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#### Author

Topic

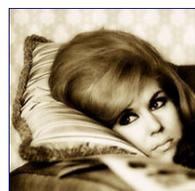
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#### Hampson

I've got a good thing



Posted - 28/01/2009 : 22:16:07



Tell you what I think's wrong with it, it's a Judas Iscariot book and to compound that 100 times over, it was sold to the Sunday Mail to serialise. We all know how everyone looks at those Sunday scandal papers in this country (if not to make money then why else). I personally think Dusty would have been horrified at that betrayal from friends.

Apart from that it was badly written and disjointed.

Wend

Edited by - Hampson on 28/01/2009 22:17:05

United Kingdom  
4703 Posts

#### spooky

Little by little



Posted - 29/01/2009 : 05:36:40



Thanks, Leigh for starting this thread. My first problem with DWD is that (as Tim mentioned) it has the term "authorized biography" in its title. Everyone--from the publishers to the authors-- knew that this was misleading as it implied that Dusty herself had authorized it. When I first saw the book cover, I remember thinking "wow, Dusty gave someone the authority to write about her." I felt that I'd bought the book under false pretenses when I learned later that the "authorization" came from the estate and that D most certainly knew nothing about it. It's rather telling that no one has ever said publicly that Dusty herself authorized or knew about this "biography."

My second problem (again, this repeats what's been said before by Carole G and others) is that it seems particularly criminal, given Dusty's own perfectionism, that the book should have been so incredibly sloppy. Though I would never pretend to speak for Dusty, I would imagine that she would not have objected to the book had it been done with some style or elegance or wit.

My third problem is the "tragic lesbian" subtext (not so sub, really). Penny and Vicki made D into a tired stereotype by leaving out so much (i.e. her MUSIC!!!) and dwelling on tabloid-ready episodes from her relationships. The disproportionate attention to some things and utter lack of attention to others really bothered me and revealed, sadly, the authors' impoverished worldview while producing for an unsuspecting public a wildly unbalanced "biography." The book does the most damage for readers who know nothing about D and pick it up expecting "a life." When regarded from that perspective, DWD's power to shape perceptions and influence D's legacy becomes obvious. I don't think Vicki and Penny did this maliciously. I think it's a result of rushing the book to press and their own limited skills. Is this really Dusty's life? Surely it's only small bits of her life magnified beyond comprehension, made even larger and more disturbing by the absence of anything else. Dusty deserves a real biographer with real credentials to write her life story comprehensively (and with some style for God's sake!). I cannot imagine any fan objecting to a treatment of both Dusty's personal life and her artistic life

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within the context of a solidly researched biography.

BUT what's great about DWD it is that it provoked incredible backlash among fans and got us to focus even more clearly on why we think Dusty is so great. It seemed to motivate fans to tell, tell, and retell the full story (i.e. on fan forums like this). I have no doubt that someone will write a really good biography one day because there is a real demand for it among fans.

Good to read everyone's comments on this.

Annie

warten und hoffen...



**daydreamer**

Moderator



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 11:04:02



quote:

*Originally posted by spooky*

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Good to read everyone's comments on this.

Annie

warten und hoffen...

What have you got on for the next 3 or so years Annie? 🤔😏

Carole x

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



**Will**

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 18:04:57



Nice one, Carole :)

**Will**

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

Gallery: [www.askyofhoney.com](http://www.askyofhoney.com)



**spooky**

Little by little



Posted - 29/01/2009 : 18:25:12



Carole, I'm tempted! (Just posted a reply but I guess I wasn't logged on properly...I'll try to remember what I wrote...)



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There are many obstacles to writing the biography that we'd all like to see. The main one is the lack of information from Tom Springfield. He won't talk and that's his right, of course. He's the *\*only\** source I know of that could tell us many of the early family dynamics and early musical things. We have some of this from Lucy O'Brien and various scattered sources but Tom is, without question, the one with the closest and most informed perspective.

Also, there's the "out" problem: Many people who were involved with Dusty (not just in sexual relationships but as friends also) just won't talk even though attitudes toward sexual orientation have, thank God, loosened up a lot. People are, understandably, protective of their privacy and don't want to put themselves in a position of being judged or taken out of context.

I'll say it here: if such obstacles were removed, I would do the biography myself. And Carole, I think 3 years is a conservative estimate! :)

xoxo Annie

warten und hoffen...



