



The Last Days of Dead Celebrities

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A Hollywood insider and gossip columnist shares intimate and enlightening details about the final hours of 15 late celebrities, including John Lennon, John Belushi, Orson Welles, Lucille Ball, Arthur Ashe, John Denver, Tupac Shakur, Milton Berle, John Ritter, and journalist David Bloom.

The Last Days of Dead Celebrities Details

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Jill Kemerer says

Interesting concept. The author interviewed friends and family members of deceased celebrities to share about the last days of their lives. From this came touching stories that highlighted how their families and friends didn't think of them as celebrities at all--they were simply their loved ones who are dearly missed.

Evan says

It's fun. A little bit academic but really reads like an exciting news broadcast. I enjoyed the insight into some of my favorite personalities; great read for a plane ride.

Elaine Williams says

Well written. I gave it 4 stars because of my lack of interest in some of the people profiled.

Pete daPixie says

Why in Zimmerman's name did I pick this book off the library shelf? Don't ask me! 'The Last Days of Dead Celebrities' (2006) is so far out from my usual taste in reading matter. "Truly the last word in celebrity biography" is the opinion of Booklist displayed on the front cover. The tinsel world of celebrity is some place I never visit. I've never watched 'I'm a celebrity get me out of here' on t.v., or any of the spin-offs in that genre. In fact, I rarely watch any t.v. I never go to the movies. I rarely even read fiction. So why did this book find its way home with me? It's a mystery. Perhaps I saw John Lennon's name on that front cover. The other fourteen names are American, and half of those I had no idea who they were, the other half I couldn't care less.

The strange thing is I quite liked the book. Brief biogs of rich folk, sailing serenely through life, cushioned from our daily realities by fame and fortune, only to be visited by the inequitable reaper, who calls without invite. Sure, we all know that no-one ever gets out alive, but do the rich and famous walk down to the 'crossroads' and deal for collateral security?

Fifteen sharp and painful journeys into the valley, from bullet to sudden diagnosis, old age and plane crash. Here today, gone tomorrow. Could there be some subconscious impetus behind my book selection? Sixty next birthday, when the full moon lies in Cancer!

Dianne Landry says

Nothing new. Yawn inducing.

Sandy Long says

This was a fascinating book on such celebrities as John Denver, Lyle Alzado, John Belushi, and Margaux Hemingway. It was interesting to hear of some of the people's quirks, such as Lucille Ball loved to p[lay] backgammon. It seemed most of the celebrities families looking back saw signs that there loved ones were going to die. Very interesting book.

Glen says

A collection of mini biographies about the last days of various celebrities. It starts off with John Lennon, and John Belushi, but soon switches over to stars that mostly die of old age. It's a major change in tone, but doesn't completely derail the book.

Interesting, but not mandatory reading.

Metagion says

This book wasn't *too* bad; it dealt with celebrities that we know in the 20th Century (like John Ritter, for example) so that was cool, with the photos also; but I think this book would've been better if it were more to the point, and not sort-of 'rambling' in the other bios mentioned here. While it's great that there are books out there that strive to "humanize" stars as much as they can, there's also a danger of becoming 'tabloidesque' in the recounting, so it's a fine line. All-in-all not a terrible way to spend a few hours. Enjoy!

DeAnna Rigney says

Sounds all "People-esque", but the writing is very non-tabloidy, & the celebrities are fairly random, ranging from the violent death of Lennon to the peaceful passing of Orson Welles, who died in bed with his typewriter still balanced on his stomach. The stories tended to be more about the lives of the deceased than about sensationalizing their deaths. Interesting read.

John says

Morbidly fascinating, yet respectful with some nice details. Reads like multiple magazine articles.

Robin says

Don't know what I was thinking when I picked up this book. It wasn't bad per say but not something I would

normally read. It does tell you about the last days of some celebrities and how they felt and what they did. Nothing really morbid, just pretty much a day in the life of , , ,

Jessica says

Not interesting or as shocking as promised.

Eric Smith says

While some may consider this somewhat macabre to read, this is actually a well written look at some of our most beloved celebrities and how they spent their final days. While most of them are most certainly tragic, others are tearjerkers, with all of them being heartbreaking. The book covers not only movie and TV stars such as Orson Welles, John Belushi, John Ritter and Lucille Ball but other celebrities such as late sports stars Ted Williams and Lyle Alzado, late musicians Warren Zevon, John Denver and Tupac, as well as famed NBC correspondent David Bloom and many others. While this is more of a collection of other writings about the celebrities in the book, it does provide a few surprises and shocks (Ted Williams' head is frozen in Arizona?!).

Julie says

This is a fascinating look at the final days (or in some cases a year or more) of fifteen famous figures who passed away between 1980 and 2003. Fink does an excellent job of forming a picture of the person's life in that time period, so that the death is just a culmination of a life, rather than the sole focus of the story. It was quite interesting, even if I didn't know who all the people were (I do now, though!).

Mike says

An interesting read. With one of my parents in this category (last days not celebrity) I found this book showing that in general we all go the same way -- sometimes with dignity, sometimes without. It was interesting to see how some people choose to go. But clearly, more than anything else it brings the celebrities to you as real people.
