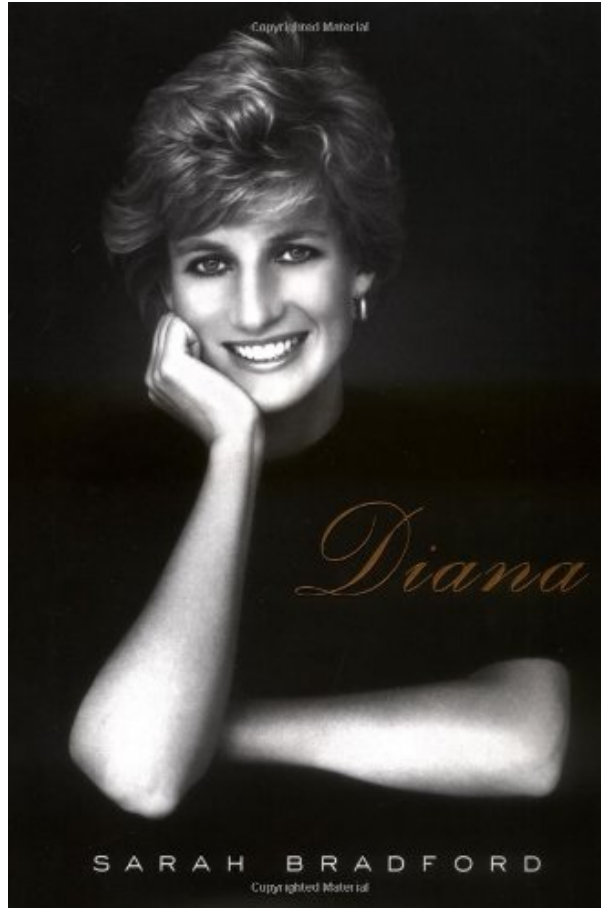
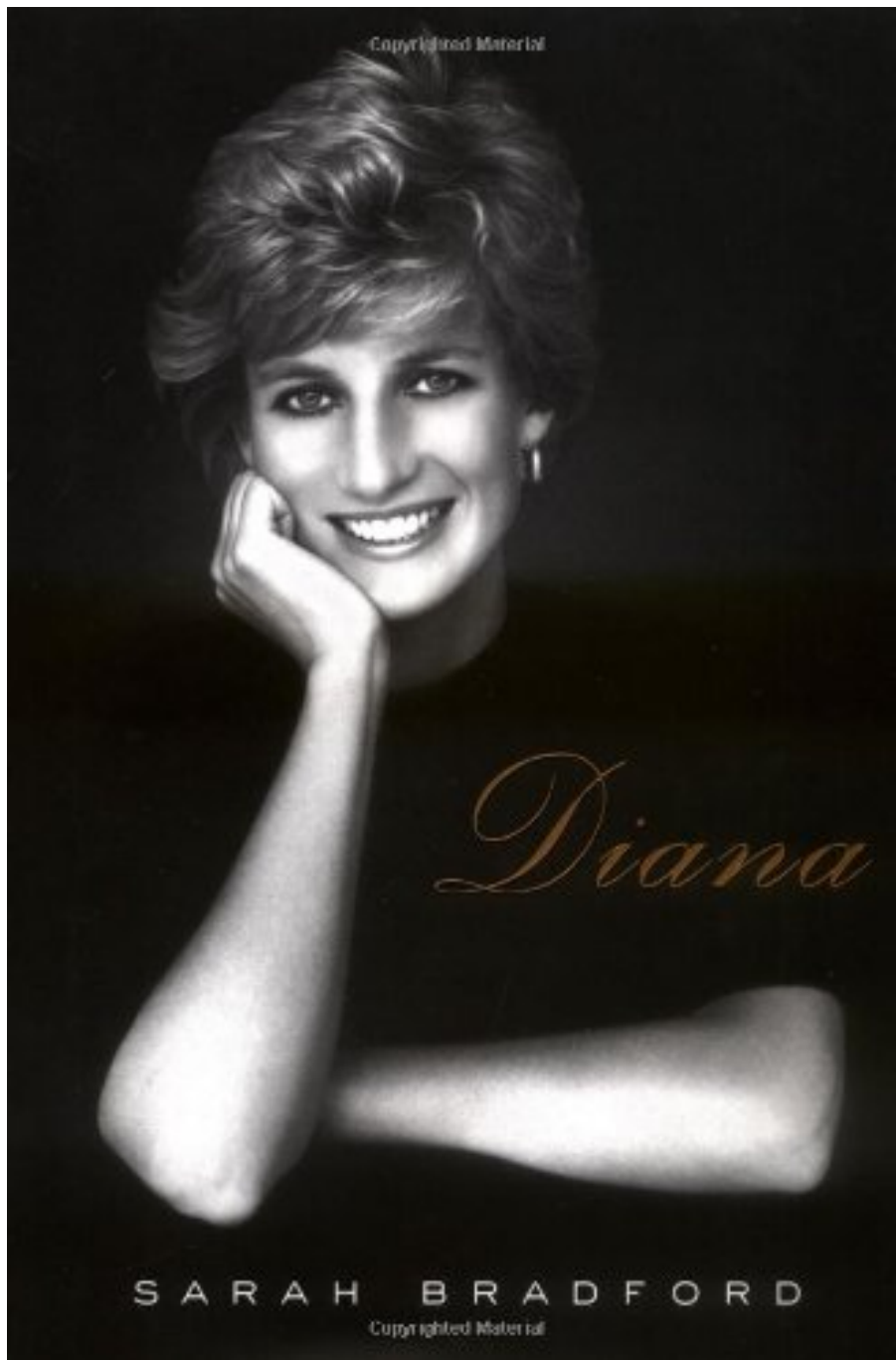


