

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

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[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [jennifer49](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 12:41 am

Thankyou Rob, focusing on the music and the pictures for five minutes calmed my brain somewhat. Too much reading methinks.

Jennifer



[jennifer49](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 224

Joined: Sun May 05, 2013 10:32 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [Graham2010](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 8:34 am

Well I have read the whole book.

It is described as " an intimate portrait".....I must admit I did not expect it to be so intimate.

Dusty's musical legend is secondary in this book to the personal information about her.

Each book seems to divulge more and more about problems and struggles.

I live with someone with the same condition and much of what has been described is similar to what I have lived with for the past 10 years or so. One minute we have the highs then the lows and in between the outbursts of anger and violence both physical and verbal. Medication helps but is so strong it results in days in bed shying away from human contact.

Because of my experience my heart goes out to our dear Dusty.....all this was beyond her control.

My heart goes out also to her various partners who experienced all of this.....trust me it is very challenging and demanding to maintain a relationship under such circumstances.

I cannot believe that Dusty was relying on food stamps and was penniless in LA.

How did she come through all this.....despite her frailties there must have been an inner strength so strong to enable her to rise like phoenix from the problems in her past.

I am surprised so much personal information was disclosed by friends and ex lovers.....even details about what money she left to Simon and Pat and the cat.

I pray this book does not now become the focus of a biopic which will ignore the wondrous musical legend that she was.

I have not seen any reviews of the book.....I await to see them with baited breath.

[Graham2010](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 162

Joined: Tue Jul 06, 2010 6:17 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 8:50 am

Maybe we should have all been warned by the title word "intimate" Dusty's will was never published so unless P and S revealed the content, which I doubt, where did that info come from?.

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm

Location: Hertfordshire UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [IWannaBeABluesSinger](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 11:08 am

Wills are public record - anyone can go down to a courthouse, pay a fee, and search any will that has been probated there.

Maggie



[IWannaBeABluesSinger](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1682

Joined: Sun Apr 24, 2011 3:54 am

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [dig123](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 11:56 am

Warning! Don't read my post if you haven't finished the book. I have been thinking about the long term relationships Dusty had with the women in this book. Say what you will about Norma, Carol and Teda. They were who they were. No games.....not hiding anything. Sue, on the other hand, didn't even want anyone to know her name 15 years ago. What happened? I read a long letter she wrote in the archives that said Dusty was very private and didn't want her to speak of them and reveal personal info. I guess she changed her mind. Also, talk about passive aggressive..... Sue breaks up with Dusty during a recording session and then gets married a few months later???????????????????? WTF?? Now, she wants it to sound like they had this great love over the years? I don't buy it. Sorry.

[dig123](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 273
Joined: Tue Feb 04, 2014 12:28 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 12:03 pm

I'm with you on this Di!
Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704
Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am
Location: Glasgow, UK


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[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 12:09 pm

Reading this thread I have been devastated to learn how many members of the community are affected by bipolar disorder.

Whether suffering from this dread disease or living with someone you love who is so afflicted, the effects are dreadful.

I admire your strength. My heart goes out to all of you! 

Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704
Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am
Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [allherfaces](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 7:22 pm

For now I'd just like to share what I've plastered on various FB pages as SONG OF THE WEEK FOR DUSTY FANS. I'm sure you'll all agree.

Pet Shop Boys - What Have I Done To Deserve This



x

Bosseh

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.



[allherfaces](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 5815

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:15 am

Location: Boston MA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Rob](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 7:31 pm

So true Nancy



[Rob](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2821

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [Corinna](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 9:00 pm

So true, Nancy!

I have these quotes, too:

You had my hopes so high I guess they had to tumble
~and~
Who cares what they're thinking, who cares what they're whispering?

I've just started to read the book properly now, after skimming it initially. I brace myself.
Cor xx

Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name
Pretty as a pearl
What a pretty girl



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

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[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [daydreamer](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 9:01 pm

Graham, I agree with so much of what you say in your post. Dusty's musical legacy is definitely secondary to her personal life in this book, hence the intimate in the title. My feeling about the book, and it could just be a feeling, is that it was written around Sue Cameron. Supplying so many pictures (I'm grateful for them) and more or less appearing from the early 70's through to Dusty's death, declaring her everlasting love for Dusty. I think that her story, or large parts of it, ring true and although she's 'dishing the dirt', I feel it's not done with malice. She's not making money from the book, as Carole Pope did with her revelations or trying to justify herself like some have done. Why do they feel the need to tell all this stuff though, I would never do that in a million years. Is it guilt that they didn't/couldn't help? I feel so sad that, mixed in with the good people, Dusty had so many losers pass through her life, she was no doubt a nightmare to live with at times but I refuse to believe that all her life was as sad, volatile and angry as all these tell tales have us believe. Surely there were happy times in the 70's and 80's as well. John Adams is a big disappointment, I had hoped he might have some funny anecdotes but I guess if he did, they missed the cut and KB chose to use only the negative quotes. I enjoyed reading the stories from the likes of Jeff Barry, Brooks Arthur, Dennis Lambert and Kenny Gamble....none of them had an easy time with Dusty but they still embraced her, helped her and spoke well of her. I do wonder also, just how good someone like Jean Ryders memory is. She talked of the press not thinking Dusty was good enough or glamorous enough to go solo and so she would need a good song as everyone was knocking her. Really? That's not what my cuttings from the time say. Memories as we get older let us down. I've already forgotten half of what I've just read in this book! Remembering things from 20 to 50 years ago? There could be false memories and wrong quotes throughout. I was told that Pudge was not a name given to Dusty by her family (where it could seem cruel) but by Sue Cameron in affection. Which brings me to errors. I spotted errors but chose while I was reading, not to bother listing them, but things like calling Peppi Borza, Pepe and Shivaree, Shivery, could so easily have been rectified. There were quite a few errors in the text too, which to me means that there was no real proof reading done.

I don't have a problem with Ray Connolly and his story, he just keeps on getting asked about it. I believe that he is truly a fan of Dusty and I hope if his film ever makes it (and I'd rather it didn't!), he doesn't prove me wrong! KB is getting all of the blame on the forums and I guess she has to accept that, as she has chosen which stories to include in the book. I just got a bit fed up of reading about yet another fierce argument or fight. Maybe the nights when Dusty was happily sitting reading a book on the American Civil War were just too boring to write about. I did enjoy some of the book, hearing from Dougie, Julie Felix, Kiki Dee and Marcelle Bernstein was different.

Dusty is our greatest ever singer, a voice like no other and an inspiration to thousands. She didn't deserve another book like this but once DWD had done it's worst, we could never turn the clock back. She will always be my idol and in the 60's she was my role model and obsession. I'm still obsessed 😊

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [memphisinlondon](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 10:51 pm

I have been lurking. I just wanted to say thank you, Carole Gibson. That was perfect. 😊

Memphis

Ever since we met...



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 263

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Dottv86](#) » Thu Jun 26, 2014 10:56 pm

Absolutely - you put it very well Carole.

And Nancy, LOVING the song of the week
Georgie x



[Dottv86](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1344

Joined: Sat Jan 05, 2013 9:08 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 7:13 am

Wow Mel, that was quick!

Yesterday morning you hadn't even started reading the book. 🙄

Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [memphisinlondon](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 6:04 pm

I haven't read the book, Donella, but I know what the main gist of it is. Since it's not going to add much to what I already know, I'm not in a great hurry to read it. I will read it soon though. I must say I thought it was going to be an important book because so many crucially important people were interviewed for it and I thought it had been given the thumbs up.

[Memphis](#)

[Ever since we met...](#)



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 263

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 7:09 pm

Ah yes Mel, I see.

There is quite a lot of new info in the book, some good some pretty bad! The main problem is with the newspaper reviews and the synopsis (written by Karen herself). These focus almost exclusively on the dark times!

You may have seen Trek's post on the Daily Express article!



[Donella x](#)

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [countrycake](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 8:26 pm

On a lighter note, page 208 makes reference to the US TV show Shivery. Older members will no doubt recall that the TV show was actually called Shivaree.

Also there are many references in the text to Dusty's friend Pepe Borza. Only in one picture credit is his forename correctly spelt as Peppi.

These are small points, but they are facts which are easy to check. Makes you wonder about accuracy in more important matters.

Jim



[countrycake](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 717

Joined: Sun Mar 27, 2011 9:36 am

Location: Glasgow Scotland

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 9:26 pm

Also says that Bonnie Raitt sang backup on 'Where is a Woman To Go?'

In fact it was Mary Chapin Carpenter!

[Donella x](#)

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [daydreamer](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 10:06 pm

I also made those exact points in my earlier post Jim. I read most of the book on a car journey to and from London and promised myself I would go back through it later and write down all the errors. I'm now not sure I can find the time! Bonnie Raitt was a glaring error Donella.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

[Carole x](#)



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [Egerton](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 10:35 pm

Jim and Carole ... I agree. The book is full of inaccuracies. Some of them just lazy - like 'Shivery' and calling 'Tommy Hunt' (who recorded the original version of 'I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself' 'Tommy Hart'. There are countless examples of this sort of sloppy writing. But she also gets things utterly confused - like the press launch of 'Sometimes Like Butterflies' and the taping of 'Saturday Night Out' in which Dusty sang live. I was at both events and I know the author is describing one whilst she means the other. These things are not hugely important except the book is being plugged as definitive and carefully researched. A proof reader and a fact checker is what was needed. She could surely have approached someone on this forum who might have helped iron out these errors. As Jim says, it makes you wonder about the accuracy of the whole book. Can any of it be trusted? What is really missing from the book is an intelligent understand of the musicality and artistry of Dusty. This is squandered in favour of sensationalist and voyeurist pap ...

[Egerton](#)

I start counting

Posts: 3

Joined: Mon Jun 23, 2014 6:34 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [donellac](#) » Fri Jun 27, 2014 11:35 pm

I also have a problem with what is said about Dusty's grandfather Maurice P Ryle. He was a staff writer for the Irish Daily Independent and editor of the Dublin Evening Herald between 1899 and 1901. Not in the 1920s. He was a friend and supporter of John Redmond. I assume that saying he was a 'Redmonite' is a proofing error. Maurice was a member of the reporting staff at the British Parliament but that was in 1922, many years after Kay had moved to England. If she joined him at a sitting of the House of Commons it was when she was already living in London.

