

# Let's Talk Dusty!

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

## Lucy O'Brien

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=6209>

Page 1 of 1

### Lucy O'Brien

by **dig123**

Posted: **Wed Mar 12, 2014 8:17 pm**

After reading reviews and comments on which books to read I decided to start with the revised version of Dusty by Lucy O'Brien. It answered some questions I had but also gave me some questions to ask. I found it very interesting and wonder if all the info is accurate? I read Dusty wasn't happy with this book....why? It's the first I ever read that Dusty dated a man for a year. True? Also, I know this is a long shot but.....it stated Dusty toured the US in 1972. Did she ever get closer to New England than NY? Did she tour here in the 60's? I just don't remember. I saw everyone back then ESPECIALLY in the 70's.

### Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Wed Mar 12, 2014 11:44 pm**

As far as I know, Dusty appeared at 3 venues in succession in 1972, in NY, New Orleans and Los Angeles. Not exactly a tour. A tour of the US in 64 was cut short when Dusty collapsed in Tulsa, not sure how many (if any) dates she had done before that but it's likely documented somewhere. Then later in the 60's, a 30 day tour of US collages was cancelled. So not a lot of luck on the US tour circuit! As for the one year relationship with a man, Dusty did tell that story in the UK press, which would be why Lucy O'Brien wrote about it.

### Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Thu Mar 13, 2014 3:06 pm**

The reason Dusty wasn't happy about the original book, published in 1989, was that she agreed to be interviewed by O'Brien for a magazine article and she talked to her for all of two hours. Shortly after Dusty read a press release stating that O'Brien had a publishing deal to write a biography " based on extensive interviews".

Dusty felt it was just another instance of someone making money off of her. The only way to stop it would have been to offer to write her own autobiography, but Dusty didn't have any intention of doing that, so she had no recourse.

Maggie

### Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **cMdM333**

Posted: **Thu Mar 13, 2014 11:58 pm**

I thought the "man" she was engaged to was Carole Pope...I think I heard her refer to "him" as a musician from Canada...

C

### Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **dig123**

Posted: **Fri Mar 14, 2014 2:09 pm**

It wasn't Pope. I saw that interview with Dusty. The guy's name is Howard and he was in love with her according to the book. I don't remember what year it was. I've read so much and this is the first time I've heard this.

### Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Fri Mar 14, 2014 11:32 pm**

Dusty gave an interview in Woman magazine headed "I won't be alone forever" in 1978 where she talked about "Howard".

daydreamer wrote:

Dusty gave an interview in Woman magazine headed "I won't be alone forever" in 1978 where she talked about "Howard".

In your opinion, Carole, was the relationship with "Howard" real or just a cover? Do you have a link to the interview?

Re: Lucy O'Brien  
by daydreamer

There are many who think it was Dusty's way of getting the press off her back and if so, such a shame that she had to be put in that position. I guess only those who knew Dusty at that time could really answer if there ever was a Howard (other than her agent) who was important in Dusty's life, I don't like making assumptions 😊



Re: Lucy O'Brien  
by pat.dunham

Thanks for that Carole. Very true what Dusty said about a convent school and relationships with men. I went to a convent school (as a non-catholic) and had similar thoughts instilled into to me, so I empathise with Dusty.

Re: Lucy O'Brien  
by IWannaBeABluesSinger

All the references to Howard that I've read seem to imply that he was more interested in Dusty than she was in him, but they socialized for about a year because she was unattached.

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **dig123**

Posted: **Sat Mar 15, 2014 6:13 pm**

Yes, thank you for posting the article. Very interesting and a pity that the press just wouldn't leave Dusty alone on that topic. One of the drawbacks of stardom I guess. Dusty should have been born about 30 years later. She really was ahead of her time.

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Mon Mar 17, 2014 4:08 pm**

*cMdM333 wrote:*

I thought the "man" she was engaged to was Carole Pope...I think I heard her refer to "him" as a musician from Canada...

c

I think you may be confusing two situations-

Howard was the man Dusty mentioned in a 1978 UK interview. This is the man mentioned in Lucy O'Brien's book, but another party is quoted as saying they recall Dusty briefly being involved in the late 70's with a manager named Howard. DWD mentions it briefly and sort of mocks Dusty for it, saying she further "confused matters" by making him up.

In 1981 in an interview on Australian TV Dusty mentions being involved with a musician from Canada (and I believed she said they were engaged). That may have been Carole Pope she was referring to...

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **dustyfan92**

Posted: **Mon Mar 17, 2014 5:19 pm**

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## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Mon Mar 17, 2014 9:36 pm**

The reason the press hounds gay people is to put a target on their back so the bigots can find them more easily. That's all.

Maggie

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **LilCajunGirl**

Posted: **Tue Mar 18, 2014 1:43 am**

*pat.dunham wrote:*

Thanks for that Carole. Very true what Dusty said about a convent school and relationships with men. I went to a convent school (as a non-catholic) and had similar thoughts instilled into to me, so I empathise with Dusty.

I, too, went to Catholic Schools all my life. I am a Catholic, although not practicing at the moment. I did not have that experience, since we were not taught by nuns in the 60's and 70's, but by lay teachers. My mom was one of them. Hell, our nuns didn't even wear habits (Progressive?). All the segregating of the sexes, in my opinion, causes young people to not know how to act with each other. Bad move on the Vatican. It is changing within the last 10 years. Some of the Catholic high schools in New Orleans are coed, some not. But at least they have a choice. Back in the 50's, those nuns taught people all kinds of crap.

