

# Let's Talk Dusty!

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

## Books

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=6449>

### Books

by **sam\_c**

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Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 12:01 pm**

Hi Guys

Being new to the Dusty world 😊 can anyone please tell me the best books that are out there?

Very grateful in advance 🙏

### Re: Books

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 12:57 pm**

The best is Anne Randall's DUSTY: QUEEN OF THE POSTMODS.  
Then Edward Leeson's DUSTY SPRINGFIELD - A LIFE IN MUSIC.  
And Laurence Cole's IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

There is a book of interview clips called SCISSORS AND PASTE that's a good read, as well.

The "biographies" that have appeared since Dusty's death have all been, to varying degrees, garbage because none have told the truth about Dusty's life. Perhaps the new one scheduled to come out in June will be better, but who knows...

Maggie

### Re: Books

by **sam\_c**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 1:41 pm**

Thank you Maggie I will check all of these out 😊

### Re: Books

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 2:06 pm**

These are good recommendations (and Annie's book is also my favorite), but The Complete Dusty Springfield by Paul Howes is an essential reference to her recordings and Looking Good Isn't Always Easy is a beautiful coffee table book of photographs (same author).

A great biography isn't out there, Maggie is right, but as a fan, you should read at least one. Dancing with Demons is the most controversial. Sharon Davis has written the most recent one. The totally useless one, IMO, is by David B. Can't mention his name because if you criticize his work he will threaten to sue you.

### Re: Books

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 2:35 pm**

I think it depends on what you are looking for in a Dusty book. I agree with Nancy that for reference of all things relating to Dusty's career, The Complete Dusty Springfield is an absolute must and invaluable. Lucy O'Brien's 'Dusty' was written a few years ago now and updated after Dusty's death. It was the first of the bio's and not a bad read. I like the Sharon Davis book, it's not sensationalist like 'Dancing With Demons' but it is factual, tells the story chronologically and unlike DWD was proof read properly! Both those ladies are music

journalists, so that was the main theme of their books. I wouldn't call either of these books "garbage" btw, they just don't go for all the personal stuff. Annie Randall's book has a more academic leaning but is still very enjoyable and different. Scissors and Paste is a good one too but hard to get hold of now I think.

## Re: Books

by **Cas19**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 3:13 pm**

Scissors and Paste is the one I'd recommend, its one I always go back to over and over again, I never tire of it.

Casx

## Re: Books

by **donellac**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 6:52 pm**

I agree Cas that Scissors and Paste is a good read.

It is not an actual biography. It has been put together from newspaper articles that were written about Dusty over the years. But at one point David Evans talks about Dusty and her Mum working on her look together.

I found this a bit curious as I have never seen any mention, in anything I had read before or since, of Kay being involved in developing Dusty's look. I asked Pat about it at Dusty Day and she made it quite clear that she didn't believe Kay had any involvement in the look. She said that Dusty found all of it from reading French magazines and copying the style of the models.

As to proof reading in this book, although it shouldn't spoil your enjoyment, the book is littered with proofing errors. This includes one chapter which ends in the middle of a sentence!

I also agree that the books recommended here are well worth a read.

## Re: Books

by **dig123**

Posted: **Tue Apr 29, 2014 9:20 pm**

Hey Sam, I was in the same position you are in a few months ago. I've bought 5 books so far, found them on Amazon and most were used. I did find Scissors and Paste. Good luck!

Di

## Re: Books

by **sam\_c**

Posted: **Wed Apr 30, 2014 1:54 pm**

Thank you so much everyone. I have ordered Scissors and Paste and will now look up a few more. Can't wait to learn more and like a lot of you I am not interested in the personal stuff that Dusty herself would not have wanted made public.

Hope your all having a great day. :-)