[Donella](#) x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [trek007](#) » Sat Jun 28, 2014 7:48 am

Egerton wrote: What is really missing from the book is an intelligent understand of the musicality and artistry of Dusty. This is squandered in favour of sensationalist and voyeurist pap ...

That one sentence sums up the book for me Egerton.
Karen Bartlett knows very little about her subject ...Dusty the artist and musician.
[Trex](#). Often called Carole.

Ev'rything's coming up Dusty.



[trek007](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4227

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:32 am

Location: England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Sat Jun 28, 2014 3:11 pm

And it's 2000 all over again.

Wow, just wow. Just when felt at the least an uneasy peace with DWD at last (my library has it, and I taped a disclaimer inside the front), this happens. And just in time for "that book's" near 15-year anniversary. Might as well be a second edition. Sigh...there's always a battle to fight somewhere in Dustydom, isn't there?

Sue Cameron's involvement doesn't surprise me...didn't "that book, v1.0" show her true colors? Interesting that after Dusty died, she went on I guess Dustymail and among other things mentioned how Dusty hated the O'Brien book (which might be the best Dusty bio in retrospect)? Sounds like she was trying to turn us against it to make way for her and her cohorts' type of propoganda, methinks. I wonder if there were any gag orders placed against the people who know the real truth again?

I still fear for what this will do to Dusty's image, especially in our TMZ era of "mock the celebrity's personal problems." The sad thing is, unlike the Lohans, Biebers, Cyruses, et al, despite her difficulties, Dusty was always a class act in public, and certainly still talented. Have any of you encountered or heard about any people who decided not to respect Dusty, refused to play her or mention her, etc. because of what hacks like those writing "that book" versions 1 and 2.0 had to say? How did "TB" sell back in 2K?

I'll stick with things like Paul Howes' "Looking Good Isn't...", thank you very much! Outside of the O'Brien bio, I am tired out by shoddy attempts to talk about Dusty's life. I feel that it is impossible for there ever to be a REAL version of that, for many reasons.

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [IWannaBeABluesSinger](#) » Sat Jun 28, 2014 6:08 pm

JMFabianoRPL wrote:... Have any of you encountered or heard about any people who decided not to respect Dusty, refused to play her or mention her, etc. because of what hacks like those writing "that book" versions 1 and 2.0 had to say? How did "TB" sell back in 2K?...

Members of the press seem most willing to ascribe to, and repeat, this version of Dusty's life and character. And that is what does most of the damage. People who will never read the book take what they read in the papers as gospel because of the built in credibility of the printed word.

Maggie



[IWannaBeABluesSinger](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1682

Joined: Sun Apr 24, 2011 3:54 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Sat Jun 28, 2014 6:16 pm

IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:

JMFabianoRPL wrote:... Have any of you encountered or heard about any people who decided not to respect Dusty, refused to play her or mention her, etc. because of what hacks like those writing "that book" versions 1 and 2.0 had to say? How did "TB" sell back in 2K?...

Members of the press seem most willing to ascribe to, and repeat, this version of Dusty's life and character. And that is what does most of the damage. People who will never read the book take what they read in the papers as gospel because of the built in credibility of the printed word.

Maggie

Well that much is expected. As I noted, the press loves taking celebrities down more than ever and turning them into punchlines. Some deserve it more than others, but still.

But has it ruined her reputation (no pun intended) forever?

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [IWannaBeABluesSinger](#) » Sat Jun 28, 2014 7:37 pm

Not if I have anything to say about it. Have you read this thread:

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=6579>

Maggie



[IWannaBeABluesSinger](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1682

Joined: Sun Apr 24, 2011 3:54 am

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[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [davdreamer](#) » Sun Jun 29, 2014 1:45 pm

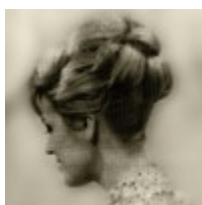
"When global pop star Dusty Springfield was just Mary".

<http://www.independent.ie/entertainment...89456.html>

This review takes the Irish slant and only mentions Dusty's "drink and drug hell, her money troubles and her suicidal tendencies" as a passing comment near the end. They've also picked up on her family calling her Pudge and saying it fed her insecurities, when it wasn't them but Sue Cameron much later, who apparently used it as an affectionate term.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [donellac](#) » Sun Jun 29, 2014 2:26 pm

This a very odd review. In some ways it is much better than other reviews we have seen, but in others I wonder if he has actually read the book.

It mentions some things that are just not there in the text! Did Gerard's career stall? In my view he was must have been quite successful. The family lived a

very comfortable middle class life and, although I am unsure about Tom, certainly Dusty was given a very costly education in a select private school!

I think the reviewer should check his facts regarding the work Dusty's grandfather did for the Irish Independent!

[Donella x](#)

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: New biography](#)

by [mnmcv1](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 12:23 am

The book arrived yesterday but I'm just getting to it. I'm on chapter 3 now.

-markus

Everyday of my life, is fresh as morning dew...



[mnmcv1](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2570

Joined: Tue Jan 12, 2010 12:10 am

Location: Massachusetts

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [allherfaces](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 12:32 am

Finally I have a little time to myself to put together some thoughts on Karen Bartlett's book. I sent them over to [Neil](#) who added some of his own, which you'll see highlighted in a [blue](#). We would both be interested to hear any comments/responses from fellow fans.

The articles in the Daily Mail (one of which I only read ABOUT before reading the book) made me fear the book was going to be worse than it was—I feared every page would be filled with scandal. In fact, I agree with Carole that it had some good features. In general, I appreciated hearing from new people and new things from people we've heard from before, e.g., Peter Miles, Kiki Dee, and (sometimes) Sue Cameron.

[It was at this point that i noticed the word "intimate" probably for the first time, in the title of the book. I literally felt sick when i had read this article, my heart was beating and i was literally filled with dread.](#)

Of course much of the book's content is rehashed—any new biography would include much of what is already known. I'm sure it's just a convention of commercial publishing not to do so, but I do wish that previously researched material were footnoted to identify the source/s. I liked how she included quotes from people—how they were set off. In some ways, I felt the book was not as bad as DWD, for despite its shortcomings, this biography didn't seem to be written with such a blunt instrument. Bartlett does make an attempt to give a fuller picture, both musically and personally, and offers more of an attempt to understand Dusty than did Demons.

[I agree, its impossible to write a biography of anyone without rehashing, i also liked the quotations, but i feel that her "attempt" to give a fuller picture, was more a case of throwing in the least she could get away with in an attempt to appease the people she had deliberately lied to, deceived and taken for fools.](#)

The Bonnie Raitt mistake slapped me in the face, also. I would put that in the category of glaring error, actually. I too thought of making a list of errors, and didn't, and now don't want to take the time—don't want to go back and read the book—but it might be interesting to have a thread on such topic and we can collate what we've identified so far and then various LTDers can add to it. Fred Perry did this for DWD and it was an impressive list, indeed.

The errors also particularly irritated me because when I corresponded briefly with Karen, I noted that: "LTDers are glad to help in any way we can, even with fact checking. I know of some other biographers who have been careless with details which is always a disappointment."

I am not a dusty bible as i cant remember what day it is most of the time but i kept coming across things and thinking, hang on, im sure thats not right, this is what i find hard to believe about this book, i mean for the love of god, how many people have written biographies before her, she must have read them all, she must have been fully aware of the fall out after DWD, isnt it a writers determination to be the best they can be? it also made me think straight away, that this woman doesnt even get dusty at all

Now, do you fellow fans consider the following an error? The author writes about YDHTSYLM that Dusty is “plaintively singing for someone to give her quick sex, with or without love” (p. 150). I’ve heard this song it seems like a million times, I’ve just re-read the lyrics again, and that thought has never come to mind. Because Dusty isn’t saying anything about sex. It’s about longing, as her songs often are, and yes, it’s sad (to me) that she’s asking for her lover to come back, even if s/he doesn’t love her, but that’s it. It’s not that Dusty doesn’t make sexual desire the focus of other songs (“I Want Your Love Tonight,” “Donnez Moi” etc.), but why does the author interpret YDHTSYLM in this way? Just because she wants her lover to return, doesn’t mean it’s for “quick sex.” I frankly thought it was a cheap shot about Dusty’s biggest international hit of the 1960s, a dismissal of the song’s grandeur.

YES!!!! That came a such a shock to me that she interpreted the lyrics that way, with hindsight it shows her complete lack of understanding of her subject! Its like she never even listened to the bloody words other than the chorus!!

Another instance where I thought felt she misinterpreted something to make Dusty look worse was when the author said Dusty’s comment about members of the audience for her club act was “patronizing.” (I can’t find the page ATM.) Here is Dusty’s original quote, from a 1985 interview with Jean Rook (located in our LTD archivesJ):

"When I wonder why I'm doing this, I remember the old days in the northern clubs. I'm near-sighted, and what with the false eyelashes, I couldn't usually see my way on to the stage. But in those clubs you could really see the audiences. I remember one young mum, with her scampi and chips and I could tell she was enjoying my songs so much. Overworked as she was, and swollen ankles and all, I was her big night out. That's why I used to go out and do it. That's why I want to try again."

Is it just me, fellow fans, who questions the author’s interpretation of Dusty’s comment? I’m not exactly tone deaf to class issues, and I’ve always read this as Dusty’s appreciation of her fans—all of her fans—and in this case, especially the young working class mother for whom seeing Dusty was a real treat. Am I missing something here?

You arent missing anything, KB is. or, she is trying to put a nasty slant onto things very subtly in order to demonise dusty bit by bit, any dusty fan knows that she loved her fans, whoever they were, and was prolific in her signing, and would be the last person to judge anyone in that way, to give pleasure is a pleasure in itself and in those days when she was playing those working class clubs, thats what she did, she gave pleasure to those people and her description of the lady in the audience was like something out of a maya angelou novel

I agree with Carole, also, in the hunch that the book was real crafted around Sue Cameron. In this narrative, Dusty is THE love of her life, their story is woven through half of the book, she supplied many photos etc. Much of the ‘new’ material is from her. Of course a biographer would want to include new material, and Sue Cameron is an important source. On the other hand, we can but wonder if she was this central to Dusty’s story and life, more so than any other relationships—lovers, friends, etc.—who could have been highlighted. Perhaps this is a problem, finding a good (living) source for Dusty’s life across the years – from 60s to 90s? In many ways it seems London and LA were separate worlds. In any case, by focusing on Dusty’s post-London life, Cameron’s contributions cast a negative pale on the narrative, in my opinion.

