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- Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum
  - Getting It Right
  - What is the problem with Dancing With Demons???

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[Previous Page](#) | [Next Page](#)

#### Author

**Topic**

Page:  of 9

#### Will

Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★

Posted - 29/01/2009 : 23:58:48

Annie, I would knock on his door FOR you :)

#### Will

*"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."*

Gallery: [www.askyofhoney.com](http://www.askyofhoney.com)



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

#### spooky

Little by little  
★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 00:01:30

Oh my goodness...this might actually happen if we keep this up! As long as you don't run away after you knock on the door! :)

Annie

warten und hoffen...



USA  
372 Posts

#### Will

Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 00:05:29

Not a chance. Loyal to the very end.

#### Will

*"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."*

Gallery: [www.askyofhoney.com](http://www.askyofhoney.com)



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

#### memphisinlondon

Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 00:23:15

This has turned out to be such a great thread with the Greats at last speaking



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

their minds! I've been reading it every night. I was trying not to participate but I can't help myself.

I agree with everyone especially Nancy, Carole and Annie. I've said much the same in various old threads. I do think Vicki must have been angry about something probably including money. Dusty alienated a lot of people it seems; she wasn't a saint and she spoke her mind. But it became clear on the Brit Hall of fame induction that Vicki and Nona didn't care much about Dusty. Time had passed but they still hadn't changed. Something had gone very wrong between those two and Dusty. Vicki, Nona and Patti were the wrong people for the induction.

I was never angry about the book in the visceral way some Dusty fans were. There was a lot of hate thrown at Vicki at the time. I was just very puzzled by the book's shock tactics and it's ignorance about Dusty's work. And I was devastated by the revelations. I can look back now and realise I was quietly grief stricken for a quite a while because of DWD.

I'd like to read a book about Tom and Dusty one day because they're both important and must have known each other inside and out. The fact that they were both successful in music is amazing to me. Despite their differences I would bet they are very similar too. Those holidays, their collaborations and joint friends. There's a whole story in there that would tell us just about everything worth knowing even if it stopped short of Dusty's full life-time. Tom is now apparently a recluse in his later years like his sister was. But maybe a knock on his door (in Henley I last heard here - and that is intriguing too) might actually be welcomed if it was the right knock. Of course a definitive biography of Dusty only would be great but definitive means Tom would need to be in there too.

Annie - given your excellent book and all that painstaking and valuable research, which shows how much you cared about getting it right (and that tantalising Norma Tanega interview you have tucked away) you would be the perfect biographer. You write elegantly with 'style' and you are now The International Dusty Expert and must be well networked. And you represent the first time Dusty has been appreciated in book form with any depth or understanding. You've set a new progressive benchmark. You have perfect credentials. Dusty people should be able to keep their privacy if they want to but maybe they would talk to you if they knew it was for a quality book. Anyway, you are The One. There's no getting away from it. That's what I think anyway.

Memphis  
Ever since we met...

PS I was writing this for a while and editing it - it's still too long. Didn't see the new posts. I agree of course. I've mentioned Tom a few times in various earlier threads because he is the most important key to Dusty (who is still rather mysterious in some ways). I'm particularly interested in the crucial family background because this helped create two important musical artists and...The Seekers!

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 30/01/2009 01:17:14



**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 01:34:33



USA  
2606 Posts

quote:

*Originally posted by spooky*

About the out issue: What I found is that it's not whether they will talk but what they will talk about. The brick wall Carole G referred to was more of that nature. This is the case with many public figures' biographies--that the stories come rolling out several decades later.

Annie

warten und hoffen...

Oh, that makes sense. I would think if you were discussing the less personal, intimate aspects of their relationships, they'd be more willing to talk. Still, her relationship with Norma Tanega produced some of her most sensitive work ('No Stranger Am I', 'The Colour of Your Eyes') and some of her most heart-wrenching ('Go, My Love'). In that view, her personal relationship had a great effect on her music and career. That's about where I think any biography should stop when it comes to her romantic relationships. If they affected her music, then I think it's important that they be discussed within the context of her music, rather than as a salacious tell-all, which DWD seemed to do.

