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From *The New York Times* bestselling author of *America's Queen*—the definitive biography of Diana, Princess of Wales

Diana, Princess of Wales, is nothing less than an icon, remembered in death as vividly as she appeared in life. Yet throughout her brief life, Diana was plagued by rumor, innuendo, and scandal. With exclusive access to those closest to Diana, Sarah Bradford now casts aside the gossip and lies and takes us to the very heart of the royal family to separate the myth from the truth of the Diana years.

Diana follows the old-fashioned courtship that saw her captivate the Prince of Wales; the transformation of an unworldly teenager into an emotionally demanding, but adoring, wife and mother; the damage caused by the ever-present specter of Camilla Parker Bowles; and the eventual collapse of a doomed marriage once hailed as the ultimate fairy tale. Bradford examines Diana's lovers and her relationships with her staff, friends, and family, as well as her children, husband, and the royal family. She also charts Diana's profound commitment to her charities and her rare connection to and empathy with all those she met; the struggle to find an identity after the separation from Charles; and the final, complicated year as a single woman.

With the authority missing from all previous accounts, as well as remarkable new sources and firsthand accounts, acclaimed royal biographer Sarah Bradford delivers a complex and explosive study of one of the most popular figures of the twentieth century.

Diana Details

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Author : Sarah Bradford

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From Reader Review Diana for online ebook

LOL_BOOKS says

MEME, I'VE JUST FINISHED READING THAT DIANA BIOGRAPHY YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY AND I KIND OF WANT MOAR. IT MADE IT SOUND LIKE THE BRITISH MONARCHY IS COMPLETELY CRAZYSAUCE, EXCEPT FOR MAYBE PRINCESS MARGARET. ALSO I HAD NO IDEA THAT EVEN THE QUEEN THOUGHT CHARLES WAS A POOP.

Melissa says

Reading other reviews on this site, there seem to be a lot of "This book is biased against Diana!" and "This book is too pro-Diana!" comments, which to me confirms my thought that Sarah Bradford's biography is a pretty evenhanded and fair portrayal of the late Princess of Wales. Bradford didn't shy away from either the good things about Diana, like her innate compassion and ability to connect with all kinds of people, or the bad things, like her manipulative nature and the insecurity and neediness which led her to make some extremely poor decisions.

The recent engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton got me interested in the British royal family again, so I picked up this book. I didn't learn much I didn't already know, but it was a well-written overview of Diana's strange, lonely, and ultimately tragic life.

menna hafez says

when diana died i was 6 years but i still remember her funeral very well and the rumors that the press published it about her life, when i read this book i find that 60% of my information about Lady DI is wrong, but i want to thank sarah for this amazing book who clearly appear diana as we not know, what a poor and miserable life she lived since she was kid then married a man not loving her then the royal duties and finally from the press whom involved in her private life, in fact this book tasked spiritual because i am a big big fan of diana

Rest In Peace my beautiful princess, i will always love you

julianne says

Non biased and informative.

Lorraine says

I was glued to this book. Diana by Sarah Bradford is a thorough biography of a woman I highly admired. She married so young, less than a month after her 20th birthday, with dreams of a happy marriage which was

never to be. Charles' mistress, Camilla Parker-Bowles, and now his present wife was a specter that was forever present in Diana's marriage. Diana suffered because of this terribly, but she gave birth to two grand children who loved her immensely than and now also as she loved them. Diana had a special gift that made people feel worthy when everyone around them was telling them they were worthless or just plain bad people. These people, for example, were Aids patients who at the time were mostly gay men. Diana showed the world that it was perfectly fine to shake these patients hands, give them a hug, and just talk with them, and she illustrated that AIDS was not passed on by this. Diana was devoted to her charities and her dance as well as her sons. She was a truly fine human being who died way too young. I think that Sarah Bradford wrote a fine biography of Diana, Princess of Wales as she was known after her divorce from Charles.

Nikki says

First, this is the first book I have read on Diana. I was only 17 when she died, and at that point, the only side of her I was aware of, if I was aware of her at all, was the glamorous humanitarian who splashed over just about every magazine out there on a regular basis. Reading about this other side of her, the behind the scenes tantrums, the scheming, manipulating, sometimes immature and maybe even emotionally stunted reactions or decisions she would make, left a lot to be desired. And one of the most disturbing things to me was the author's repeated reference to her lack of intelligence, at least that is how it came across to me, even though I don't think she meant to quite come off that way, but that is how I read it and couldn't get "Diana is stupid" out of my head, which I don't think she was. Overall, I would say this book did not leave a very favorable impression on me concerning Diana or the Royal Family in general. This is not to say that I do not believe that she had an incredible impact on many people and brought a lot of awareness to very crucial humanitarian issues, such as AIDS and landmines, but I definitely did not get the 100% pro Diana here that many other reviewers seemed to get. The author absolutely did present a two faced character in Diana. One being the glamorous, sophisticated, compassionate people person we saw in public and the other a very flawed human being struggling to survive in a antiquated, archaic, family and institution. So an interesting read for me and I may have to find another book or two just to compare and to be able to come to a better conclusion of who Diana was.