I hardly knew who she was in any depth. There were some things she said that if they were true, would have been nice to hear, but we dont know, i think the story about lets get back together cos we love each other again but they didnt quite manage it is a crock of shit. She was dustys partner, lover, friend, and she has stories to tell, but i feel that she may also be a bit of a victim of this author as well as others, and may have been misrepresented or misquoted

So, as to the negative vibe of the book in general, and the many unpleasant revelations, anecdotes, etc. about Dusty.... It bothers me a lot how the book has upset some fans. I’m thinking, for example, of Neil’s reaction that Dusty has been violated all over again, and Trek’s defense to disparaging remarks about Dusty. Heart-breaking, really, that Britain’s greatest SINGER’S personal life has to be defended that way. Tragic that Dusty is being reduced to being a mess of a human being.

It completely floored me nancy. as i said to you in that mini life saving chat we had the other day. I think i am lucky that i am still incapacitated and dont see anyone, so i havent actually had to defend her to someone, when i say floored me, i mean i went into total meltdown for at least two hours, poor jason didnt know what to do.

I’m not one who feels that a biography need focus only on the positive and/or only the musical aspects of a singer’s life. And if this were just an average singer, that too would be a different story. What is unacknowledged in books like this, and Demons, is the stature of Dusty—both what she contributed to historical change in popular music as “the British Elvis” (as I’ve heard Annie Randall refer to her) and her amazing ability to interpret so many types of music so singularly impressively. We all know as, as fans, but any reader of a Dusty biography should be left with the FACT that this is the story of the greatest voice they’re likely EVER going to hear, and if they don’t know her music, they’d better listen to it RIGHT NOW and forever. Again, it was Annie who once asked me, if I’d have any interest in Dusty’s life, if it weren’t for her music. Not really. I mean, not beyond my interest in, say, in Liberace.

To the problem of overall balance or tone of the book, letting the personal overshadow the music, I would like to call out John Adams, Dusty’s hairdresser. Firstly, he’s not looking too good himself, with the nature of these revelations. As for arranging dates for Dusty—and it sounding like he was pimping for her—let me offer another take. It wouldn’t be unusual for a star to have someone else offer introductions, would it? Many years ago I heard second-hand what sounded to be a plausible tale of a young woman at a gay bar who invited to one of Dusty’s parties by Dusty’s driver. I say plausible, because she was too shy to go! As for other details, which I won’t repeat, I’d have been happier to never hear them. I take serious issue with Bartlett’s foregrounding Adams’ comments that Dusty liked to be dominated. Given some of her choices in romantic partners, I get the point. What I particularly object to is that the WHY is given so little analysis by him or the author. It’s cruel to fans and irresponsible as a biographer to keep talking about this without offering more interpretation, context, etc.

I wonder if JA could also be another victim [of the author]. But i see what you mean, KB just writes, likes to be dominated, thats it, nothing else, no explanation, just another subtle demonisation of dusty

A number of fans have written about how references to Dusty’s bi-polar disorder have triggered them. The context for me was domestic violence. Just as I began reading the book I received a phone call from the daughter of one of my closest friends—a friend of 40 years—one of the friends who performed my wedding ceremony—to say that her mother had been hospitalized after her husband hit her in the head, knocked her down, and repeatedly kicked her—with steel toed work boots. She had six staples put in her scalp at the hospital and is still suffering from a concussion. This is a brilliant woman, a well-educated woman, actually a counselor herself. She is not someone you would anticipate such a thing would happen to.

And so, when I think of this biography’s reduction of Dusty’s abuse to a throwaway line like ‘she liked to be dominated,’ it makes my blood boil, and it makes me want to cry. It’s blaming the victim, if you ask me. If you’re going to discuss domestic violence, you owe it to the reader to explore the various psychological and societal contexts in which it occurs.

Well, it more than triggered me, i immediately self medicated with my stash of Diazepam, i couldnt think of anything else but the overwhelming sadness of some of the things that happened to dusty, and the whole things was horrid

The book gives examples of Dusty's violence toward others, but I don't think it can be equated with what was done to her. I agree with Vicki Wickham's statement: "You don't hit people, you just don't." Again, an interviewee (Lacefield) explains, "She [Dusty] was a cutter and they are usually with violent people or people that humiliate them or demean them. They choose this person, and then that's what happens, and they go be right and say 'You see, I am not unworthy'" (p. 279). Okay, there's a little analysis, but where's the rest of it? Why would someone feel unworthy and need that reaffirmed? And where is the compassion for the person—Dusty, the subject of the biography—who felt this kind of pain? I don't like hearing her dismissed as a "cutter," nor did I appreciate Lacefield's comment that Dusty was not able to learn from mistakes, that she was "incapable of examining her part in the cause and effect. She always felt that she was victimised" (p. 280). Firstly, I think there is evidence in Dusty's interviews that she was capable of learning from mistakes and seeing the relationship between cause and effect, but if/when she was unable to, I have to ask, as a reader and a fan, how do we understand this behavior? The biography makes an effort to de-demonize some of the people in Dusty's life, but in the process, makes Dusty look worse than ever.

[that is my recurring thought, dusty is just ever so slowly turned into the one to blame in everything, its like KB just strips away at her](#)

What really brought reading all of this full circle to my thinking about my friend was the statement when Dusty was hit and hospitalized from the injuries (the other party wasn't, was she?!). Said party asserts "the story has often been misrepresented and the truth is that Dusty phoned her as soon as she got to hospital saying, 'I'm sorry, I provoked you'" (p. 279). It doesn't take much study of domestic violence to know that the assault victim often apologizes for the 'provocation.' In fact, there is never an excuse for this behavior. My friend was screaming at her husband about his infidelity when he hit her in the head. He said in fact, "why did you provoke me?!" YOU JUST DON'T HIT PEOPLE. You don't send them to the hospital.

[Ive been a victim of it as you know, its all just typical, i feel KB tried to blame dusty as much as teda](#)

This is a small measure of what I might right about the book, but as I said, I don't want to read it again. I devoured it as I do anything about Dusty, but I don't want to traumatize myself again going through it. I'm disappointed in the author, who was so solicitous of LTDers for information, yet used little of it, and did not write carefully or respectfully of the great Dusty Springfield. As many fans have written, she can't take away our love for the music or our feelings for Dusty, but for me, the book has taken a toll on some of us – having to defend Dusty, feeling sad, identifying with her problems. When I finished the book, I looked up at a framed album of Dusty's and for a moment didn't recognize her.

Fortunately that didn't last. I wish someone who admires Dusty and her music could tell her story. Someone who would try to understand her and appreciate all the love we feel for her music and the lady herself.

x

Bosseh

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.



[allherfaces](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 5815

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:15 am

Location: Boston MA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 8:14 am

Thank you for your reviews of the book Nancy and Neil. They are very interesting and reflect my views to a great extent! 🙄🙄

Can we look at Karen's motivation and constraints in writing this book?

She was commissioned to write the book

She was given a specific remit.

She only had one year in which to write it.

This is my interpretation of how events unfolded. I believe that Karen was presented as a 'safe pair of hands'. At least that is the impression I have gained by reading various posts in this forum. For this reason she was able to gain access to talk to a whole range of people who have not previously been interviewed by Dusty biographers. Karen has squandered this wealth of access by focusing on the more negative and sensational aspects of Dusty's life.

In her own synopsis of the book (for the Daily Mail) her emphasis is on Dusty's drinking, drug-taking, violence and promiscuity!

Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

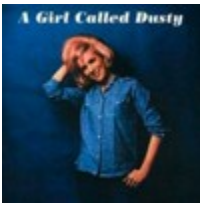
■ by [Cardiff Bluesgirl](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 8:17 am

my suggestion is to enjoy the pictures and put the book in the bin where it belongs .
It isn't worthy of her and it says more about the author and the "friends" than it ever will about Dusty.
her star will never diminish and after watching that RAH concert again last night then Dusty can rest her case.
"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

"she was the very essence of fabness"

" its nice to rest for awhile thank you "

Liz



[Cardiff Bluesgirl](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 6976

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:22 am

Location: cardiff

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [trek007](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 9:28 am

A woman who disfigured Dusty by knocking her teeth out and causing her face to be frozen for ever trying to justify her actions because Dusty provoked her!
So the one who didn't have to go to hospital for plastic surgery is the "victim " in this book!

That must have been one hell of a boot! But hey at least the victim likes the author alot and thinks she is good...!

[Trekx](#). Often called [Carole](#).

Ev'rything's coming up Dusty.



[trek007](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4227

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:32 am

Location: England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [daydreamer](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 1:50 pm

Trek, I couldn't have put it better. Whatever the provocation, the fact that the retaliation came as a blow to the face and mouth of a beautiful woman singer, is gut wrenching and beyond understanding.

Lots to think about in your post Nancy. Firstly, I totally agree with you about the meaning for YDHTSYLM, where in the world did she grab those thoughts from? There is nothing in the lyric to suggest quick sex in any way whatsoever, she just wants her lover back, anyway, anyhow. And anyway, she didn't write it, she just sings it and didn't think much of the lyric anyway. The story about the woman in a club "up north" came up in Dusty interviews more than once and I've never thought of it as anything other than Dusty realising that there were nights when she maybe didn't feel great on stage but that person in the audience made her feel wanted and needed and it was a two way thing. There were a few times when I felt that Karen B had tried to turn a story, like with Dionne in the East End pub. She said that "for years" Dionne had fumed at British singers taking her songs and getting hits, when in fact it was more like a couple of months, as Cilla's AWHAH made the charts in February and the trip to the East End was in May. Dusty's version of Wishin' and Hopin' (a Dionne b side) was never released as a single here at all and even in the States in didn't come out until May. So no reason for Dionne to have bad feelings towards Dusty at that time. I think in later years, Dionne knew that Dusty wasn't the same as Sandie and Cilla and by the end, had only good things to say about Dusty.

