

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans
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Dusty, Karen, and Tammy

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=2432>

Dusty, Karen, and Tammy

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by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sat Apr 23, 2011 5:35 am**

Has anyone noted to similarities when it comes to Dusty and Karen Carpenter?
I just finished reading two new books. One is on Karen and the other Tammy Wynette.

Here are some things I noted. Both were tomboys growing up in the shadow of talented older brothers who it seems were favored by mom. It appears they both kind of hero worshipped their brothers, they became involved in music to keep up with them. As talented as Tom and Richard were they both brought their baby sisters into their band as featured vocalists. Both Dusty and Karen had husky unusual voices. However, both girls didn't like the sound of their voices. Both had poor self body images and sought to hide behind something. Dusty hid behind the hair and makeup and Karen behind her drums. As a result of their insecurities they both turned anger inward. Dusty with drink, drugs, and self-harming and Karen with eating disorders. Both seemed to suffer from a lack of attention from their mothers. Neither was lucky in love.

However, what set Dusty apart was her independence. That's something I admire about her. Karen still lived at home well into her twenties and sought approval from Richard in everything. She did whatever he told her to do. Dusty couldn't wait to break out on her own and I think had a much warmer and normal relationship with her brother. Karen's mother had way too much influence on her life. In the end Karen was a rather broken person physically and emotionally. Dusty had come through hell and died with her dignity and reputation intact. We lost both of them too soon, especially Karen.

I think the book about Karen, titled "Little Girl Blue", is an interesting read.

Now as far as Tammy is concerned this is the second book about her that mentions Dusty's look as an influence. This is from the new book. Wynette was more of a beauty icon than Dolly or Loretta. The look of the sixties really suited her- big hair, eyeliner. But Tammy was not a cartoon character. She was an incredible mixture of being a sexy woman and having this restraint to her. Almost like Dusty Springfield.

Also, Tammy, real name Wynette Pugh, was asked if she felt like two separate people. She replied, "Yeah, they're two separate people. Wynette Pugh was a scared little farm girl that made a lot of mistakes. And then there's Tammy Wynette, who got most of her education on the road- and has to be what the Tammy Wynette name implies when I go out onstage." This reminded me of the Mary/Dusty persona. I just found it somewhat interesting.

Re: Dusty, Karen, and Tammy

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Wed May 25, 2011 7:27 am**

It does seem that Karen And Dusty had a lot of emotional and psychological experiences in common - especially the Mother/Brother dynamic. But you're right in saying they

handled it differently.

There are also interesting parallels between Dusty and Elvis. Both grew up wanting to be involved in acting - singing was just something they could do. Both were intuitive musical geniuses. They couldn't read or write music but they took control of their recording sessions - choosing the songs, working out the arrangements and backing vocals and getting the sound just right. Oddly they both relinquished that control for the first time when they decided to record in Memphis - Dusty in 1968 and Elvis about 6 months later in 1969. At the same studio - American Studio (which is now a paint store).

Dusty and Elvis were personally shy but when they went on stage their charisma was palpable. Both were wracked with self-doubt about their talent and ability (before every show, right up to the end, Elvis needed an hour in his dressing room to gather the courage to go on. His last words to anyone before going to the wings was always "What if they don't like me?").

It seems that the Greeks were right - for every gift there is a curse and with the help of the gods we try to overcome the curses to enjoy our gifts.

Maggie

Re: Dusty, Karen, and Tammy

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Thu May 26, 2011 5:52 am**

👍 Just caught up with this. Very interesting, and thanks for sharing you two. 😊

Re: Dusty, Karen, and Tammy

by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sat May 28, 2011 5:06 am**

From what I have read Elvis loved YDHTSDYLM. It's a pity they never met. I bet Elvis would have liked her. I've read he liked petite feminine women with big hair and lots of makeup. Plus, Dusty had manners. Of course the fact that she could sing R&B so well would have been an added attraction. When I was a kid his old movies were shown quite a bit; I thought he was so handsome. I don't know who looks best in black leather, Elvis circa 1968 or Jim Morrison circa 1967. I'd take either one. As for Tammy, it's almost painful to read about her physical deterioration for the last ten years of her life. It seems her voice was pretty well shot, too. One of the things I find amazing about Dusty is that no matter what hell she had been through with drugs and drink I think she still retained her looks. So many in her position look worn out and older than their years. Dusty, to me anyway, always looked classy.