Tanya T says

From the moment she appeared in American gossip magazines I was fascinated by this woman. I was only 10 yrs old when I begged my Mom to let me stay up extra late to watch the royal wedding events on tv. I was obsessed with her and as a young girl I wanted to be just like her. Fast forward to 1997 I can still remember where I was and what I was doing when I heard the news about her death. It's still hard to believe she is gone and it will be 20 years now this August (2017). I had read all the gossip about their troubled marriage, I had thought of Charles as an uncaring, cheating jerk of a man and thought Diana could do no wrong. Now that I am older, wiser and read many books on the subject of the Royal family I have a different outlook. This book doesn't try to take sides. It gives the good and bad details of both Charles and Diana. It was doomed from the start. Charles was older, more serious and a bit of a loner. He grew up in a stuffy, formal and emotionally cold environment. I don't think he had a lot of confidence in himself or even knew how to be affectionate as he didn't grow up that way. He was under a lot of pressure to marry and produce heirs to the thrown. He was already in love with a woman who would have never been considered a candidate for a future Queen as she was already married and had a sexually ambitious past. Diana was vulnerable, young and naive. She had visions of having the fairytale that she read about in her favorite romance novels. Her parent's broken

marriage and her mother leaving her to be raised by her Father really seemed to disturb her and affect her relationships with men for the rest of her life. She had flaws, insecurities and sometimes unhealthy coping skills. As beautiful and adored as she was by the public she really was a lonely woman. She was capable of tantrums, possessiveness and sometimes calculated revenge. That makes her human. I think we all have our ways of coping with the ups and downs of life, only Diana (and Charles) had to deal with all that in the fishbowl of the public eye. I no longer think of Charles as the villain of their story, you could see the genuine grief on his face the day of Diana's funeral. I still adore her, flaws and all. The Queen of Our Hearts.

Priscilla says

Prince Charles and Princess Diana were exhibits A and B in any discussion about how parents can so screw up a child (cold mother/bully for a father--him; mother abandonment/weak, permissive father--her) that it will never be an emotionally stable adult; and when these two people get married, it should be no surprise that unhappiness and divorce is a given. She was so needy, demanding, manipulative, and vengeful that she gives High Maintenance Princess a whole new meaning. He had no idea what to do with her. However, they were also exhibits C and D in how much the world will forgive when you are absolutely gorgeous, and how much it won't forgive when you aren't and you just happen to love somebody else, who isn't nearly as gorgeous. She used her fame and position to shine a light on AIDS, land mines, and a number of other very worthy causes, but she required so much love and adulation that only the whole world could satisfy the need, and those causes were a way to get it in spades. Even then she wasn't happy; and no doubt, if Charles had adored her and only wanted to make her happy, she still wouldn't have been. The whole world and everything in it was never going to be enough for her.

Meghna Sinha says

Every once in a while there comes along a book that manages to stir your soul. I read one recently that touched my heart. Besides the fact that I towed the book around for months before I could finally finish it, there were a lot more reasons why Diana by Sarah Bradford endeared itself to me.

Sarah Bradford, 8th Viscountess Bangor has done a remarkable job chronicling the short-lived yet awe-inspiring life of Lady Diana. The contents of the biography are well researched and put forth in an disinterested manner as can be humanly possible by a biographer. The greatest of stories can be ruined if the writer does not execute effectively. In the case of Diana, the life of Di was in safe hands. The author opens with a detailed mapping of Lady Diana's family tree - both maternal and paternal. From a pure genealogical point of view this could well be the most interesting part of the biography. Lady Diana was born with a rare gene pool; her ancestors consisting of children of two kings, a duke and a saint. Her father was the 7th Earl Spencer. Her maternal ties made her related to George Washington, in addition to a few more American relations. Her father's second marriage to Raine Legg made Barbara Cartland (Diana's favourite author, incidentally) her step-grandmother. At the time of her birth she was the 11th cousin to the heir apparent - Prince Charles.

At the tender age of 19, Lady Diana Spencer got married to the Prince of Wales, and gave birth to the next-in-line to the throne within a year of her marriage. These are mere statistics, however. What Sarah Bradford brings to you with her felicity of words is the true picture behind the canvas of an apparent fairy-tale. Diana's entire life can be summarised as a quest for love, from her family, husband, friends and in-laws. A quest in

which she was more often than not unsuccessful.