Memphis, I'm curious, I did watch Miss Dusty's induction into the Brit Hall of Fame, and I don't remember seeing Vicki, only Nona and Patti. I don't recall seeing or feeling any sort of reluctance on their part to be there, though I think there might have been other people who would have been a better choice to present her induction.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



### memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 02:07:06



Hi Taylor

What I remember is the crack about Dusty being pretty awful; 'she could drive you mad' or something like that. Nona said this. Patti came on and did an over the top totally Patti version of YDHTSYLM (not a tribute) which I found hard to listen to. Overall I thought it was a tacky Dusty moment but it should have been a great one. I thought Vicki was there too. I'll have to watch again.

I know your point about romantic relationships is for Annie. But! Dusty's main romantic relationships will be important for any credible biography - and not just in the confines of her music making. Otherwise yet again important parts of Dusty's life will be silenced. Surely we can tell from Dusty's tracks that romance, love and affection were very important to her. It seems there are such impossible constraints that a full biography just isn't possible but I think if the right key was turned one person would speak, another would follow and then another and so on. Otherwise a biography will have to be confined in the way you say. But I'm a bit fed up with reading about bits of Dusty and never the whole complex woman.

Memphis

Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 30/01/2009 02:17:03



### MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



USA  
2606 Posts

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 03:32:15



Well, Memphis, shouldn't there be parts of her life that are only for her and her lovers? Granted, she is/was a celebrity, so she's in the public eye, and her fans put her there. But that doesn't mean we deserve to have access to every intimate detail. That's where I think it crosses the line (and where DWD crossed), which is why I'd prefer any comprehensive biography only talk about her personal, romantic relationships in the context of her music-making. Otherwise, her relationships should be talked about only in general terms, not in much detail. I understand your frustration, though. I'd like to know as much about her as possible, especially since she isn't here to fill in some gaps in her history that no one who knows about will talk about.

Why do you think her main romantic relationships are important to a biography? I'm thinking Norma Tanega (who seems to have been the most cooperative ex), the woman she spent the first several years in California with (who is referenced in DWD by a pseudonym), Carole Pope (whom I like less every time I hear her talk about Miss Dusty), and one or two others have spoken. I think those are her main romances/ex-lovers.

I remember now what you were talking about at the induction. Nona did say that, but I can't be sure it was coming from a place of having had a falling out with

Miss Dusty before her passing (as she and Vicki are/were partners), or of simply being honest. Some of my friends frustrate the hell out of me at times, but I love them nonetheless. As powerful as Patti's version of YDHTSYLM was, I'd have preferred it sung more towards Miss Dusty's untoppable version. And why was Joss Stone there? She always sounds so hoarse to me, or like she's trying too hard to sound soulful. I'd have preferred a different singer, but it's all moot.

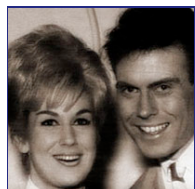
"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 30/01/2009 03:50:29



**spooky**  
Little by little  
★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 05:10:24



USA  
372 Posts

Lots to think about here, Memphis and Taylor. I think the premise of a good artist bio is that *\*everything\** somehow feeds the artist's creative imagination and therefore should be, must be included. When you think of it, there are very few excellent biographies, full stop, and even fewer good bios of pop figures.

I think the point about D's romantic relationships and close friendships is that they were absolutely integral to her life and revealed things about her that are otherwise unknowable. Isn't this true of everyone? There's a big part of the puzzle missing in the Dusty story because what we know is so fragmented and speculative.

Something Memphis said really struck a chord: I too was very sad, almost grieving, after I read DWD. But there were two things going on at once: the content itself was very upsetting and my heart went out to Dusty. Nancy has written beautifully about this impulse to protect Dusty in her recent research. I felt that impulse and wanted to take a baseball bat to one person in particular (I'm sure you all know who I mean).