Like you Nancy, I bristled at the comments from John Adams. I only ever met him once and never formed any sort of opinion on him, he was just her hairdresser, but here, he comes across as really vindictive. I felt he had nothing positive to say about any of their time together. It makes me wonder how much KB, edited stories. I mean did they not have some great times too? Was it him who said there was always a girl in Dusty's dressing room at the end of the night? I was in her dressing room quite a few times as were lots of other fans and I waited outside theatres to see her leave. The occasional person left in the room at the end of the night, doesn't make it "always", it makes a story just wrong.

I find the "she likes to be dominated" uncomfortable too but I have no insight into her personal relationships except for what I see and read. But this is the woman who stood up in the studio against the men who tried to tell her what to do, took a stand in South Africa and gave Buddy Rich what for!

I understand in part what you mean about not recognising Dusty on the album cover Nancy. There was a part in the book when that feeling washed over me too. But I'm going to put this book up on the shelf and go back to the Dusty I am interested in. I watched the Albert Hall concert on TV last night and thought of the thousands of others that were also watching.....probably not even knowing that this book was out there, just seeing how magical she could be.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 2:10 pm

daydreamer wrote: Trek, I couldn't have put it better. Whatever the provocation, the fact that the retaliation came as a blow to the face and mouth of a beautiful woman singer, is gut wrenching and beyond understanding.

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I find the "she likes to be dominated" uncomfortable too but I have no insight into her personal relationships except for what I see and read. But this is the woman who stood up in the studio against the men who tried to tell her what to do, took a stand in South Africa and gave Buddy Rich what for!

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Well said. Dusty IS/WAS magical, no matter what anyone says about her! And I know all of the people here at LTD feel the same!

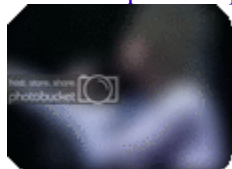
I've said this before and I'll say it again~ whatever is said about Dusty Springfield now that she's gone that wasn't said while she was alive is SUSPECT to me! If a person cannot stand up for themselves and say whether true or false, I don't believe it!

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [mnmev1](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 2:53 pm

daydreamer wrote: There were a few times when I felt that Karen B had tried to turn a story, like with Dionne in the East End pub. She said that "for years" Dionne had fumed at British singers taking her songs and getting hits, when in fact it was more like a couple of months, as Cilla's AWHAAH made the charts in February and the trip to the East End was in May. Dusty's version of Wishin' and Hopin' (a Dionne b side) was never released as a single here at all and even in the States it didn't come out until May. So no reason for Dionne to have bad feelings towards Dusty at that time. I think in later years, Dionne knew that Dusty wasn't the same as Sandie and Cilla and by the end, had only good things to say about Dusty.

Ugh. I was reading the INTRODUCTION (page x, not even reading the 'book proper' yet!) and I'm already seeing things twisted. I've read the "cough or sneeze" quote many times in the past but it was "she" (meaning Cilla specifically) and now suddenly it's "they".

As you mentioned Carole, I'm sure Dionne quickly understood that Dusty was recording B sides and album tracks, NOT trying to step on her toes. Whereas Brian Epstein and Cilla were rush-recording Dionne's stuff and beating her to the punch in England.

WHY try to create a situation where there was NONE? Why couldn't she state the truth- that Dionne has been quite gracious and complimentary about Dusty for MANY years?

Dionne spoke well of Dusty in the *Full Circle* documentary, and in her own memoirs she clearly states that "*Wishin' & Hopin'* was never intended to be a single for me. It was to be a B side or album cut..."

Regarding the recording's similarities? "*I must say in her (Dusty's) defense that she really had no choice. That was the way the song was structured. Dusty became a friend over the years and was a really talented singer. I miss her music, and I know the industry does, too.*" (My Life As I See It, pgs 41-42)

She goes on to discuss Cilla, and she's not NEARLY as complimentary. In fact, she says she never got over it.

-markus

Everyday of my life, is fresh as morning dew...



[mnmcv1](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2570

Joined: Tue Jan 12, 2010 12:10 am

Location: Massachusetts

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 3:23 pm

I agree with so much that has been posted here, that I wont repeat them for fear of boring you. However trying to recall events decades ago who, what, why and when is very difficult In my own case I was told a very long story, by a friend, of something I was involved in .I have no recollection of it at all, although I should have as it could have changed my whole life.

T and D had their fights as we know but was it a boot or pan?

An odd word added/deleted to a sentence can give a different interpretation.

£50.000 left to the CAT (Nicolas) - no-way, CATS, maybe, to be distributed to various cat organizations and for the upkeep of Nicholas. Just one letter (s) makes a lot of difference. Proof reading?

Why? did Dusty tell SC not to join her in Nashville (AVFL) because of bad weather. Wishful thinking by SC that they would be re-united ?Helene joined her instead for the visit to the Shenandoah.

One could go on but I'll leave it at that.

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm

Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Cecelia](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 4:37 pm

All I can say is I really enjoyed the pictures. Most of the time we get to look at only professional pics of Dusty. It was nice to see pictures of her just living life. You know, kickin back like the rest of us. The beach shots were nice to see. I bet there are a lot more pictures where those came from. It sure would be nice to see more of them. But I know that is an impossibility.....



[Cecelia](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1056

Joined: Thu Oct 10, 2013 9:57 pm

Location: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [trek007](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 6:13 pm

My last comment on the book....I find it rather strange that Karen refers to Pat Rhodes throughout the book as Pat Barnett and often as just Barnett her maiden name.

The review by Nancy and Neil is eloquent and well observed.

Just edited this Jim.

Last edited by [trek007](#) on Mon Jun 30, 2014 7:19 pm, edited 1 time in total.
[Trekx](#). Often called [Carole](#).

[Ev'rything's coming up Dusty](#).



[trek007](#)

Can I get a witness
★★★★★

Posts: 4227
Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:32 am
Location: England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [countrycake](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 6:51 pm

Trek, you've got Karen Bartlett on the brain. Why else would you give Pat Rhodes' maiden name as Bartlett rather than Barnett? Don't let the woman get to you.
Jim



[countrycake](#)

Where am I going?
★★★

Posts: 717
Joined: Sun Mar 27, 2011 9:36 am
Location: Glasgow Scotland

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [boztiggs](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 8:39 pm

Lol, easy mistake to make trek, especially when youre seething LOL

Neil 

[http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16 ... 3f87dd.gif](http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16...3f87dd.gif)



[boztiggs](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1761

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 9:22 am

Location: wales

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [daydreamer](#) » Mon Jun 30, 2014 9:32 pm

Actually, Trek, that was one of the things that Simon and I agreed on too. It was just sloppy not to change her name and even sloppier to just use her surname. Rude too I thought. Just using surnames was also confusing in places, when she said "Bell" at one point, I thought she was talking about Madeline and it turned out to be Simon.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Corinna](#) » Tue Jul 01, 2014 8:10 pm

Well, here's my 2-penneth...

Just like anyone else, I've been appalled by the articles that have appeared around the publication of the new bio, especially the very common article written by KB herself. I couldn't believe what I read! I admit that I had high hopes for this book, but this left me quite speechless and gave me a very bad feeling about the book, which at that time hadn't arrived.

Now that I've read it, I believe that KB made a fair attempt to justify both parts of the subtitle, the "intimate portrait", and the "musical legend". I really enjoyed the passages where she writes about the music, and quotes extensively the people Dusty collaborated with. There are also bits about Dusty's personal life that are interesting because they are significant, but, unfortunately, they are completely overshadowed by the all-too-intimate parts.

I took notes while reading and thought I'd just share my thoughts here. Nancy's and Neil's nuanced review has already covered some, so I won't repeat unless I have something to add.

The cover

I don't know how much influence the author has had on the cover design, but this is the 4th (!) book using the same photo (Randall, Leeson and Lynes being the previous ones). Dusty has produced so many iconic shots, why this unimaginative choice?

Lack of proofreading

Typos affect the credibility of a text badly (as has been noted before). Typos like Dougie Reece, Pepe Borza, Tommy Dowd, Shivery, or more glaring errors like mixing up Bonnie Raitt and Mary Chapin Carpenter (also mentioned before) or insisting on calling Pat Rhodes for Pat Barnett, give the impression that the author is not very well acquainted with her subject.

What does the author think?

There are, of course, various styles in which a book like this can be written. And, being a journalist, KB is probably used to making herself invisible in her writing. Much of the information in this book, however, would have benefitted from a more visible author, who could have provided her view and interpretation of things, especially on events that are hard for the reader to follow, or which seemingly lack relevance or significance.

"Sexual abuse was implied"

Claiming that someone has been the victim of sexual abuse is to venture very far into very private matters. So Dusty's AA sponsor Suzanne Lacefield claims

that Dusty had been sexually abused, ALTHOUGH DUSTY NEVER SAID SO HERSELF, and there is no other evidence than this little piece of information, that it was "implied". Not a very strong case, if you ask me. Now what is the reader supposed to do with this information? A little help from the author would have helped. Unfortunately, we seem to be left with an implied understanding that there is a straight line from being sexually abused to alcoholism, self-loathing and lesbianism, which, of course, is psychological amateurism and completely unfounded.

A boot or a skillet pan? CORRECTION! Please see my post below!

Nancy has elaborated on what she thinks about this terrible event, and I can only agree with her observations about domestic violence.

I'd just like to add an interesting detail. Quite a few years ago, Teda related to me what happened through a trusted source, and at that time, she didn't talk about a boot, she talked about a skillet pan. The brutality is hard for me to imagine, and I'm not keen on trying either. To now claim that it was a boot, and to blame the victim by saying she'd been provoked, is to trivialize how terribly she's abused Dusty. It's a shame the author did not see through this.

Teda had also once been a member of this board for a while. We have very purposely a generous admission policy, and as long as people stick to our rules, everybody is welcome. Teda's behaviour soon got out of control, though, and despite various friendly reminders, we ultimately had to terminate her membership. She then started to send me DEATH THREATS, claiming we had used her to get information about Dusty. I don't worry about her threats, but it's just not a level of communication I'm used to. And we've never asked her to share anything; whatever she shared, she did so of her own free will.

