

Let's Talk Dusty!

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

Which book??

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=1970>

Which book??

by **eloise**

Page 1 of 1

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 11:50 am**

Hey everyone!

I've loved Dusty's music for a few years, but have recently been wanting to know more about this amazing women, so I was wondering what were your suggestions for further reading about Dusty.

I'd love a biography by someone who actually knew her, if such a thing exists.

Let me know the best place to start please guys.

With thanks,

Eloise

Re: Which book??

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 4:22 pm**

Unfortunately, the only book written by someone who knew Dusty was Dancing With Demons by Vicki Wickham and Penny Valentine, both friends of Dusty. The book was rushed out, contains a lot of errors and a lot of stuff Dusty would probably have wanted to have kept secret. It's not all bad but it's not a definitive biography if you're wanting to know more about Dusty's musical career and less about personal stuff. It could have been a brilliant book, if they had taken more time and it hadn't been so lopsided towards the "demons". Both Lucy O'Brien and Sharon Davis met Dusty, both are music journalists and their books contain a lot more musical knowledge as well as charting her life. The book every Dusty fan should own is The Complete Dusty Springfield, it's not a bio, it's a book full of Dusty facts that is invaluable if you are interested in her career. Another recommended book is the Annie Randall one, Dusty Queen of the Postmods, but probably to be read after the bio's.

Re: Which book??

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 5:32 pm**

I think Carole has laid out the territory well for you, Eloise. The great Dusty biography has yet to be written IMHO. Paul Howes's and Annie Randall's books are my personal favorites, although as Carole says, neither is a biography. Sometimes you can find Dusty Springfield: a Life in Music or Scissors and Paste on ebay; they are worth reading and some people like In the Middle of Nowhere too, but none of these are by people who knew Dusty. I would certainly *not* recommend any of the Brit Girls of the Sixties series.

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 5:38 pm**

I second what Carole and Nancy say.

There are also excellent DVD documentaries charting Dusty's career, such as Full Circle from 1994, where Dusty is interviewed by Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. Another one is Just Dusty, with comments by people who have worked closely with her (Simon Bell, Madeline Bell, Pat Rhodes, Derek Wadsworth, Burt Bacharach etc).

Check out Let's Talk Dusty's store at Amazon:

If you're in the UK: <http://astore.amazon.co.uk/letadu-21>

If you're in the US: <http://astore.amazon.com/lestadu-20>

If you want to get an overview of Dusty's career, the documentary Definitely Dusty in on YouTube. I'll post the clips in a separate post.

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 5:40 pm**

Part 1

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0HLAarLZVY>[/youtube]

Part 2

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql-4-yktcgY>[/youtube]

Part 3

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11DVACITWnA>[/youtube]

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 5:44 pm**

Part 4

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsKZdRhAH_0[/youtube]

Part 5 seems to be missing.

Part 6

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vg3zdjrlxSg>[/youtube]

Part 7

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zELbpbDFZaU>[/youtube]

Re: Which book??

by **small town girl**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 7:32 pm**

Does anyone know why there's no part 5 to this?

anita x

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Jan 13, 2011 9:30 pm**

From the posts on the user's profile it seems that WMG has blocked part 5 since they own a copyright to a portion of it.

Re: Which book??

by **eloise**

Posted: **Fri Jan 14, 2011 1:06 am**

You guys are amazing!

Thanks for all the suggestions. Will be looking into everything.

I imagine I'll be back around here soon to discuss Dusty once I know more about her!

Oh always, since everyone is being so obliging - I only have the Hits Collection album, what other albums are must haves? I know that's gonna be quite a broad topic - and I'm sure you'll say "all of them!" , but if there are a couple which are absolute must haves, that'd be great.

Thanks again.

Re: Which book??

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Fri Jan 14, 2011 6:06 am**

small town girl wrote:

Does anyone know why there's no part 5 to this?

anita x

 Thanks for solving another mystery !  Where is episode #5 ?   