But I was also sad (and angry) about the social forces that made such a telling possible, that made D's low points more marketable than her music. As many have said, the dark periods of DWD are allowed to overshadow D's many triumphs and hard-won artistic stature. Too much shadow, not enough light. No one disputes that D was "high maintenance," but as Memphis says, we still lack a sense of the whole complex woman.

One more thing: Paul Howes is "The One" in my opinion! Where would we all be without Paul?

One last thought on an earlier point: a bio of both Tom AND Dusty would be very interesting indeed. I would imagine that it would be as intriguing to research as to write. It would be about each of them but also about the concept of *\*sibling\** as a dynamic in both their lives. I think they were v. important to each other and that their rivalry was very artistically productive if emotionally fraught.

Enough from me! Good night everyone!

Annie

warten und hoffen...



**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?  
★★★★

Posted - 30/01/2009 : 07:26:28



USA  
366 Posts

I guess I'm not convinced that we need to know about her romantic relationships beyond how they influenced her career, and perhaps as they related to choices she made that helped or hurt her career. What things do her romantic relationships reveal about her that are important to understanding her as a musical talent? I can also see why some of her friends and acquaintances might be quite reluctant to contribute after DWD and the backlash it received. I'm also looking at a biography from the standpoint of one wanting to protect Miss Dusty, like you mention.

I have never had the sense that Miss Dusty and Tom were ever very close. In

2606 POSTS

DWD, if you'll recall, she had described their relationship as "ambivalent" and that they went long stretches without seeing or talking to each other, not out of discord or dislike. It seems that they only reestablished close contact after Miss Dusty became ill. I can certainly see how the sibling relationship was important in the early years, and leading up to the breakup of The Springfields.

If a biography is viewing her from a personal standpoint, as a woman who happened to be a singer for a living (albeit a very famous and important one), then I can understand why it might be more effective to have contributions from her exes. If a biography is looking at her from a musical standpoint, then it would be helpful to include bits about her relationships, romantic and otherwise, and how they contributed to her music, Norma Tanega's songs, and Madeline and Simon Bell singing backgrounds being good examples. I guess the trick is to find middle ground between the two, balancing her musical greatness with the extraordinary woman who became Dusty Springfield. It can't have been easy being Mary O'Brien.

And ditto your comment about Paul Howes. I would know next to nothing about Miss Dusty were it not for him.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?



Posted - 30/01/2009 : 10:01:14



Where would we be without Annie?

Paul Howes and Annie J. Randall. The dream team.

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

**spooky**

Little by little



Posted - 30/01/2009 : 18:46:00



Thanks, Memphis! Though Paul really is THE font of all Dusty knowledge.

Taylor, I see your point that it comes down to relevance and you're right that it's tricky to strike a balance between that and the expectations of a "full" biography. It would come down to the perspective of the writer--they would have to be able to put it all together in an integrated way.

About the sibling dynamic (or any important familial relationship): even if siblings are out of touch with one another, the dynamic can remain as intense (and tense) as if they were in close, constant contact. This is a classic theme in artist's biographies: creativity is sparked or takes a certain shape often in reaction to another person in the family, esp if that other person happens to be in the same creative field. Now that I'm on to this, many examples are coming to mind.

I'm so glad this thread came up! I hadn't given enough thought to the Dusty-Tom connection. I'm going to keep thinking about it.

thanks everyone for the stimulating conversation!

Annie

warten und hoffen...



**Will**

Wasn't born to follow



Posted - 30/01/2009 : 19:01:43



Yes it is, isn't it?

**Will**







*"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."*

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United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?



Posted - 30/01/2009 : 23:11:26



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

Taylor. I think you misunderstand me. Do you really think I want to know 'every intimate detail'? Oh Taylor! But people are really affected by their important relationships. They can grow or wither because of them. You couldn't have a decent biography just about music. Think of John Lennon without his child-hood, his mother, his Aunt, Cynthia, Yoko, Julian, Sean or May Pang and his 'Lost Weekend'. Or Elvis without his child-hood, his parents especially his mother, Priscilla, Lisa-Marie, Ann-Margret, Tom Parker. Marilyn Monroe without her child-hood, her mother, Joe Dimaggio, Lee Strasberg, Arthur Miller.