The notion of dignity

This is an issue that was constantly in my head while reading. Is Dusty and her OTT life treated with understanding and respect?

The statement that Dusty has been the love of her life, and the fact that she exposes the darkest and worst moments of D's life mercilessly to the public, are not compatible IMHO. Even if SC told all, did it have to be related in such brutal detail?

Having had such high hopes for this book, I now feel veritably deflated.

Cor xx

Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name

Pretty as a pearl

What a pretty girl



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [allherfaces](#) » Tue Jul 01, 2014 9:02 pm

I very much appreciate your analysis, Corinna. Thank you for taking the time to write it and share with us your very valuable insights. 🌹

x

Bosseh

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.



[allherfaces](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 5815

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:15 am

Location: Boston MA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [jeffery](#) » Tue Jul 01, 2014 11:37 pm



Made me feel a little deflated, and I haven't even read the thing ! 😞
" The man with the child in his eyes ".... Jeffery



[jeffery](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 6517

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:34 am

Location: Norwalk, Ohio - USA (Great Lakes Region)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [st louis blues](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 2:58 am

Sue Cameron seems to take an awful amount of credit for Dusty getting into the Rock and Roll HOF. I don't doubt she may have said something to Ahmet Ertagun. However, it's not as if she didn't already have supporters on the committee. Jan Wenner was a fan of DIM. Jon Landau and Dave Marsh, who can be a bit crabby in his writings, were also fans. In fact, after her death Marsh wrote a piece mentioning he cried when he heard the news of her death playing over one of her songs on the radio. I had read she had come close to induction many times before. There was an article from the Oxford American with Wexler and he stated he had pushed to get Dusty inducted as well.

It almost seems as if there are two books here. There is the B.C. or before Cameron and A.C. after Cameron. I sometimes get the feeling the by the time Sue and the addictions enter the picture KB does not seem to even like Dusty anymore.

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Corinna](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 6:00 am

st louis blues wrote: I sometimes get the feeling the by the time Sue and the addictions enter the picture KB does not seem to even like Dusty anymore.

Yes, the lack of understanding and loyalty with the subject of her book is striking! Almost as if she suffered from Stockholm syndrome.
Cor xx

Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name

Pretty as a pearl

What a pretty girl



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

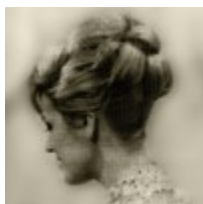
by [davdreamer](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 6:57 am

Thanks Cor for throwing in your thoughts. I don't like talking about the abuse, or even thinking about it but I do remember reading the police report that was circulating a few years ago and written down were "fists - poss ceramic cup". Whichever, and especially if it was a boot (which Dusty once said), Dusty was likely on the floor. I will never be able to think of that woman in any sort of positive light, no matter how many times those that know her and like her, tell us how Dusty loved her.

SLB, thank you for you info re the Hall of Fame, I want to believe that Dusty was inducted because of her own efforts and I agree with you that KB didn't seem to have any empathy towards Dusty.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Corinna](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 8:10 am

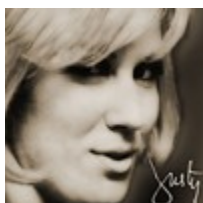
I haven't seen the police report, and I certainly won't argue about the assault weapon. Whatever it was, it was bad enough.

Cor xx

Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name

Pretty as a pearl

What a pretty girl



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 9:18 am

Thanks all for your informed reviews. Isn't it amazing what happens when two journalists get together- a book that starts off with promise and ends up in the recycling box.

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness
★★★★★★

Posts: 4601
Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm
Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [dig123](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 11:21 am

I agree with most of what has been said. I didn't care for the tone of this book. SC seemed intent on getting her point across of how equal she and Dusty were. SC had a famous column, she knew lots of people. When she first met Dusty SUE wasn't interested. Really? I certainly knew who Dusty Springfield was in 1972. She was an international star!! Never heard of SC. She might have been known in LA but she couldn't compare to Dusty! If Dusty was the love of her life, why did she stay away when Dusty was ill? She didn't visit till the end. I could go on and on. This book was SC 15 min of fame. On the other hand, I think Helene was a very good friend to Dusty. She was always there through thick and thin. Pat was another. I cried at the end when Pat whispered to Dusty to go. Very moving!

My brother in law was visiting last week. He saw one of my Dusty cd's on the table. He picked it up and said.....Dusty Springfield.....she had that voice!!! Amen to that!!!!!!!!!!!!

[dig123](#)

I'll try anything
★★

Posts: 273
Joined: Tue Feb 04, 2014 12:28 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [darren2722](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 2:36 pm

Just finished reading the book. 🤔 Thanks everyone here for all your wonderful reviews and comments. 🙌🙌
Can't really add anything except that before the book was published, one of Karen Bartlett's selling points for us to buy the book was a promise that Dusty's childhood would be more exhaustively explored, I learnt nothing new on that score. Hope if there must be another Dusty biography in the future this will be remedied if there is any new information out there 🙏
I Couldn't Ask For More



[darren2722](#)

Someone who cares
★★★★★★

Posts: 7912
Joined: Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:12 pm
Location: Sittingbourne Kent

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Brenda king](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 6:21 pm

Unless another book on Dusty comes out written by Pat, Madeline, Simon or Carole Gibson I won't be buying! I'm half way through this latest one and have read four others and would like to read one by people who really loved her and were loyal to her whether fan or friend or both! It seems to me they (Pat, Madeline, Simon, and Carole) always saw the good in her, but don't feel the need to divulge things they know would hurt Dusty or that she wouldn't want told. I really believe these books will come and go but Dusty's music will live on. She should have been in the HOF long before she was!

[Brenda king](#)

Little by little
★

Posts: 50
Joined: Mon Feb 17, 2014 7:59 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [davdreamer](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 6:57 pm

Thank you Brenda for thinking I could write a book, not so I'm afraid 😊 The other three people knew Dusty, I'm just a fan, I didn't know her personally. She is my hobby. I don't really think you will get a book out of the other three either and to be honest, I think they'd all think twice before even being interviewed for another one after this!

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667
Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am
Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Rob](#) » Wed Jul 02, 2014 7:57 pm

I am currently reading the novel "Life after Life" by the admirable Kate Atkinson. This is a quote:-

"You must never believe everything they say about a person. Generally speaking, it will be lies, half-truths at best"

From Wikipedia

The purpose and or consequence of a half-truth is to make something that is really only a belief appear to be knowledge, or a truthful statement to represent the whole truth, or possibly lead to a false conclusion. According to the justified true belief theory of knowledge, in order to know that a given proposition is true, one must not only believe in the relevant true proposition, but one must also have a good reason for doing so. A half-truth deceives the recipient by presenting something believable and using those aspects of the statement that can be shown to be true as good reason to believe the statement is true in its entirety, or that the statement represents the whole truth. A person deceived by a half-truth considers the proposition to be knowledge and acts accordingly.



[Rob](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2821
Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [memphisinlondon](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 12:31 am

My two pennuth.

Almost until the end of this book, I felt I was reading a fairly good, if pulpy, gossipy book that was let down by the errors and mistakes that have been pointed out here in this thread. The casual comment about the YDTSYLM lyrics jarred. The mention of possible childhood sexual abuse with no follow up jarred. Why even mention the trivial point that Dusty didn't like the look of Dionne Warwick's house?

The repetitive remarks about Dusty's purported self loathing and her purported need to be dominated and punished were irritating because these are really loaded statements but they weren't explained properly or backed up by persuasive evidence or analysis, and, as is usual with Dusty, there were too few insights into her childhood and her relationship with Catholicism. These are important gaps.

Unlike others, I feel that one of the ways in which Bartlett's book adds value to what we've read before is by including more space for the voices of Dusty's long term and short term partners (I'm not talking about Bracci here). I didn't mind this at all in most cases. I was very interested in much of the new information here (I'm guessing the inner circle of fans knew most of this stuff but I didn't). The book also gives space to Dusty's work in the studio and acknowledges her as the path breaker she was but there's not enough of this. I was glad that Brooks Arthur was included.

After I'd got to the end of chapter 14 I knew Dusty and the book would fall off a cliff. What should writers do at this point? It's a tough call. The shock of the book is that Bartlett decided to acknowledge Teda Bracci by allowing her to share her version of the details around the violence and terrible physical damage she inflicted on Dusty. Bartlett therefore emphatically trumps the Wickham/Valentine book to devastating effect. I was left very concerned about the moral ambiguity of Bartlett and the distance between her and her primary subject, Dusty that allowed her to take such a decision. I experienced this part of the book as a moral shock. It is a huge betrayal of trust. I couldn't believe that anyone would do this - not after the storm that DWD had caused. The inclusion of Bracci undoes any good work and kills the book.

I find it incredible and unacceptable that Bartlett even considered that Bracci should be featured in this way. Bartlett must have known how controversial her inclusion would be but she also knew that it would be a selling point for the book and therefore probably worth the risk. Bartlett doesn't comment on what Bracci says, she only reports (Corinna's comments refer). Bartlett stands back, throws the toxic bomb and then walks away leaving it to the reader to come to their own judgement presumably taking into account all those repetitious comments about Dusty's self hatred etc (Nancy's comments around the violence are important here) and also the comments against Bracci by others in the book (but not Bartlett). It is here that Bartlett reveals herself not as Dusty's biographer but merely as a reporter who is out of her depth and maybe even out of sympathy with her subject. Being so agnostic in her opinions she was able to go for the jugular and, I have to presume, consciously cause a tried and tested controversial storm of DWD style negativity in order to sell the book.

DWD appears to be available only as an ebook outside the UK which, I suppose, means there is a gap in the world market for a DWD 2 paper book. The book has also been promoted in the Daily Mail just as DWD was although this time within a shocking one off article cut and pasted from Bartlett's book and with her name attached to it. It just seems like it's Ground Hog Day i.e. we've been through all this before. Instead of DWD eventually fading away we now have DWD 2 in Bartlett's book.