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Fri Jan 14, 2011 10:46 am**

Discovering Dusty is a fabulous journey, Eloise! You'll discover such great music together with Dusty's along the way.   

Must-have albums for the beginner... I would suggest **A Girl Called Dusty**, her first solo album, which shows you where Dusty's coming from and her musical influences. And then of course **Dusty In Memphis**, her landmark album from 1969 where she goes to the homeland of soul and takes R&B to a new level. When you're ready for advanced studies  you can follow up with **Reputation** from 1990 (half of the album was written and produced by the Pet Shop Boys) and Dusty's final album from 1995 **A Very Fine Love**.

Keep in touch! 

Re: Which book??

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Fri Jan 14, 2011 6:28 pm**

Corinna has picked out some Dusty landmarks with her choice of albums and to add to those I would search out **Ev'rythings Coming Up Dusty** where Dusty really showed her soulful side, **Beautiful Soul**, hard to get but worth the search and for a good overall, if not definitive, selection, the box set **Simply Dusty**.

Re: Which book??

by **terri**

Posted: **Sat Jan 15, 2011 2:31 am**

I love Something Special although it is rarer to find. Also the singles are good for a beginning collector-- the dvds are so wonderful!!! I can watch youtube forever! Many great videos here!

Re: Which book??

by **Cardiff Bluesgirl**

Posted: **Sat Jan 15, 2011 12:49 pm**

Edward Leeson, "A Life in Music" is a very enjoyable book, I think. It's difficult to find at normal prices, but if you keep looking they do appear in bookshops on line and on eBay for sensible prices. £7.95 at the moment on eBay. It's an ex-library book so second hand but stated to be in good condition. Type in Edward Leeson and it is on there.

Re: Which book??

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Sat Jan 15, 2011 5:27 pm**

eloise wrote:

You guys are amazing!

Thanks for all the suggestions. Will be looking into everything.

I imagine I'll be back around here soon to discuss Dusty once I know more about her!

Oh always, since everyone is being so obliging - I only have the Hits Collection album, what other albums are must-haves? I know that's gonna be quite a broad topic - and I'm sure you'll say "all of them!" , but if there are a couple which are absolute must-haves, that'd be great.

Thanks again.

It's fair to say Dusty fans love to spread the Dusty love! Just want to say, however, that you DON'T need to wait until you know more about Dusty to discuss her more. We're glad to answer questions and provide advice in the process of your discovery. Each fan has their own journey. Welcome.

Re: Which book??

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Sat Jan 15, 2011 5:53 pm**

Eloise, I think that Nancy inadvertently missed out the word "don't" in the above post 🙄😏 You don't need to wait....

Re: Which book??

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Sun Jan 16, 2011 4:41 pm**

daydreamer wrote:

Eloise, I think that Nancy inadvertently missed out the word "don't" in the above post 🙄😏 You don't need to wait....

😏 Thanks, Carole, I corrected it.

Re: Which book??

by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sun Jan 23, 2011 7:47 am**

I'm what I would describe as a Dusty newbie; I've only been a real fan for about a year and a half. However, in that time I've tried to read everything I could get my hands on. I thought I would give my opinion, for what it's worth, on the books I've read.

The first book I read was *Dancing With Demons* and as noted it is more on the negative side of her life. It didn't go far enough in explaining her accomplishments in music or happy times in her life. However, I kept the book and still read it sometimes. Fans seem to have mixed emotions about it. It did, however, make me care about her and feel much empathy. There are two editions of Lucy O'Brien's book. The first one ends around the time of the *Pet Shop Boys* and the second edition goes up to her last album and death. Lucy's book has more on her childhood than the other books I've read. Also, as I recall, a little more info from musicians in the second edition and the making of her last album.

I enjoyed the book by Sharon Davis and I thought it was pretty respectful to her. I think the book by Paul Howes is great. I only had one CD by Dusty when I received this book and it made me want to investigate her music. That's how I ended up with all these CD releases in the past year 😊 I was pleasantly surprised with how much I liked *Scissors and Paste*. It's a nice book and a quick read. It's written from a fan's perspective.

