

# Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans  
<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/>

## Have anyone read this?

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=1631>

## Have anyone read this?

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by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 4:44 am**

I came across an article from 1999 by Peter Sheridan. What caught my eye was the remarks from Norma Tanega. Here is an excerpt:

WHEN Norma heard about Dusty's death from cancer last Tuesday at the age of 59, it was inevitable that her mind went back to that late Sixties day in the Granada studio.

From her home near Los Angeles, Norma said: 'I really loved her. I loved her up until the end. She was really a true friend, more like a sister to me.'

That's how hard her death has hit me.

She was obviously a very important part of my life. She was a very gifted person, but she had a difficult life. It's unpleasant for anybody to have to deny their sexuality.

'Dusty was haunted by her own insecurities.

There was a vulnerability in her voice, and how she felt was one of the things that struck a chord with everyone and made her so loving.

'Her insecurities made her want to be perfectionist. Dusty had a great sense of humour about all of this. She'd say, "What about all those heterosexuals? It must be very unpleasant for them too, having to hide in the closet."

'But there are so many men who have to do that: singing songs about boy-girl love while their hearts are elsewhere.




Though I hadn't seen her in a while, I spoke to Dusty by phone, up until the end. She faced her illness the way she did everything else - very emotionally, which is how it was with her singing.

She'd be up, and then she'd be down.' In deference to Dusty, Norma draws a discreet veil over the more intimate details of their relationship, explaining: 'I must respect the way she was, not talking about it. Times have changed, but people still have to be careful of what they say

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 5:09 am**

   Aww-w-! I'm really touched reading that. God bless Norma for her respect, and dignity.

Thanks SLB, that was a gem.  

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 7:38 am**

A true friend indeed.

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **small town girl**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 10:54 am**

thanks for that SLB 😊

what a sweetheart norma is, i got teary eyed reading that. ❤️

anita x

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **SweMaria**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 11:14 am**

I reacted the same way when I read that Anita!

Norma seemed to be such a nice person! 🙌🌹

Thanks,SLB! 😊

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Fri Oct 22, 2010 1:22 pm**

Just found this on YouTube. She hasn't changed much, except for the hair colour. 😊

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgzoJZXVPHw[/youtube]

## Re: Have anyone read this?

by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sat Oct 23, 2010 1:55 am**

Looks like I didn't proofread my subject heading. I can't believe I used "have" instead of "has". My excuse is that it was late and my cat was standing in front of the keyboard 😊 When I first read this it made me sad. I'm happy that Dusty had a partner that really loved and respected her, but sad to think of the pressure they were both under in trying to have what most of us in the hetero world take for granted: the right to have a loving relationship with someone. In reading about her life I have become much more sensitive to how gays have been and still are treated in society. If that movie ever gets made when it comes time to focus on Dusty's sexuality I hope it concentrates more on her struggle to have love in her life. In addition, I hope the love story, and to me that is what it should be called, between Norma and Dusty is portrayed in a positive light rather than focusing on numerous liasons she may have had. These are two intelligent, witty, and talented women trying to have a life together knowing how society might treat them if their affair is discovered.

I think Norma must have really cared for Dusty to just pack up and leave her country and family to risk this relationship. I always wondered if Norma left Dusty because she was trying to protect Dusty from the press finding out about their affair. I also thought maybe by coming back to America she hoped Dusty would follow and they could live more freely in California. I have much respect for Norma. She knows how to talk about Dusty in a positive way without giving away too much information. A few months ago I was in a used

record shop in St. Louis looking for Dusty's albums. I'm looking through her albums and stuck between two of Dusty's albums I find Norma's album. Well, I ended up buying Norma and Dusty records and Norma's is well worth getting if you have the chance. I like to think the songs Norma wrote and Dusty recorded as being gifts for each other. I think Norma's gift was a song for Dusty to sing and Dusty's gift to Norma was to record them. Also, I read somewhere that if one pays attention it seems Dusty sang Norma's songs without any "dustyisms." This would set them apart from other songs she recorded. So maybe this was Dusty's way of saying "these are special to me."

### **Re: Have anyone read this?**

by **Cas19**

Posted: **Sun Oct 24, 2010 2:39 pm**

I enjoyed reading the first article I don't recall seeing it before. Thank you. Also loved the short video, thank you.

Casx

### **Re: Have anyone read this?**

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Sun Oct 24, 2010 6:45 pm**

I did remember reading those words from Norma before and when I checked, I found I have the whole article. It came under the heading "The love affairs with women that Dusty kept a secret from the world" and was one of many that appeared in the British press in the weeks after Dusty died. I never met Norma but those who have say she is very guarded and discreet about Dusty but happy to talk about the musical side. The press got hold of very little detail about Norma and Dusty being a couple back in the 60's and apart from the odd fan pic, I never saw pictures of them together. I was told that that was likely due to Mike Gill, Dusty's publicist back then, his job was to protect Dusty from the media's stories and he did that very, very well.

### **Re: Have anyone read this?**

by **humboldt**

Posted: **Sun Oct 24, 2010 10:12 pm**

Thanks for posting. Norma is a very sweet lady indeed.