



Diana

By Sarah Bradford

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Soon to be the subject of a major motion picture starring Naomi Watts as the Princess of Wales

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Diana By Sarah Bradford Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This biography of the doomed Princess of Wales by Bradford, an experienced British celebrity biographer, was published with far less fanfare, though also embargoed, than the concurrent one by Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell, it still purports to be the definitive look at what it was really like for Diana Spencer to become the princess of Wales. But even the most casual student of Diana mania will be hard pressed to find much that hasn't been told before. Bradford, the author of books about such disparate figures as Benjamin Disraeli and Princess Grace of Monaco, does offer up a more balanced portrait than some: Diana was not the brightest bulb, but her compassion for others was central and real; in spite of—or because of—this sensitivity, she was a master at playing people off each other (most notably her onetime lover James Hewitt). According to Bradford, Diana truly did love Charles and was "obsessed" with him until the end. More surprisingly, Bradford also insists that Charles genuinely loved Diana, even as he carried a torch for Camilla Parker Bowles, and that his apparent ill treatment of his wife came from ignorance more than hostility. The usual cast of famous characters appear, but two portraits particularly stand out: Sarah Ferguson and Dodi Fayed. As for Fayed, Bradford downplays it; Diana liked him, she says, but was far less interested in him, personally, than in what he could provide (private yachts, freedom from the press and—ironically, as it turned out—safety). Surely, Fayed's friends and family will not enjoy Bradford's take on him as a spoiled layabout with a cocaine problem, drug use being one of the few weaknesses of which Diana disapproved. For those for whom there can never be enough said about the late princess, Bradford's book may provide some color and perspective; those looking for dish will likely be disappointed. (Sept.)

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Review

Diana is Sarah Bradford's excellent and authoritative new biography of the most extraordinary woman in recent history ... Sarah Bradford has set a high standard for the others to follow -- Virginia Blackburn Daily Express You feel from this book that you know the woman as she probably was, and that is because, perhaps for the first time, a grown-up has written about her -- Adam Nicolson Evening Standard Bradford's forte, ever since she was a history-mad girl, is thinking herself into other lives Daily Telegraph Bradford has a real grasp of history and the ability to make it spark into new life Sunday Telegraph

About the Author

Sarah Bradford is a historian and biographer. Her previous books include *Cesare Borgia*, *Disraeli*, *Princess Grace*, *George VI*, *Splendours and Miseries: A Life of Sacheverell* **Sitwell**, *Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, *America's Queen: The Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*, and *Lucrezia Borgia*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Bernice Bland:

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