If you are looking for a more in depth analysis of her talent and cultural impact I highly recommend *Dusty Queen of the Postmods* by Annie J. Randle and one called *In the Middle of Nowhere*. I can't remember the author of this one. Both have great endnotes, I've used these to find more articles on Dusty, and are thought provoking.

There are two books I didn't enjoy. One is from the thirty three and a third series and it's supposed to be about the album *Dusty In Memphis*. It is well written, but there is very little about Dusty or the making of the album. Instead, it is more about the author's feelings about southern music in general. Please, please, DO NOT bother with the *Brit Girl* books. I'll spare you the details, but I reviewed this back in the summer. Unfortunately, the author of the book didn't like what I had to say and took it out on some members of this board. I still feel bad about it 😞 If you are curious the old thread might still be here and it will tell you all you need to know.

Lastly, If you are looking for articles I cannot say enough good things about the web site called *Woman of Repute*. I don't know if there is a link here, but you can go to google and find it. There are quite a few articles on Dusty to keep you busy for a while. BTW, almost all of the books I mentioned were aquired used for a decent price from Amazon. In fact, the book by Edward Leeson, which is usually expensive, is around twenty bucks or so last time I checked. I'm waiting for my copy to arrive. Have fun 🙄

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Sun Jan 23, 2011 11:26 am**

st louis blues wrote:

Oh, don't. It really wasn't your fault. Keep on enjoying Dusty! 🎵 🤪 🎵

The link to Woman of Repute is <http://www.cpinternet.com/~mbayly/contents.htm>

Re: Which book??

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 11:53 pm**

wow! echoing what everyone said regarding the books!

as for the albums, I'd definitely say *Dusty in Memphis* first. *Ev'rythings Coming Up Dusty* next. 🤪

let me mix it up a bit...

Cameo would come next for me (if you can find the collection Carole mentioned, *Beautiful Soul*, it contains this album in its entirety, along with the previously unreleased *Longing* sessions). Then her debut, *A Girl Called Dusty*...then *A Brand New Me (From Dusty With Love)*, *Reputation*, and so on.

I'm usually alone (or at least in the minority) in rating her middle period albums (well, two of them) as holding their own against her 60's work and *Reputation*. But I will go out on a limb and recommend *It Begins Again* 🌟 and *White Heat* 🌟 as well. I think they're essential links in the chain. 🤪 *Dusty...Definitely* and *A Very Fine Love* next.

I may get pelted with tomatoes for one of these 🤪, but the last two albums I'd recommend would be *Where Am I Going?* and *Living Without Your Love*.

Re: Which book??

by **Cardiff Bluesgirl**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 12:40 pm**

music choices well I am an old fashioned girl so I would start at the very beginning, a very good place to start???

"A Girl called Dusty" and then ECUD. after that then its horses for courses I suppose. 😊

Re: Which book??

by **kellymuses**

Posted: **Sat Nov 17, 2012 7:55 am**

Hey all,

I've started delving into the Dusty books after looking through the various threads. I decided to take "Dancing with Demons" out of the library because I got the sense that it wouldn't be something I'd be proud to own. I was right. I just finished reading it in one sitting and it was a depressing read. Ugh. Not the kind of thing I'd write about someone I claimed was a friend.

I have ordered both the Lucy O'Brien and the Paul Howes books since the consensus seemed that they had some good value to them.

God help me when I start in on collecting CDs (which will happen at any moment now). I have a tendency to get obsessive when I take on a new interest. I'll be picking your brains and scouring the threads here for your excellent suggestions and endless knowledge. 🤪

Here's hoping that everyone has a nice weekend.

Re: Which book??

by **Cas19**

Posted: **Sat Nov 17, 2012 11:45 am**

Good luck on your journey through the Dusty years Kelly, you are in for some treats! Dusty was/is very special, not only as a singer but as a person too.