In Dusty's case it will be her child-hood, parents especially her mother, brother, Madeline, Duggie, Vic Billings (maybe someone in his family has the stories) and Norma and others – people that knew facets of Dusty inside out when she was at her most successful. In particular lovers and partners usually to get to see the real person. Norma, in particular must know, from her stand-point, what Dusty was dealing with - all her personal and music business struggles plus her music making process around the time of DD, DIM and BNM. Norma is also very articulate and she was also an interesting musician trying to make it in the UK. She made music with Dusty and Tom. I'd buy a book by her any day.

What questions should a quality biography of Dusty answer? Which particular areas of her life should a biographer explore deeply to answer those questions. What are the milestones along the way to the answer? Which facts are essential, desirable or superfluous? Quality biographies don't go into 'intimate' detail unless that detail is integral to answering the question. A quality biographer has to maintain objectivity but also empathy with the subject otherwise the book won't work. It is a difficult balance.

The years 1967-1974 when Dusty was going through all sorts of changes are what I really want to understand. That period probably involves a lot of complexity and it would take a gifted and probably brave writer to get the balance right. But I also want to know about the period 1939-66. What made Dusty Springfield during that period? What made her tick and what drove her so hard that she became the greatest singer the UK has produced?

About the induction. I just thought it wasn't a real tribute or the celebration that Dusty deserved and I was expecting. It was tacky and without warmth except for Joss Stone talking a little about Dusty's music. I think Neil Tennant should have been up there to speak articulately about the greatness of Dusty.

Lasty, fonts of knowledge. Paul's book is absolutely a priceless treasure. It's my main reference. What I would really like is this on a database so I could put the songs with all of Paul's notes into chronological order and especially album order. I have spent hours with the book trying to piece things together! It's a jig-saw puzzle that has given me great insights and it's one of my desert island books. Now Paul doesn't have the Bulletin to work on maybe it's time for that next book with Annie - the other font of knowledge. Maybe even with Sharon Davis (unbound), Laurence Cole, Lucy O'Brien and the Super Fans especially our Carole Gibson. The combination of knowledge would produce the definitive biography I'm sure. But Paul and Annie and are still my Dream Team - being so well networked they could produce the definitive biography - they've already written a good part of it.

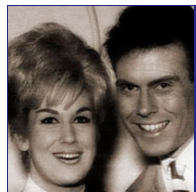
Memphis  
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 30/01/2009 23:23:58



**spooky**  
Little by little  
★

Posted - 31/01/2009 : 04:51:32



USA  
372 Posts

I don't know if Paul ever drops in on LTD, but he must be smiling (or shaking his head!) if he's read about the Dream Team. Thanks again, Memphis. It's a lovely thought.

In fact, what you've said--that if we all put our heads together we'd come up with a good bio--is what's happening here on the LTD site. In the thousands of messages archived faithfully by the administrators a kind of biography is being constructed, bit by bit. We *\*are\** writing it, NOW!

In some ways, I prefer this to the standard, book-type biography because it's more fluid and doesn't pretend to be the authoritative last word on Dusty.

That said, I must admit that I'm still intrigued by the sibling idea and the thought of a dual Springfields biography.

Good weekend everybody!

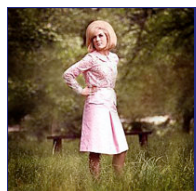
Annie

warten und hoffen...



**Will**  
Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★

Posted - 31/01/2009 : 08:02:26



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

>>In fact, what you've said--that if we all put our heads together we'd come up with a good bio--is what's happening here on the LTD site<<

I do like that thought, Annie :)

**Will**

*"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."*

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Page: 3 of 9

Topic

[Previous Page](#) | [Next Page](#)

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