she'd gone. Whether or not it's all true I think only La Dust could answer, and were she alive, who'd have the guts to ask her such extremely personal questions? If the personal details in the book (true or embellished) had to come out, I think it would have been a better idea that they come out long after she'd passed. Lucy O'Brien's autobiography was a much better idea, because it focused more on Miss Dusty as the tremendously talented woman she was.

That being said, I agree with you, Leigh. I only love her more knowing what she went through, and have much more respect for her. I certainly can't say the same for V. Wickham.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 17/01/2009 08:15:41



Will

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 08:48:19

Leigh, I've moved this topic into 'Getting It Right'.

Will

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

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com



Mads

Where am I going?



Australia
3323 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 13:42:26

My opinion was that although it makes fans love her even more, the stories in DWD were all events that Dusty worked hard to keep private. If she wanted to tell them, she would have done so.

Also, some of her other very close friends (Pat Rhodes, Fred Perry etc.) have all stated that they thought much of it was fictional. Fred Perry even wrote page after page of corrections.

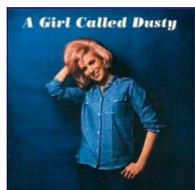
I guess its just too tabloid and sensationalistic for many of us.

LOVE MADS.



Cardiff Bluesgirl

I'll try anything



United Kingdom
1809 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 15:32:34

yes and Pat Rhodes told V Wickham that she thought it had totally betrayed Dusty and I would trust her more than any of those other so called friends. Apparently Dusty also told her that she should be prepared to read unpleasant stuff as she knew she would be betrayed by people that probably Pat wouldnt have thought would do that to Dusty. As I have said before it was Dusty and the music we loved we dont need to know all her private stuff she didnt need to know ours to know we were her real fans.

liz mason



Snowbird

Little by little



USA
463 Posts

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 15:49:41

Thank You Will

There are so many songs for me that won't be sung....

Love,
Leigh



paula

Moderator



Posted - 17/01/2009 : 22:51:24

Yes , it was stated that some things were fictional..most likely due to the urgency to get the book out to make a little money 🤔 I also admit that a lot of the personal details did enhance my level of interest in Dusty ...details that were known (just that I and maybe a larger part of the public was not) I think some of these details could have been written more tastefully, with more respect...I can't imagine anyone would want the sorted descriptions of themselves after a messy night or the intimate details of a rough period of time splashed across the pages of



USA
5012 Posts

a book for all to read, after they have gone. 🙄

I am just finishing up with Sharon Davis's book and (though a lot of time has gone by and more is out in the open) it includes some of Dusty's personal life without the sordid details that are quite unnecessary and really private...and includes more of what DWD should have written more of and that would be Dusty and her MUSIC!

It's kind of like a good horror flick with all the suspense and scariness.. without the bloody, gory details.

paula x



Tim
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

Posted - 18/01/2009 : 15:13:07

DWD was written around interviews with people that were fooled into cooperating with it in good faith. Much of the US part of it was speculative but written as fact. It was also NOT authorised by Dusty's estate - this was a sly move on the part of the writers -and feels like a trick that was played in order to give the book credibility that it doesn't deserve. It has forever tarnished Vicki Wickham's reputation and now I think she regrets it but the damage is done.

It has its good points but its accuracy is in serious doubt in many places. Dusty was impossible at times I'm sure but she deserved better than this from people she allowed into her life. She was wise enough to expect this kind of betrayal. Dislike it as I do it does have a place in telling aspects of Dusty's story, but it is almost completely lacking in discussion of her work as an artist.

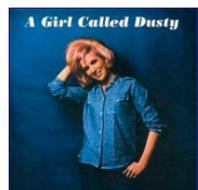
I find it quite chilling that people would rush an expose on her life into print within months of her passing.

T x

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>



Cardiff Bluesgirl
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1809 Posts

Posted - 18/01/2009 : 16:14:19

yes Tim I couldnt agree more,imaging "friends"doing that as soon as you were gone?/ horrible.

liz mason



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 18/01/2009 : 21:47:34

Hi Leigh

Since we've spoken about this before you know what I think already. I have a question. How would you have written this particular book, with all this information at hand, taking into account the potential audience (you can judge that)? This is not a trick question!