**daydreamer**  
Moderator  
★★★★★



United Kingdom  
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Posted - 29/01/2009 : 22:30:03

You are of course, absolutely right Annie. Without Tom's involvement, the full story can never be told. I wish he would give it some thought because Dusty is so important in the history of pop music and he really needs to understand that! There's a great big chunk of her life story missing. I'm sure in the process of researching your book you came upon the brick wall of silence from some of Dusty's friends, they'll go so far and that's it. I appreciate and respect their reluctance with the private stuff, but what about the rest of it? There must be so many stories out there waiting to be told and I for one want to hear them before it's too late and all those withholding have gone to that great big litter box in the sky!

Carole x

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



**Will**  
Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★



United Kingdom  
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Posted - 29/01/2009 : 22:42:02

>>The main one is the lack of information from Tom Springfield. He won't talk..<<

At the risk of asking a redundant question, Annie, I take it, then, that he has actually been approached and asked?

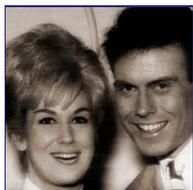
**Will**

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

Gallery: [www.askyofhoney.com](http://www.askyofhoney.com)



**spooky**  
Little by little  
★



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Posted - 29/01/2009 : 22:56:45

Good question. I didn't ask Tom directly. It was made clear from everyone I talked to that he just didn't want to be contacted. Perhaps I was a wimp to have accepted this at face value. It could be that everyone just repeats that "fact" about Tom, that "he won't talk," when it may not be true, or maybe it was true then but not now. It's possible that he might have changed his mind by this point. As far as I can gather he was not involved in any of the posthumous documentaries, articles, or books. I'm sure a lot of people involved in those projects must have asked him for interviews or information.

I should try again.

I must admit that I've been fantasizing about it all afternoon, imagining what he might say, what sort of memorabilia he might have.

Carole G is right, I did hit the "brick wall" with Dusty's circle of friends. But I learned a lot nonetheless. Sometimes you learn more from someone's silence than from what they actually say.

Annie

warten und hoffen...



**allherfaces**  
Administrator  
★★★★★

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:05:41

Annie, I think I can speak for all of LTD when I say we will buy your cab fare to Chelsea if you dare to knock on the man's door.

x N

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



USA  
14235 Posts

**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:25:53

I'll chip in for that. I'd like to talk to Tom myself, just from a music fan's perspective. After all, if he'd never gotten involved in music, Miss Dusty wouldn't have either, and he did help bring her to wider audiences with the Springfields, gave her a smash hit in 'Losing You' and went on to good success with the Seekers. I think people underestimate his talent and contribution a lot of the time since his sister went on to all the fame.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



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Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 29/01/2009 23:26:25



**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:33:02

Annie, just out of curiosity, who are Miss Dusty's circle of friends you talked to? The only ones I know of that were close to her are Simon Bell, Pat Rhodes, Lee Everett, Madeline Bell, and a few girlfriends who (understandably) wouldn't necessarily want to "out" themselves. People's wishes should be respected and they shouldn't be pressed for information, but I rather echo Carole's sentiments...I'd love to hear about some of the less personal stories, as there must be so many out there.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



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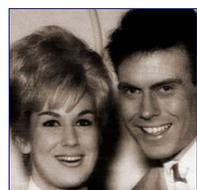
**spooky**  
Little by little  
★

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:35:40

I agree with you, MissDustyFanatic, that Tom's role and his own status as a composer/performer gets overshadowed by Dusty's accomplishments. If the bio were to be written it would have to include huge chunks on Tom alone as well as in relation to Dusty.

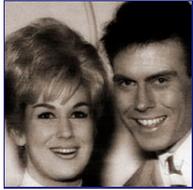
Annie

warten und hoffen...



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**spooky**  
Little by little  
★



Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:44:05

About the out issue: What I found is that it's not whether they will talk but what they will talk about. The brick wall Carole G referred to was more of that nature. This is the case with many public figures' biographies--that the stories come rolling out several decades later.

Annie

warten und hoffen...

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**Will**  
Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★



Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:49:47

>>we will buy your cab fare to Chelsea<<

Cab? CAB? Nancy, this is LTD. We don't do cabs. I'll collect Annie at the airport and drive her there and back :)

On a less chucklesome note, I should have explained above that when I wondered about Tom having been asked, I meant generally and I didn't mean with regard to your own book specifically, so please forgive me if i put you on the spot there, Annie. All the same, should you feel so inclined.... ;)

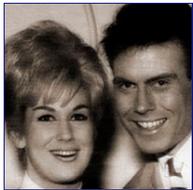
**Will**

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

Gallery: [www.askyofhoney.com](http://www.askyofhoney.com)

United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

**spooky**  
Little by little  
★



Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:57:27

Well, Will...there's safety in numbers. So maybe I'll go if you knock on the door with me!

Annie

warten und hoffen...

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