One last thing. I was really shocked by what Corinna revealed about Bracci and how she had threatened Corinna. I remember very well complaining about Bracci's presence here and I was glad she was excluded but I never knew the level of her aggressiveness until now. As some of you will know, Bracci has also been braying over on the Facebook 'official' Dusty site. She clearly feels validated and empowered by her inclusion in Bartlett's book. How could this woman ever be given the (unchallenged) freedom of speech in a Dusty biography?

Last edited by [memphisinlondon](#) on Sat Jul 05, 2014 1:08 am, edited 1 time in total.

Memphis

Ever since we met...



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 263

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [st louis blues](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 3:11 am

I'm starting to feel that maybe I was harsh towards Vickie and Penny over DWD. By that I mean that in comparison to the new book they didn't go into all the messy intimate details that KB has. I absolutely HATE the photo of the "wedding" because Dusty looks so bloated and unhealthy. Also, knowing what was to happen to Dusty in this relationship.

I'm currently reading Ray Coleman's book about the Carpenters. Karen had many of the same issues as Dusty and of course we know how she died. Coleman treats KC and her illness with respect, as he should. In addition, he frames the popularity of their music within the time frame it was recorded. That should have been done with Dusty. I take things for granted. I never went to a segregated school or know what it's like to not be able to have friends of another race. However, during Dusty's most influential time these things went on. It should have been clear how unusual and brave it was for her to take the stands she did regarding race. Her love of Black culture and her ability to sing in those styles was also not the norm back in the sixties. Without framing her story around that time in history some of the impact gets lost. It just sort of gets passed over as if it's no big deal.

What she needs is an experienced biographer who is well versed in music because in the end that's why she was famous and so loved. It has nothing to do with who she slept with or what drugs she was taking.

Here is something else I've noticed. The books written by male authors, in my opinion, have focused far less on her sexuality than some of those by female writers. I'm disappointed KB does not realize how, as a young woman, Dusty broke down barriers even if it meant her being called a cow for doing so.

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [daydreamer](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 7:34 am

Both of you make some excellent points. Mel, if you are including me in amongst the "inner circle of fans", I can assure you that I didn't know of most of the "short term" liasons, they came as a surprise. I totally agree with your thinking on TB and I noticed in one of her posts on the FB page, she called KB "dear Karen". Not surprised, she tried to do her a massive favour! Cor was not the only person who had vindictive messages from her.

SLB, (Kay?), I agree that a book written from a musical perspective is needed. I fully accept that you can't ignore her personal life totally but somebody, somewhere, must be able to latch on to the positives and make the music and career of our greatest ever female singer the main topic. I actually, think that Ray Connolly could do it. Whatever peoples thoughts are about his bringing up the 1970 article a lot, he was a good and respected music journalist back in the day and is a writer of numerous books. In fact, for me, a really in depth book on Dusty up until 1970 would be a blessing. I like you, I also hate those wedding photographs, they're some of the most unflattering ever of Dusty and I wish I'd never seen them.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Corinna](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 8:16 am

CORRECTION!

Carole's post above prompted me to go through my files to find that exchange with the "trusted source" I was referring to. And there was, in fact, no mention of a skillet pan. Maybe I got this from DWD. Anyway, I don't want to repeat lies that have been spread. But equally, I don't want to contribute to any rehabilitation of TB. I just want to put the facts right.

This exchange took place in December 2005, i.e. nine years ago. And, surprisingly (or not), it paints yet another picture of the events. No boot was mentioned that time.

Anyway, here goes.

Quote TB: "Dusty was never drunk or drugs with me. Only 4 or 5 times I got her drunk. Night of the incident was one." The incident is explained by TB as: "... me swinging out in defense."

Quote trusted source, explaining the injuries: "You saw the "jewels" that Teda wears on her fingers and wrists all the time in the pictures I sent, no? You can see if any of that landed just right, it could cause that type of damage."

KB claims that Teda returned to the flat to find Dusty drinking wine and taking Valium. And that TB attacked Dusty with a boot. So, again this is a different version.

See what time can do to memory?

Cor xx

Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name

Pretty as a pearl

What a pretty girl



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [donellac](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 8:30 am

I have read all of the criticisms of the 'New Biography'. Thank you all of you for your comments.

What stands out for me is that you have almost all come to the understanding that the author has slowly stripped Dusty away. She has belittled her.

I agree with Corinna and Memphis that to hint at sexual abuse, and then to do nothing more with it is just wrong! I'm also in agreement there has been no analysis of the way Dusty has been presented (self-loathing, needing to be dominated and punished etc).

Isn't this book incredibly nuanced? It damns with faint praise!

And yes Bracci is given the space to explain and justify herself but she looks worse in the final outcome!

What I can't quite understand though is the very bad treatment Norma Tanega has received at the hands of this author! This hasn't been mentioned in any of the reviews. I wonder whether she was given the opportunity to contribute, whether she was given the right to reply!

[Donella](#) x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [memphisinlondon](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 11:24 am

My opening paragraph originally included:

'I finished this short book this morning. It made me cry, of course, because despite everything Dusty shines through and her life from America onwards just seems so unfair and tragic. But why was this new biography written and what does it add to what we've already read? As far as I'm concerned, all we really need is a quality biography like the two volumes Peter Guralnick wrote about Elvis; published in 1994 and 1999 (Elvis died in 1977). Bartlett's book certainly doesn't fit this bill.'

The book did affect me. I was surprised by my reaction. I was angry but, most of all, I was sad.

The Bartlett book has not been properly reviewed in the main Press. If you search for reviews on-line not much comes up and what is out there looks like promotion rather than real reviews. I hope the book is being blanked by the Press. I don't think it offers enough that is new to justify positive take up anywhere. The book that would justify attention is a quality biography by a highly skilled and respected biographer that really understands Dusty, her music and their cultural backdrops especially in the UK and USA. The book would be focused on Dusty's life and achievements in music. Perhaps Ray Connolly could do it as Carole suggests.

Donella - Bartlett is not very present in the book as Corinna has pointed out. She more or less allows Dusty's old friends to tell the story and as Norma presumably declined to be interviewed or wasn't asked all we get is what others thought of her. I always take the comments with a pinch of salt. There must have been so much jealousy around Dusty and rivalry for her attention. Of course 'friends' are going to say they didn't like Norma's interventions etc. I hope Norma does speak up one day as she was with Dusty at such a very crucial time. I think she was right not to contribute to this book though.

Lastly, you say you feel that Bartlett 'belittles' and strips Dusty away. Here, I just think Dusty's times from the mid-70s are very difficult to write about. Dusty does change in lots of ways for lots of reasons. I don't think Bartlett belittles her but I don't think she makes much effort (or had enough time) to understand or sympathise with her.

Melanie

aka

[Memphis](#)

[Ever since we met...](#)



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything
★ ★

Posts: 263
Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 12:21 pm

You are right Mel, Bartlett did not have time to understand or sympathise with Dusty. She was given a year to write the book! How is it possible to do justice to a life in one year? I have also come to the conclusion that her publishers gave her directions as to the general shape and focus of the book.

For me the process of diminishing Dusty starts early on in the book. The revelations by John Adams also the description of her relationship with her parents, are examples. These are given prominence in preference to the work Dusty was doing at the time. Neil has said, in his review that he feels Dusty is slowly stripped away (forgive me Neil if I have misquoted you). That is how I feel too. Dusty did have difficult times in the 70s and early 80s, I agree. But even then there were more good times than bad, I believe!

Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?
★ ★ ★

Posts: 704
Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am
Location: Glasgow, UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [boztiggs](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 7:05 pm

And since i closed the book, i have not played anything but dusty. at all. i usually have two internet soul shows a night, as well as huge amounts of motown, but its literally been just Dusty. This probably means something but im not clever enough to know what!

Thanks again to everyone for their reviews, we are all pretty much on the same wavelength i think.

Neil 😊

[http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16 ... 3f87dd.gif](http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16...3f87dd.gif)



[boztiggs](#)

I've got a good thing
★ ★ ★ ★

Posts: 1761
Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 9:22 am
Location: wales

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [villagegirl](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 8:30 pm

Good grief. This book sounds like a horror. A badly written one at that. If you're going to make statements about sexual abuse (as an author) or any other intimate detail, you should have evidence to back this up or it just isn't credible.

Why is it that when someone writes a book about Dusty or talks about making a film they have to bring out the worst of everything? I agree that the personal side of her life cannot be ignored or swept under the carpet but it seems to me that these people have a fascination with Dusty's misery. She was an incredibly gifted musician and yet this gets lost amongst the dirt they seem intent on dragging her through. Why is it that her personal life can't be treated sensitively and with respect? She was a human being who wanted love just like everyone else. So she got it wrong over and over again. That's something that should be written about with genuine sympathy not in a way that makes her look foolish. As for that awful wedding photo, I agree Carole, I wish I hadn't seen it either. Makes me feel sick to my stomach thinking about what she went through.

Corinna, I'm genuinely shocked by what you revealed earlier, horrified actually.

I won't be reading this. Reading your reviews has been enough for me. I feel angry enough already.



[villagegirl](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1142

Joined: Tue Jan 10, 2012 9:28 pm

Location: Cardiff

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Sweetbaby](#) » Fri Jul 04, 2014 12:04 am



Why is it that when someone writes a book about Dusty or talks about making a film they have to bring out the worst of everything?

Amanda I agree that in writing about Dusty "words" seem too often to turn into "weapons" but I do question (in a non-confrontational manner) whether there's been any indication that any of the projected Dusty biopics were intended as hatchet jobs - a fear I realize has been expressed by several other LTDers.

The way the new Dusty biography has been promoted indicates that there's indeed an anticipated audience for reading matter of a sordid nature: even if that regrettable assumption is true for the written word I don't think it's a given for the media of stage or film.

As much as any of the three or four Dusty biopic projects gave any indication of their intent before evaporating I don't recall any real grounds for Dusty's fans to fear the result. There was mention made of addressing Dusty's personal life but no reason I'm aware of for assuming this would be done in a sordid manner or be the film's sole focus.

I'm quite a pop culture junkie & I'm not aware of any biopic that set out to malign its subject. Okay - maybe **Mommie Dearest** but considering what a career killer that film proved I doubt if any film-makers would be tempted to have it serve as a template. Also that film's dim view of its subject was dictated by its heavily biased source material. On the basis of films like **Lady Sings the Blues** - which as I understand it barely gave a glimpse of how dark things got for Lady Day - I'd say film-makers want to present biopic subjects in the best light possible.