Casx

Re: Which book??

by **karen**

Posted: **Sat Nov 17, 2012 11:48 am**

Well Kelly at least you got that one out of the way.. 😊 and you have a lot to discover re Dusty it seems , so good luck with this , and all the CD's DVD's and everything else about her..enjoy.. 🎧 🎵 🎶

Re: Which book??

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Sat Nov 17, 2012 12:04 pm**

There's a great way to support LTD by buying your stuff through our website:
<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/LTD/index.php/shop>

The price is the same, but a percentage goes to LTD which helps us to maintain this forum and website (hosting & maintenance are paid for by the LTD team).

Happy reading & listening, Kelly!!! 🎧 🎵

Re: Which book??

by **kellymuses**

Posted: **Sat Nov 17, 2012 7:48 pm**

Thanks Cas, Karen and Cor. And yes, I will buy through the website. I use Amazon for a majority of my CD and book purchases and helping support this wonderful place is an added bonus. 😊

Re: Which book??

by **kellymuses**

Posted: **Thu Nov 22, 2012 5:26 am**

Okay, kids, the Howes Bible just arrived today and while the info/trivia nerd in me is ecstatic with all the knowledge, I'm also feeling quite overwhelmed by the amount of recordings that exist out there. This is obviously a nice "problem" to have, but as I mentioned in an earlier post, I know myself and I'm obsessive. When I decide to collect something, I'm not satisfied until I'm deep into the process. I smell trouble for my bank account with all the US/UK releases, B sides, DVDs, etc. Oy vey. 😊

Where to begin? Where to begin?

Re: Which book??

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Thu Nov 22, 2012 5:30 am**

thanks for supporting LTD through amazon. You can also have a shot at some nice Dusty stuff via not-raffle not-tickets -- with all proceeds to maintain flowers on Dusty's grave. 🌹

Re: Which book??

by **kellymuses**

Posted: **Thu Nov 22, 2012 5:36 am**

I see lots of support for LTD via Amazon in my future as well as through the not-raffle, not-tickets. I just need more paying work in the New Year...

Re: Which book??

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Thu Nov 22, 2012 10:41 am**

kellymuses wrote:

Okay, kids, the Howes Bible just arrived today and while the info/trivia nerd in me is ecstatic with all the knowledge, I'm also feeling quite overwhelmed by the amount of recordings that exist out there. This is obviously a nice "problem" to have, but as I mentioned in an earlier post, I know

myself and I'm obsessive. When I decide to collect something, I'm not satisfied until I'm deep into the process. I smell trouble for my bank account with all the US/UK releases, B sides, DVDs, etc.

Oy vey. 🤔

Where to begin? Where to begin?

If you can play vinyl I would suggest going on eBay UK and getting all four of her original recordings -

A Girl Called Dusty

Ev'rything's Coming Up Dusty

Where Am I Going?

Dusty... Definitely

They aren't too expensive usually and they are essential if you want to hear Dusty's work. She produced all of them, with the exception of one or two songs on each that she had to record in New York to avoid import status. They are all available on CD, but they've been re-mastered with added tracks on most of them. The re-mastering changes the sound that Dusty worked so hard to create in some cases.

Avoid the US Philips issues except for comparison - they took her albums apart, changed the track lists, and used outtakes and edited songs to cram the music on the album to fit.

Maggie

Re: Which book??

by **kellymuses**

Posted: **Thu Nov 22, 2012 6:04 pm**

Thank you for the tips, Maggie. This is exactly the sort of information I'm lacking. I had no idea about the US Philips releases. While I love added tracks, I really do like to hear the artist's intention regarding the songs and not some producer who comes in decades after the fact. I no longer have a turntable but I'm thinking of getting one that is the combo turntable/CD/MP3 unit. I think I still have an original pressing of Buckingham/Nicks that I'd love to play especially since Lindsey and Stevie can't agree on putting it on CD. A turntable would certainly be helpful for these Dusty recordings. Then I could transfer them myself to my computer or CD as well.

I'll check on ebay UK tonight when I'm resting after Thanksgiving dinner. 🍷