Having been brought up in a broken home, Diana grew up with a lot of insecurities. She had hoped that marriage would bring some stability in her life but that was not to be. She faced innumerable difficulties in her married life, until she got divorced and even after.

Camilla Parker-Bowles had convinced Prince Charles to marry Diana because it looked like they could manipulate her and have their way around without any protestations. Little did they know that Princess Di would not let them have it all so easily. Diana's individual popularity and appeal became a threat to the royal family and pro-Diana, anti-Diana camps emerged in the households. Charles was, personally, extremely envious of her popularity over his own and drifted away from her instead of helping her cope with her depression and self destructive behaviour. The Queen's stance regarding all the injustice meted out to Diana and to her problems was rather aloof.

Post natal depression, infidelity, bad mouthing, conspiracies, betrayal, condescension, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies - she faced them all. Diana may have been a lost teenager without a mentor when she entered the royal family, and obviously did not know how to cope with the magnitude of her role as the future Queen. However, she had a kind heart and she worked with true zeal and earnest for causes that she believed in - leprosy, AIDS, impoverished destitutes, elimination of land mines, to name a few. What is commendable is the fact that Diana was not just a pretty face in the royal family who could claim to have dispensed with her duties after having given birth to the future king of England. She reached out and became the people's Princess. Her warmth and caring nature struck people as out of the world. Her charm never failed. Despite her personal hardships, she never neglected the causes she was associated with. She was aware of her status and celebrity, and used them to garner attention and funds for these social causes world over. She won hearts wherever she went. She took lessons from her personal suffering and reached out to aide those who were suffering from depression and bulimia.

Diana was an exceptional mother in the royal household, the only one of her kind. She was aware of the stark difference in status of both her sons that would emerge once William became the King and preemptively laid a sound and mature foundation in their upbringing. She wanted her children to grow in a 'real' world and not in a royal silo. She treated her sons in as 'normal' a way as she could. These were the things missing from the upbringing philosophy of her husband. She may have had an untimely demise but she left behind her legacy with her children.

Diana meandered in search for true love, seeking a normal simple married life after being abandoned by her husband. Ms Bradford lays out all her (futile) attempts at seeking love, including the one that she died with, without mincing words. Diana however, even after the divorce, always harboured love for Charles. Quite sadly, she never found long lasting love with any man, her husband or otherwise. She was always battling emotional loneliness, which grew when her sons went to boarding school.

Diana was a self conscious woman, who played with the media, and sometimes into their stratagems, to seek sympathy and build a positive self image. She was cursed with the need for constant approval. She feared rejection, and was highly insecure. As a result she found it hard to trust people, and instances of her extreme reactions on the basis of suspicions were aplenty. She never forgave disloyalty. The reasons for her behaviour were deep rooted in the treatment she received from the people she loved and trusted in the initial phase of her life. She remained isolated at the time of death and even during the funeral. Had it not been for the public uproar, she would not have been given a state funeral. The royal family was taken aback at the profound grief expressed by people all over the world at the demise of their beloved Princess Di and the growing dissent against the royal family for their unfeeling attitude toward her death.

The biography of Lady Diana Spencer is worth a read because it shows us the tenacity and endurance of who was doubtlessly one of the most beautiful women in the 20th century. It takes a brave-heart to turn against the oldest monarchy in the world and stand for what you believe in, to stand for what you are and yet not lose the kindness and warmth in your heart. Sarah Bradford uses her language elegantly and with sophistication. The narration of the life and times of Princess Diana is done in a manner so graceful, forthright, poignant and succinct that it is nearly impossible for you not to be moved. A life that lasted only 39 years and left people with so much to remember and talk about.

Graceann says

Please see my detailed review at Amazon Graceann's "Diana" Review"

Please click that the review was helpful to you at Amazon so that my rating continues to climb!

Sarah Bradford is quickly becoming one of my favorite biographers. First, I read her book on Queen Elizabeth which, even with the Queen's cooperation, was remarkably objective. Now comes "Diana" which, while clearly supportive of the Princess, is quite honest about her faults. Honest, objective and clear-eyed, all while remaining readable and interesting. Well done.

Mariana says

I'm not much into reading "contemporary" biographies but because my theme, as probably some of you have noticed, is royalty, this was something I had to read. Diana, Princess of Wales is such a figure shrouded in mysticism, at least for me, that reading this book clarified many doubts I had.

I liked that Sarah Bradford didn't fawn over Diana but showed the "true" woman behind the public persona, not only the kind, People's Princess figure but also the victim, the passionate, the jealous, the petty, the beautiful, the fragile woman as people around knew her. I also liked how my suspicions about Charles were apparently true and that men have always been the Worst.