I'd like to think film-makers respect the subjects of their biopics - whether or not that's true I think film-makers are savvy enough to know that prospective viewers won't find sitting through ninety minutes to two hours of a downer life story to be a worthwhile experience. And considering all the positive elements there are to Dusty's life story I can't imagine why a biopic wouldn't make them the main focus - with what might be termed darker elements not ignored but not emphasized either.

Mercy - but I've written a lot about something that doesn't exist haven't I! Sorry - but even before the first Dusty biopic project was announced back in 2001



I thought her life story had the makings of a filmation which - if not necessarily classic cinema - would be entertaining, evocative & uplifting. And for those of you who respectfully (or not 😞) disagree with me - I say at this point 'tis all moot mate: if we haven't seen a Dusty biopic of whatever hue up til now I don't see we ever should.

Last edited by [Sweetbaby](#) on Fri Aug 15, 2014 9:07 pm, edited 1 time in total.



[Sweetbaby](#)

Wasn't born to follow



Posts: 2647

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 9:21 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Fri Jul 04, 2014 5:07 am

Regarding past comments...I always knew the "tooth fairy" was not to be trusted. Now that the gloves are off, I can say it sickened me when she joined various Dusty groups AND had members kiss her butt essentially, blinded by 15 seconds of fame. I missed Rosemary's group for if nothing else the fact that she stood up to the TF and said her piece gladly.

And Dusty was ALWAYS beautiful, still was in her later years. NO MATTER WHAT. A beautiful woman and a beautiful soul!!!!!!

Regarding Dusty not wanting to write an autobio, I can understand...but I dunno. Maybe if she told as much as she wanted, no one else could hurt her? Marianne Faithfull did the same, I can't imagine anyone coming up with any stories she DIDN'T mention in her bio, or ones more shocking! (Except maybe a certain person and his friend who was blocked on her Facebook for simply mentioning a contrary political view...)

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am





[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Fri Jul 04, 2014 8:00 am

Should yet another bio be written? There are 4 books which we are most familiar with. Lucy O'Brien's was published whilst Dusty was still alive and, as I understand, Dusty did not like it. (Still available thru Amazon at nearly £1000 !!!). The 3 remaining books are re hashes, each published after her passing. These point out aspects of Dusty's life to a greater or lesser degree. All contain the odd new snippet. No new bio will reveal much more about Dusty, the fun loving girl, as many of her friends and colleagues have passed away or will not wish to talk. None of these write much about her music as their point of reference is mainly "the bible".

I have omitted Paul's 2 books as they stand alone as works of information and compiled with great care and affection., Maybe we, as the readers should cherry-pick and discard the sour ones.

To Dusty's memory let her sleep, whilst we listen to her.     .
I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....
..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm

Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [mnmcv1](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 2:32 am

I'm still reading and it's turning sour.
-markus

Everyday of my life, is fresh as morning dew...



[mnmcvl](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2570

Joined: Tue Jan 12, 2010 12:10 am

Location: Massachusetts

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [st louis blues](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 5:06 am

I'm not quite sure what to make of some of the things Sue Cameron says. I don't doubt that she loved Dusty and probably tried and at times was a stable force in her life. However, I, too, don't believe Dusty was considering getting back together with her. One of them would have had to move to another country, correct? By the time Dusty and Pat were in Nashville her life and career had stabilized in Britain. The two had not been a couple in at least 15 years and Dusty had been to hell and back. Would Dusty have moved back to America, were the worst period of her life was spent, to reconnect with someone she had not been with in so many years? Why would they choose Nashville, where Dusty was recording and with Pat with her, to discuss something like that?

As for Sue's last visit I'm puzzled about that as well. If it's true SC offered to come to Britain to care for Dusty then I respect her for that. Dusty, I think, did the right thing by not agreeing to that. It probably would have been very stressful dealing with an ex-lover at that time.

As you know Fred Perry made some corrections in two of the DSB regarding DWD. Again, I take what I read with a grain of salt, but here is what Fred wrote regarding the last visit:

She was on her way to Switzerland and thereabouts to review restaurants (she showed me the finished article.) I heard from one of the Henley inner circle that she called in from Los Angeles, begged and whined and called and wanted to see Dusty. This was repeated ad nauseum when she got to London. Having previously spoken to Vicki, and knowing Dusty was terminal, she knew it might be the very last time they would meet. She also coveted those shoes, so in the end, Dust agreed to see her, and I'm told it went very stiffly. Cameron asked for the shoes "as a souvenir" and in the end, worn down by the constant whining, Dusty agreed to give them to her. After she had been driven back to the station, Dusty said, "I'm glad that's over, WHAT did I ever see in that woman?"

As I recall Fred and Sue had a falling out and it appears that Sue had no use for Lee Everett, who it seems was around Dusty quite a bit at this time, so perhaps Fred's account is tainted. I actually found Sue's recollection of their last meeting, as recounted in the new book, quite moving, but I'm not sure what to believe. It's too bad Fred and Helene were not around to interview. IMO of all the people who knew Dusty in America it was Helene that she could depend on the most.

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [dig123](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 1:54 pm

Oh thank you for this post SLB! I totally agree! I couldn't remember where I read that Sue wanted those shoes and Dusty making that comment about not knowing what she ever saw in Sue. Also, agree on why would Dusty take Pat with her to Nashville if she had intentions on getting back with Sue. Anyway, I felt very sad after reading this last book. I went back and reread some of the stories Tara Thomas posted on here. I really enjoyed how she wroteshe made it sound like Dusty did have some happy and fun times!! It helped reading those.

[dig123](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 273

Joined: Tue Feb 04, 2014 12:28 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [pat.dunham](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 3:01 pm

There are so many things written that are confusing that we will never really know what occurred.

I have always thought that Helene and Peggy had a great influence on Dusty. This also comes from the notes on "Reputation", Dusty in her thanks writes "...and above all to my H.P". I may be wrong but to me a typical appreciation by Dusty to her "real friends", maybe. Who knows ?
I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....
..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness
★★★★★★

Posts: 4601
Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm
Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [dig123](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:27 pm

I haven't read that much on Peggy . Helene always seemed to be around Dusty. I guess the truth lies somewhere in the middle of everything we read. I have to believe that Dusty had many more happy times than what is written.

Di

[dig123](#)

I'll try anything
★★

Posts: 273
Joined: Tue Feb 04, 2014 12:28 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:37 pm

Di for more info about Peggy Albrecht there is a lot of info about her on the web. A wonderful lady who has worked with women's re-hab etc. She is still going strong.

<http://www.friendlyhousela.org/peggyalbrecht.aspx>

Last edited by [pat.dunham](#) on Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:43 pm, edited 1 time in total.

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness
★★★★★★

Posts: 4601
Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm
Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [memphisinlondon](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:42 pm

Hello,

Sorry to intrude. I think the HP probably stands for Higher Power. It's an AA thing. Elton John references his HP in some of his album notes too. I remember checking it out a few years ago. I could be wrong though.

All the best,

Melanie

aka

Memphis

Ever since we met...



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 263

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:50 pm

No intrusion Mel, something I was not aware of so as I said who knows.

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm

Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Graham2010](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 4:51 pm

I have decided to put this book away for posterity.

The only memories of it I wish to remember are the pics of Dusty relaxing and enjoying herself.....so natural and beautiful. Dusty in a bikini looks great!!

I have recently taken to to play her albums in bed on my laptop, headphones on high and lights out.....bliss (except when I drift off and then wake up wondering what is going on!)

Bless you Dear Dusty.

Graham

[Graham2010](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 162

Joined: Tue Jul 06, 2010 6:17 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [dig123](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 5:24 pm

Thanks Pat for the link on Peggy. I will read up on her. Interesting stuff!

Di

[dig123](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 273

Joined: Tue Feb 04, 2014 12:28 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 5:31 pm

I've heard the pics being talked up here, can anyone post here?

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [st louis blues](#) » Sun Jul 06, 2014 5:56 am

I agree with the view that perhaps the worst part of the book is the part about Tedda and the damage that was done to Dusty during the fight. I got the impression from the book that KB and TB were trying to downplay the damage and blame it on Dusty. In DWD it's said that when Norma walked in the hospital and saw Dusty's face she burst into tears. I know there are those who don't care for Lee Everett. She wasn't listed as being interviewed. However, I thought I would share some of Lee's comments about the incident.

SIXTIES superstar Dusty Springfield was left physically and mentally scarred by her secret gay marriage, according to her life-long friend Lee Everett-Alkin. During one particularly vicious fight, Tedda, who had a history of drink-related offences, smashed a saucepan into Dusty's face.

The singer's mouth was shattered and her front teeth were knocked out. And, despite plastic surgery, Dusty's face never fully recovered from that brutal attack.

Lee said: "When I first saw Dusty afterwards I couldn't believe how much the injuries had damaged her looks. Her lip was stiff for evermore. Lee revealed that the singer, who died in March last year from breast cancer, never got over her violent relationship with Tedda.

"But the relationship with Tedda was different from anything else she'd ever experienced. It was destructive and violent. When it ended, it left her badly scared."

Although she introduced Lee to her long-standing lover Carole Pope, a singer-songwriter with Canadian band Rough Trade, Dusty rarely spoke to her about Tedda, the woman she met at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in America in the early Eighties. "But the situation with Tedda really scarred her. She couldn't bring herself to talk about her, not even with me." Lee met Dusty in London during the Sixties when she was on her way to a party.

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [mnmcv1](#) » Sun Jul 06, 2014 9:17 pm

I find myself rolling my eyes at various inaccuracies.

Was "Live it Up" on the track listing of Ev'rything's Coming Up Dusty in 1965?

No? Well, can someone please inform the author, because she seems to think so.

Yes, I know its a bonus track in the CD. In 1998. But she never clarifies that.

She speaks as if it were part of the album proper.

Minor quibble? Perhaps, but again it just tells me just how disengaged the author was/is.

-markus

Everyday of my life, is fresh as morning dew...