# DIANA BY SARAH BRADFORD



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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 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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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*.

From AudioFile

Bradford details the life of the Princess of Wales fully, but briskly, and Kate Kellgren, in a very British accent ("more" sounding like "maw," etc.), keeps it moving. The writing ranges from undistinguished to awkward, but isn't, as in the case of some celeb bios, actually awful. Kellgren's reading, somewhat too good for the text, serves to dress it up. She modulates her voice with sensitivity, expressing sympathy or regret where appropriate, which is often, but keeps at a cool observer's distance from the sometimes tawdry details.

She stays true to the text, which is understanding of Diana, but not overly censorious of Prince Charles or his paramour, Camilla. This sad story is here adequately written and well read. W.M. 2007 Audies Award Finalist © AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

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# DIANA BY SARAH BRADFORD PDF

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

An icon remembered in death as vividly as she appeared in life, Diana, Princess of Wales, is one of the most enduring personalities of the twentieth century—and one of the most enigmatic. With exclusive access to all 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. With the authority missing from previous accounts, as well as remarkable new sources, Diana delivers a complex and explosive look at a woman who continues to fascinate.

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From Publishers Weekly

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35 of 36 people found the following review helpful.

first real biography of Diana, Princess of Wales

By David C. Drewer

This is the first proper biography of Diana, Princess of Wales, as opposed to memoirs by former employees (Jephson, Wharfe, Burrell) or more or less ax-grinding efforts by journalists (Morton, Seward, Junor). Bradford, an experienced biographer, has produced a sound and workmanlike book, and without sacrificing balance or accuracy or contending that the late princess was a flawless biped makes the best pro-Diana case to date.

After reading Bradford it is hard to deny that the Royal Family and their courtiers, the British Establishment, and especially the Prince of Wales entered into this marriage in deeply bad faith, and covertly slandered Diana when it turned sour. Clarence House trotted out Princes William and Harry to denounce Jephson, Wharfe and Burrell as traducers of their mother's memory; it would be interesting to hear their spin on Bradford's far more (justly) damning portrayal of their father.

Naturally this book relies more on oral interviews than archival research, and (with the occasional and unavoidable exception "Private information") Bradford plays fair with the reader in revealing her sources. She singles out Burrell for skepticism, perhaps reasonably, but otherwise appears to take a very trusting attitude to equally debatable sources (showing indulgence to Jephson, Wharfe, and - surprisingly - James Hewitt). I would like to believe that this favoritism was on their merits and not due to the fact that (judging from the notes) Jephson, Wharfe and Hewitt agreed to be interviewed by Bradford and Burrell didn't.