The only book that was available at this time was Lucy O'Brien's which was written when Dusty was alive. I bought DWD in October 2000 but it was published a little before then. Dusty passed away in March 1999.

Here are three snippets from the UK BBC News to give a flavour of how Dusty was perceived in the UK at the time of her death and funeral (which were featured on the national TV UK news and in all our national news-papers):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/67646.stm>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/289661.stm>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/295552.stm>

Memphis
 Ever since we met...



Snowbird

Little by little



Posted - 19/01/2009 : 12:43:28



Hi Memphis!



USA
 463 Posts

Thanks so much for the 3 links. I've read these articles many before, but I read them from a different perspective this time. Memphis, we in the U.S. felt the exact same way about Dusty. It had nothing to do with her having lived here. I loved Dusty from the first note I ever heard her sing. I didn't even know she had ever resided in the U.S. until she passed away. We always looked at Dusty as a glorious result of the "British Invasion." I don't know whether you "Brits" know it, or not, but us "Yankees" over here lived, slept and drank the MAGIC that came to us from a far away land called England. YOUR music made us who WE are today. Every American girl wanted to be Dusty Springfield. I know, she cost me a ton of money in just eye make-up!!! Forget about the hair turning green when I tried to go from brown to blond. Memphis, Gerry Marsden's comment with regards to how Dusty would have wanted us to remember her as "a load of fun," is exactly how I remember her. And, the comment she made pertaining to wanting "to go out with a bit of style," is exactly how she went out. Needless to say, her "personal" style can never, ever be duplicated! No book, no matter when it was written, or, no words, no matter how "hurtful" they may seem, can change my mind about what I SAW in a woman named Dusty Springfield. Memphis, I read DWD not knowing when it had been written. I thought about skimming through the book again to see how I would write it. Then, I thought, of course, I would have written it differently because I'm not Vicki W. Would I have left certain things out of the book? Perhaps. Or, maybe I would have rephrased certain issues in a different way. I know, we are all going to have to continue to "agree to disagree" with regards to DWD. It's an autobiography. It's how someone is seen through the eyes of another. Why VW wrote this book is anyone's guess. Did she feel that by telling others of Dusty's woes may have helped others in some way? Perhaps. From my own personal perspective, it helped me. I so wish that Dusty could have written her biography and shared it with the world. Do you feel she would have let us in and shown us a bit of "the real" Dusty? Something in my heart tells me she would have. She was class, soul and a whole lotta fun. But, I mostly love her because she was human. Thanks Memphis for hearing me out here, as usual 😊 Thanks everybody for your opinions. I appreciate all that you given. x

There are so many songs for me that won't be sung....

Love,
 Leigh



Carole R.

Where am I going?



Posted - 27/01/2009 : 16:22:43



Just a short note regarding this Leigh:



When DWD came out, it wasn't very long after Dusty died... Many of us were shocked and upset by what we perceived to be Vicki Wickhams and Penny Valentines 'betrayal' of Dusty and her 'secrets'..

Nothing about it made us love Dusty any less, and as others have said, reading about her various 'demons' made us love her more.

2242 Posts

I was thinking about having another read of DWD.. All of our senses and reactions towards Dusty's untimely death were still very 'raw' at the time of the books

release.

I wonder after a number of years passing, and after a re-read we will still feel the same way as we did on first reading the book..🗨️

I might give it a try....Anyone else?

Carole R xx

"Let everyone debate the true reality, I'd rather see the World the way it used to be"



daydreamer

Moderator



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

📅 Posted - 27/01/2009 : 18:26:23



I've said many times how I felt when I first read the serialised excerpts in the Daily Mail and it wasn't a good feeling. As others have said, it didn't make me think any less of Dusty, not in any way at all, but I did feel cheated and upset that her story was being told in this fashion by her friends. I do believe now that most of the stories told, were based on fact but they were Dusty's stories to tell and she'd never chosen to tell them. I also have only read the book once, though I have dipped into it on occasions to read something again. I don't have the same feelings about it now as I did, except for the fact that it is full of errors.....loads of them! Not only did Fred Perry list them in depth but someone else I know also made a list to add to Freds. The book was rushed, maybe for money reasons or maybe because Penny Valentine was already ill. They never consulted with people that really knew facts, like Paul Howes, not even when they did the re-write, if they had, then maybe some wrongs could have been put right.