[mnmcv1](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2570

Joined: Tue Jan 12, 2010 12:10 am

Location: Massachusetts

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Dotty86](#) » Sun Jul 06, 2014 9:20 pm

I still haven't read it. i just can't bring myself to do it at the moment... 😞

Thanks for posting all of the reviews. They are interesting to read.
Georgie x



[Dotty86](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1344

Joined: Sat Jan 05, 2013 9:08 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Sun Jul 06, 2014 10:02 pm

Ok, I'm still waiting for my hardcover book, and I couldn't stand it any longer, so I purchased the e-book. I have read it twice, and I'm going in for another skim.

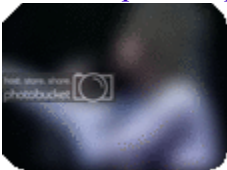
I will have to say I'm very disappointed. I will have a review of this atrocity of a book or should I say "tabloid" very soon.

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

[Top](#)

Re: New biography

by [davdreamer](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 1:17 pm

A few words from Dusty herself on her life in LA taken from an interview with RuPaul in the mid 90's.

r: You know, English people traditionally love Los Angeles.

os: I miss it very much. I miss the good friends I made there who were totally without any crap, which you have to wait a while to find. I didn't realize that there was so much betrayal. I got in with the wrong crowd, and I'm glad I did it all, because I learned so much. I firmly believe it was a really bad rehearsal for where I am in life. *[both laugh]*

r: Well, I tell you, the world won't change, but what can change is how you deal with situations.

os: All you can do is change you, and I didn't know how to do that. And change comes with time. I backed off and let myself change. I avoided people who would drag me down and found people that were of true value in my life. It was stunning to me that there were people who actually cared about Mary O'Brien, and they used to hug me, and I'd think, Did they mean it? I've learned to hug people and give them some love and not expect anything back. And how the shit did we get into this? *[laughs]*

r: Somehow I always gravitate toward this. This is the part of life that no one likes to talk about, and this is what it's all about.

os: Well, it is, because without it there's nothing, there's no career, and there's no substance. I had become a front, with nothing underneath except a very shy, afraid person. There was just this vacuum. And all of this stuff I went through, all of this I've learned, has now filled up that vacuum.

r: But it's interesting how your voice always reflected that there was something really deep there. Everyone else around you heard it, but you had to find it yourself.

os: Yes. You're so right, I couldn't find it. I couldn't get back to the person I was. Life, as I knew it, was chaos. I didn't know how to deal with it. I was this frightened person, and I only drank and used drugs to get over it. I was a total, unadulterated, obnoxious idiot, and I had fun with it while it worked. But it turns on you. It didn't work for me anymore.

There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

Re: New biography

by [Cas19](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 2:45 pm

This was familiar to me Carole, and honest of Dusty.

Casx

Something in your eyes



[Cas19](#)

All I see is you



Posts: 23272

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:25 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [Corinna](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 3:03 pm

Ah yes, Carole, THAT's the Dusty I miss in all the biographies. In the interviews, Dusty has this wonderful self-distance, and awareness. She's honest about herself, but with a dry sense of humour that makes her so unique, and so loveable. Why isn't this kind of material used to a larger extent? It says so much more about Dusty than any ex-lovers...

Cor xx

*Dusty Springfield, that's a pretty name
Pretty as a pearl
What a pretty girl*



[Corinna](#)

Site Admin



Posts: 8252

Joined: Wed Dec 16, 2009 8:52 pm

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

- [Website](#)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [karen](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 3:07 pm

Yes a lot of Dusty interviews in the archives , showing us the lovely funny side of her .. how much nicer to see this side of her than what others had to say..



[karen](#)

I only want to be with you



Posts: 18107

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 6:48 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 3:28 pm

daydreamer wrote: A few words from Dusty herself on her life in LA taken from an interview with RuPaul in the mid 90's.

Scan-140707-0002.jpg

RuPaul, eh? Now that's a combination I didn't think of! Was said interview televised?

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [Brenda king](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 5:09 pm

Hey Carole thanks for posting this I needed it !! just finished the book this past weekend and ever since have just felt profoundly sad. I still wonder if she hadn't gone to LA her life would not have taken the path that it did. 15 years is a long time and it seems like most of those years weren't good ones. I'm glad she had good years after LA. And to hear that in her own words makes it even better.

Last edited by [Brenda king](#) on Mon Jul 07, 2014 9:12 pm, edited 1 time in total.

[Brenda king](#)

Little by little



Posts: 50

Joined: Mon Feb 17, 2014 7:59 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 5:41 pm

Thanks for that, Carole! Yes it is good to know she was at peace.

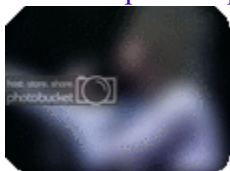
Is there any more of that interview? If so, could you post? Thanks again!

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 6:46 pm

Ok folks, so you will find the Ru Paul interview posted in the 'From my Dusty articles archive' thread in this forum!

It is on page 4 and it is article no 38.

All the articles in this thread are great
[Donella x](#)



Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [memphisinlondon](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 6:57 pm

http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/ltd_archives/images/stories/PDF/Dontforget/Ru_Paul.pdf

I just searched for the Ru Paul interview on Google and the LTD archive came up! I posted the interview back in 2008 and Wendy Hampson helped to sort out access to it. Hopefully the link above will take you there.

Looks like Donella has collected articles and put them on this site which is great news (Hi Donella - my link is to a pdf - did you do this?. If you did, thank you very much :-)). LTD is a treasure box of information.

Lucy O'Brien's book uses a lot of Dusty's own words. Dusty was very open and truthful and she should really be allowed to speak for herself. Whatever she held back we don't really need to know IMHO.

Melanie

Memphis

Ever since we met...



[memphisinlondon](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 263

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:06 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [donellac](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 8:09 pm

Hi Mel,

The thread I have referenced is 'From my Dusty articles archive'. It is a thread started by Geraldine and with almost 100 posts by her. All her posts are newspaper articles.

I would love to be able to say that I have collected them but, sadly, no! I just found them in this forum.

[Donella x](#)

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?



Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 10:00 pm

True, Melanie...I find Lucy's book and Full Circle woefully underappreciated. Both need to be liked more because they have Dusty's own words. Like I said, I know how she felt, but if Dusty wrote something herself, maybe other people could hurt her less!

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Mon Jul 07, 2014 10:05 pm

donellac wrote: Ok folks, so you will find the Ru Paul interview posted in the 'From my Dusty articles archive' thread in this forum!

It is on page 4 and it is article no 38.

All the articles in this thread are great



So never on TV, then?

Dusty did love drag, did she? Considering that she did another interview, that one with Dame Edna.

So do I, and she helped there too because through her I met one of my greatest friends who dressed up and performed in south Calif. Which led to my interest in the art form, and the realization that I'd put drag or T-girls up against the "best" of women in general. What can I say, I find the female form to be very beautiful, and that doesn't exclude different shapes or ones with different or extra parts!

Pardon my soapbox moment there...

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

■ by [jeffery](#) » Wed Jul 09, 2014 12:13 am

Corinna wrote: CORRECTION!

Carole's post above prompted me to go through my files to find that exchange with the "trusted source" I was referring to. And there was, in fact, no mention of a skillet pan. Maybe I got this from DWD. Anyway, I don't want to repeat lies that have been spread. But equally, I don't want to contribute to any rehabilitation of TB. I just want to put the facts right.

This exchange took place in December 2005, i.e. nine years ago. And, surprisingly (or not), it paints yet another picture of the events. No boot was mentioned that time.

Anyway, here goes.

Quote TB: "Dusty was never drunk or drugs with me. Only 4 or 5 times I got her drunk. Night of the incident was one." The incident is explained by TB as: "... me swinging out in defense."

Quote trusted source, explaining the injuries: "You saw the "jewels" that Teda wears on her fingers and wrists all the time in the pictures I sent, no? You can see if any of that landed just right, it could cause that type of damage."

KB claims that Teda returned to the flat to find Dusty drinking wine and taking Valium. And that TB attacked Dusty with a boot. So, again this is a different version.

See what time can do to memory?

What time, 🤔 and alcohol can do to a memory.

Sadly, I think maybe there was more than just one "incident" of physical abuse.

So, TB can't remember which incident it was, or whether she used a boot, a pan, or her fist. 🤔
"The man with the child in his eyes".... Jeffery



[jeffery](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 6517

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:34 am

Location: Norwalk, Ohio - USA (Great Lakes Region)

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [darren2722](#) » Wed Jul 09, 2014 7:03 am

Thanks for the info Carole, Donella & Melanie. 😊
I Couldn't Ask For More



[darren2722](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 7912

Joined: Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:12 pm

Location: Sittingbourne Kent

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [bozfiggs](#) » Wed Jul 09, 2014 8:57 pm

Im over it now. I got Dustys laundry bag out before and thought F*** Karen Bartlett and her malicious money making violation of Dusty. cos I've got Dustys laundry bag, and that is far more important.



Neil 😊

[http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16 ... 3f87dd.gif](http://i213.photobucket.com/albums/cc16...3f87dd.gif)



[boztiggs](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1761

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 9:22 am

Location: wales

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Wed Jul 09, 2014 10:18 pm

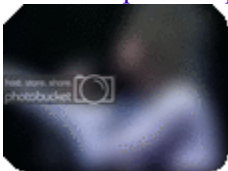
LMAO! Yeah you right, Neil! Tell 'em!

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Wed Jul 09, 2014 11:30 pm

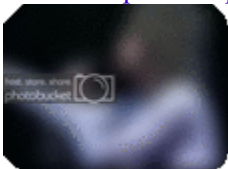
Can someone please tell me what a "serviced flat" is? Is it like an extended stay hotel?

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

[Top](#)

[Re: New biography](#)

by [allherfaces](#) » Thu Jul 10, 2014 12:01 am

boztiggs wrote: Im over it now. I got Dustys laundry bag out before and thought F*** Karen Bartlett and her malicious money making violation of Dusty. cos I've got Dustys laundry bag, and that is far more important.

10492073_10152321381718515_1765257627220799874_n.jpg

Neil 😊

You might scare her away with your Billy Goat Gruff look, Neil! 😄

x
Bossch

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.



[allherfaces](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 5815

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:15 am

Location: Boston MA

[Top](#)

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