One Bob Woodward is enough.

My first reading of this book revealed two errors. Nicholas Soames, one of Diana's least savory detractors, is said to be Sir Winston Churchill's great-grandson; he was his grandson. Bill and Hillary Clinton are listed as attending Diana's funeral; the Senator attended but not the President. Neither of these is a hanging offense, but both should have been corrected in the editing process, and one wonders what other, less obvious errors are present. This is too good a book to be disfigured by such petty mistakes.

33 of 36 people found the following review helpful.

Superlative biography of a truly remarkable woman

By Reviewer from Queens

Overall, I enjoyed this book very much and found it an extremely well researched and thoughtful biography of the late Princess of Wales. Diana's life is chronicled from her life as the youngest daughter in an influential, aristocratic British family to her untimely death in Paris in 1997. Diana indeed was from a

notable family and of which she was rightly proud. The ill fated union of her parents is described as well as the impact of their turbulent divorce on their young children, especially Diana. Diana was said to be very much influenced by her paternal grandmother whose charitable works and compassion were passed on to her granddaughter (Diana's paternal grandmother looked remarkably like Diana as well--one of the portraits shown in the illustrations demonstrates this--it is a rather striking resemblance).

The center of the book is Diana's relationship with the Prince of Wales, their courtship, engagement, marriage, separation and divorce. The author maintains that Charles loved her; however, oddly enough she doesn't talk about Charles saying he never loved Diana to his biographer Dimbleby in 1994. My opinion is that he didn't love her and was attracted to her. Nobody in love would have allowed another woman to interfere in the relationship with his wife (my opinion). Another thing I would question is that the author maintains that though Diana said Charles rarely got in touch with her when she was on her pre engagement announcement trip with her mother and stepfather to Australia; oddly enough Bradford doesn't refer to Frances Shand Kydd's authorized biography where Frances witnessed Charles' neglect first hand. I am surprised Ms. Bradford didn't use Frances Shand Kydd's biography as a source.

Bradford doesn't spare Camilla Parker Bowles as some of Diana's less sympathetic chroniclers have (e.g. Seward and Junor). Bradford does emphasize how Mrs. Parker Bowles' hold on the Prince of Wales eroded the Wales' marriage. She chronicles how Mrs. Parker Bowles did go to the media with "her side" of the story--which does refute the "discreet" Camilla spin. And reading up to events leading up to the wedding it seemed that everyone but 19 going on 20 Lady Diana knew about Camilla's influence but didn't warn her. Bradford mentions for instance how Princess Margaret wondered if Camilla would give up the Prince after his marriage.

The Princess of Wales close relationship with her boys is perhaps one of the most touching parts of the book. Diana is depicted as an excellent, caring mother who wanted the best for her sons.

Diana's personal relationships are covered as well. The author maintains that Hewitt and Diana loved each other and Diana was deeply let down by Hewitt's telling all to the press and via his cooperation with Anna Pasternak who wrote *Princess in Love*. The author agrees with Burrell's recent account that the real love of Diana was not Dodi Fayed but Hasnet Khan.

The author does emphasize Diana's great role in charitable work and that she was always interested in this from her days as a schoolgirl to her death in 1997.

The author uses interviews, Diana's own words from the Morton tapes and Settelen interviews and other books written and articles written about the late Princess. The illustrations are excellent.

Reading this book was both positive and negative. Positive because Bradford shows just how special Diana was and negative because I felt said that she is no longer with us today.

Though I disagree with some things that are said, overall this is a wonderful book. I recommend this along with Anne Edwards' *Ever After* and *Diana: Story of a Princess* and the books by Jephson, Wharfe, and Burrell.

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Well researched a good read

By Elizabeth Harris

Finally a book that paints an honest picture of Diana. It doesn't make her a saint or a sinner but a needy



woman who married too young to a very needy man who didn't love her. It details why she acted as she did and why she became involved in her various worthwhile activities. She was so misunderstood by the RF because she was so very different from them and they didn't know how to control her. You can certainly understand why she acted as she did in her personal life.

The book is well written and very easy read.

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