My parents taught us to be able to talk to anyone, whether its the Garbage man, the POTUS, or HRH Queen Elizabeth! And above all, be a Lady or a Gentleman, at ALL times! My dad used to make the boys stand whenever my mother and I walked into a room!

I guess what I'm trying to get at here is its the parents job to sort of buffer the teachings. From what I read, Dusty probably didn't have much parental influence in her upbringing. Not judging, I'm sure they did their best, just an opinion.

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **JMFabianoRPL**

Posted: **Thu Mar 20, 2014 2:30 pm**

### *IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:*

The reason Dusty wasn't happy about the original book, published in 1989, was that she agreed to be interviewed by O'Brien for a magazine article and she talked to her for all of two hours. Shortly after Dusty read a press release stating that O'Brien had a publishing deal to write a biography " based on extensive interviews".

Dusty felt it was just another instance of someone making money off of her. The only way to stop it would have been to offer to write her own autobiography, but Dusty didn't have any intention of doing that, so she had no recourse.

Maggie

Boy, if she thought that about the O'Brien book, what would she say if she were here and saw what was to follow???????

(Speaking of which, I am proud to say that, as one of my libraries has That Other Book, and as it was my job to clean up the biographies, I took it upon myself to put a disclaimer inside basically encouraging further research and MUSIC LISTENING to get the WHOLE story!)

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **JMFabianoRPL**

Posted: **Thu Mar 20, 2014 8:23 pm**

### *dustyfan92 wrote:*

I do not understand why the press and other people feel the need to speculate and stick their noses into Dusty's business about whom she was attracted to and with. I do not care if Dusty was a lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, or used no label. I just wish she would have found someone to be with who would have treated her right, whether it was a woman or a man. If she wanted to talk about it, fine. If not, that is fine too and people need to respect that.

I am not at all referring to any fans discussing Dusty's relationships. I have noticed that people here are very respectful of her and feel the same way I do in regards to her privacy. I was only referring to the press and what not.

This. I know I should not deny who a person was, but the discussion hits a sore spot on me, for two main reasons. Number one, I've seen (been in the middle of, even!) some ugly fights online between Dusty fans over what their stances on sexuality and even feminism was. I've seen online communities splinter back in the day because this got out of hand.

Number two, talking about it reminds me of how that part of Dusty was abused 14 years ago when it comes to That Book. Not sure if I will ever totally forgive it and the people involved, even going on 15 years on!

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Fri Mar 21, 2014 3:26 am**

I'd like to think that we're to the point, especially on LTD, that we can have calm and respectful discussions when we talk Dusty. If a topic or thread bothers a person, you can move on to another one.

We mods have our eyes on things, and try to keep everything in a fairly even keel. Since we have so many passionate fans and all of our unique personalities, you might think it would be difficult, but fans here seem to have a mutual respect for each other, and I've seen a real maturation of us as a (evolving) group and individually for some too, over the years.

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Sat Mar 22, 2014 4:39 am**

*JMFabianoRPL wrote:*

*IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:*

The reason Dusty wasn't happy about the original book, published in 1989, was that she agreed to be interviewed by O'Brien for a magazine article and she talked to her for all of two hours. Shortly after Dusty read a press release stating that O'Brien had a publishing deal to write a biography "based on extensive interviews".

Dusty felt it was just another instance of someone making money off of her. The only way to stop it would have been to offer to write her own autobiography, but Dusty didn't have any intention of doing that, so she had no recourse.

Maggie

Boy, if she thought that about the O'Brien book, what would she say if she were here and saw what was to follow?????????

Dusty knew what was coming - she told Pat Rhodes exactly who would betray her. But she also said "Don't worry. When I'm gone they can't hurt me."

Maggie

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **JMFabianoRPL**

Posted: **Sat Mar 22, 2014 3:02 pm**

Maggie, I know, but that doesn't quite make me feel better. Maybe they can't hurt her physically or mentally, but I always worry about her reputation and legacy. That and the wrong people getting their way, which happens in this world too often in general.

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Mon Mar 24, 2014 1:58 am**

I totally agree JMFabianoRPL - especially about "That book". Dusty's true story will be told - perhaps soon.

Maggie



## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Tue Apr 01, 2014 10:07 pm**

*pat.dunham wrote:*

Thanks for that Carole. Very true what Dusty said about a convent school and relationships with men. I went to a convent school (as a non-catholic) and had similar thoughts instilled into to me, so I empathise with Dusty.

 Everything "bad" I know I learned in the catholic school, or boy scouts. 

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **JMFabianoRPL**

Posted: **Wed Jun 04, 2014 11:36 am**

*IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:*

I totally agree JMFabianoRPL - especially about "That book". Dusty's true story will be told - perhaps soon.

Maggie

Here is a general question for you all...do you think that book hurt Dusty's reputation and how certain people see her?

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **LilCajunGirl**

Posted: **Tue Jun 10, 2014 8:21 pm**

Hi everyone! First let me apologize for my absence. Busy busy busy! The school year is over and books are closed. I am off for the next month, so you will be seeing much more of me.

Jim, I feel that with true fans, "that book" won't hurt Dusty's reputation in the least, because we see right thru it!

And really, anyone with a lick of sense would see that it was being done for financial gain. Fan or not!

Just my two cents...

## Re: Lucy O'Brien

by **JMFabianoRPL**

Posted: **Thu Jul 17, 2014 8:07 pm**

As I said here and in the other folder, I respect Lucy even more now given recent events.