Lynda Kelly says

There were parts of this I'd not known about and some photos I actually hadn't seen before, which was nice. She located some lovely shots, one I couldn't find on Google of her in the sea which is just lovely. BUT there is sooooooo much repetition after repetition !! The same passages over and over again. Like the author reached a part referring to one incident in particular, read a host of articles about it and copied the lot across, whether they said the same thing or not. That I found pretty annoying.

I'd realised I have a Royal birthday cos' the Queen Mother's was the same day, August 4th, but I never knew till I read this that Prince William was Christened on the same date. As a matter of interest, our new Duchess of Sussex's birthday is also that day.....

It was touching to read how Diana danced with people in wheelchairs from the front, whereas most people would steer from behind. Something thoughtful not many would think to do. Also to learn how seriously she

took her "job" in that she always boned up areas or languages and was always punctual. Plus, SHE could sing the Welsh national anthem whereas Charles had never had the courtesy to learn it. That made an impact on me. In comparison, he comes across as an arrogant, boorish, rude bloke, just like his father, really. We got to read a lot about him in this volume, which was expected to some extent, but on the other hand, I wasn't really that interested in his life story, too.

This wasn't without errors. Mostly regarding the usage of hyphens.....Riddles-worth, dormi-tories, mean-while, Knights-bridge, Mount-batten, then spaces-- Dimble by, them selves, usnow, in famous. Then odd words were missing in sentences like to or with and instance written instead of insistence and Kashoggi and not Khashoggi. The odd sentence made no sense to me at all—"Nor did she seek to meet Heads of State as of right" or "...she had a worldwide public not only for her beauty and charm." Could've been checked better. I loved the quote from Diana herself, "I come from an English family." If anything, she brought a more blue-blooded lineage into the family, for which they should be bloody grateful if you ask me !!

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Emily Grace says

Bradford skips around a bit, focusing too much on some elements of Diana's life and death while bypassing others and she never seems to be able to reconcile her understanding of Diana with what was actually true and what she wants to present to her readers, but I enjoyed it for what it was. Ultimately, Diana led a fascinating enormously inspirational life and met with a tragic demise, so it reads well regardless of Bradford's treatment of it and sometimes enhanced by it.

Camilla says

I am very sorry to give a book a bad review, especially one that I started reading with such high hopes, but this book got very annoying very fast. I suppose it has to do with the fact that Diana remains a controversial figure still very much in the public consciousness, but I found this book to be an extremely biased account of her life. The amount of times I had to read about how lovely, graceful, sympathetic, charming, and kind she was made me feel like Diana was someone who could do no wrong. Doing that over and over is the quickest way to make your reader actually **DISLIKE** the subject more than anything. Diana, it seems, could do no wrong and even when she **DID**, it was because of her loveless marriage, lonely life, etc. Her suffering, which should have lowered her to the level of the humans she seemed to care so much about, only serves (in Bradford's hands) to elevate her to a godlike state through her perseverance. It all gets to be too much by chapter 10 (where I stopped) and I found myself flipping to the very end just to see how she wraps things up. All in all a very disappointing read.

Judy says

My Granddaughter asked me to recommend a book about Princess Diana to her. I hadn't read any of the many that have been published; so thought I'd read this one. First, this book is very detailed and references many of the other books about Diana. So in that sense, I guess it is a good synopsis to read. However, that makes the book quite tedious to read--way more information on the extended Royal family for me.

The sad part of Diana's saga is that the world observed all the details. Diana was very young and immature when she fell in love with Charles. And she was emotionally troubled because of her parent's divorce. She and her siblings did not have parental supervision and she, at least, felt deserted and alone. Even though many other people face such a situation, they don't have to live in the glare of publicity. I have some sympathy for Charles, because he couldn't marry the one he truly loved, Camilla Parker Bowles. In reading this book I got a view of Charles I hadn't had. (I've always thought it was sad the Queen didn't step down and give Charles some purpose to his life. But after reading, "Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch" I think I understand why she has remained on the throne. Incidentally, I do recommend the book above for a picture of Queen Elizabeth.) Needless to say, Charles was used to living his life as he wanted to, and was not ready even at the age of thirty-three for what marriage required of him.

The Royal family didn't help Diana with the transition to being a public figure. She moved into the palace after the announcement of their engagement, but they had not prepared a place for or appointed a staff for her. So she was isolated from friends in such an enormous place with really nothing to do. (She had been working as a nanny prior to the engagement.) What emerged to me was a picture of a troubled young woman who could not cope with the spotlight and Charles "ignoring" her. It's anyone's guess, but I suspect that Charles continued his affair with Camilla fairly soon after the wedding. Diana was difficult to get along with and suffered with bulimia. But I do think Diana was a good mother--she spent much time with the two boys. And over and over people who were interviewed in the book said that she was compassionate and connected with the common public. That was what endeared her to the English and the world. It's so sad that she died so young and in such a tragic way.