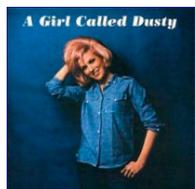
Carole x

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



Cardiff Bluesgirl

I'll try anything



United Kingdom
1809 Posts

📅 Posted - 28/01/2009 : 14:55:30



I agree with the above two comments and yes I suppose as times move on its probably easier to read it without being wild as hell with them for writing stuff that Dusty hadn't said herself. I think as I have said before it still makes me mad thats its done when the subject cant reply or respond. I still think they cashed in and I still wont agree that they should feel it ok to disclose some of the personal stuff. they were meant to be friends and some things friends know should remain known only to them. I dont think time passing changes the initial errors of judgment these people made. I also agree however that as life long fans it certainly wouldnt affect any of us re our interest in her as an exceptional talent.

liz mason



allherfaces

Administrator



USA
14235 Posts

📅 Posted - 28/01/2009 : 15:44:48



Leigh, I think it's a good question. DWD made a big difference in Dusty fandom, Leigh, and it was the first bio I had read and it blew my mind. I have to say that's where my feelings of protectiveness for Dusty (and so many others) began. Obviously the woman and her music have kept a grip on me. But of course like many Americans, I didn't know that much about Dusty or her music to begin with.

At the same time, I feel that the book was one of those rush jobs to make money right after someone dies, and that is so rude. They didn't take the time to get things right, and just as bad, they didn't take the time to craft an indepth and truly compassionate picture of Dusty nor give us an indepth appreciation of her musical talent. If they were going to hang all her laundry out in public, at least they could have done it with more insight and respect! I have a theory that some ppl associated with the book felt that D had put them through a lot of grief in their lives and maybe owed them money too, and felt justified in getting "the estate's" permission to write the book and recoup some of what they felt entitled to.

I think many if not most Dusty fans can deal with the fact that the woman had troubles, but what I think some writers fail to realize is that it's DUSTY the fans care about, not how shocking a story can be revealed, or even the peripheral players in the drama who feel Dusty owed them something. Just look at how fans respond to say, Pat v. Vicki. That ought to tell you something. And what has Vicki contributed to Dusty Day or any other celebrations or remembrances or philanthropies in her name? That speaks volumes to me. Compare that to Mad, Simon, Pat and more. Where you see VW is in consulting to TV shows or plays from which I'm sure she's getting a nice sum, and bringing in Patti LaBelle of all people to sing YDHTSYLM and accept D's award at the Brit Music HOF awards. I realize I'm on a tangent, but bear with me. Compare Patti's comments and even Nona's about Dusty to Joss Stone's! We don't want to hear at a freakin award ceremony that D could drive people crazy--we want to hear how fantastic her music was, which is what Joss raved about. And I daresay her rendition of SOAPM "glorified" the music, just as Martha Reeves says that Dusty did for hers. Whereas Patti ... well, is the best she can do in accepting an award for Dusty to say I want to sing that song again. IT'S ABOUT DUSTY.

I am sure I'm not alone in pining for a truly great biography of Dusty, but in the meantime I'm awfully glad for Annie's book (truly great, but not a bio). She doesn't sugarcoat anything, but she highlights Dusty's amazing musical accomplishments. That's so important, not only because they were truly amazing and unique, but because with all the focus on Dusty's troubles and even sexuality, that can get lost. The fact that Dusty preferred women is obviously very important to me, but I could give a ***** **** about it if she weren't the greatest singer to have come from England's green and pleasant land. Annie also gives the fans their props--surely we are an important part of the story. What did you hear about us in DWD?

x N

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



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