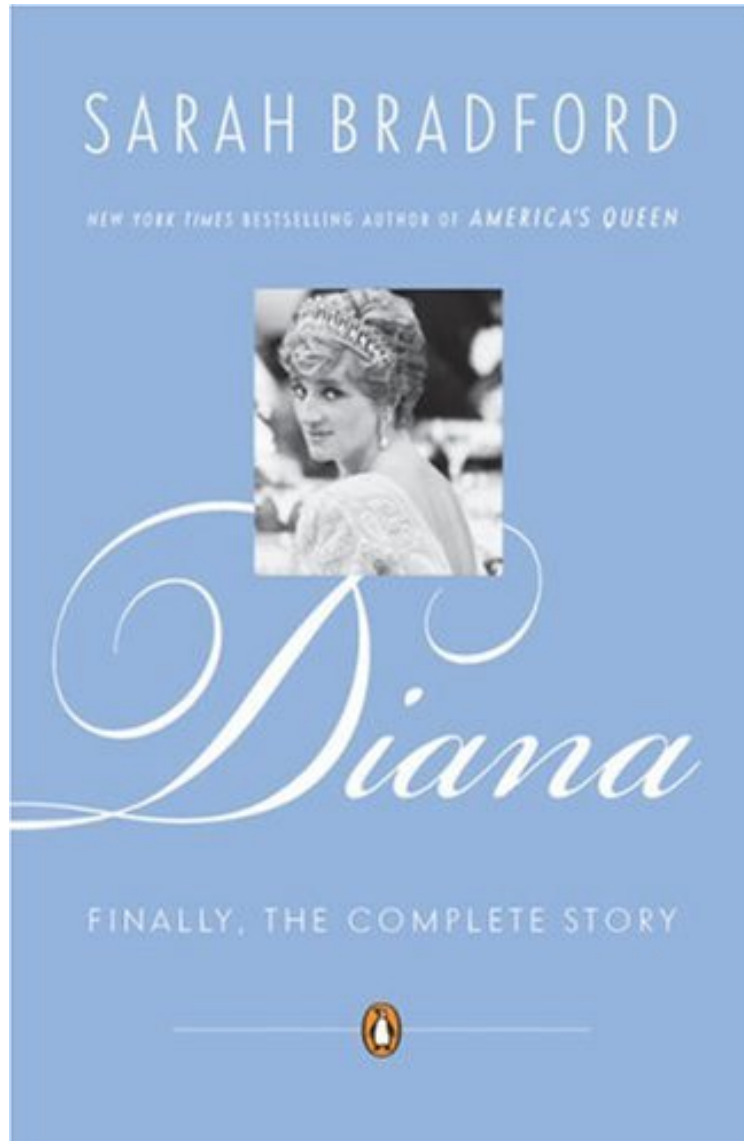


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Diana: Finally, the Complete Story

Sarah Bradford

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Sarah Bradford : Diana: Finally, the Complete Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diana: Finally, the Complete Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Queen of SufferingBy Aran Joseph CanesOne can read this book for a number of different reasons. First, it provides a glimpse inside the lives of Britain's landed aristocracy that most readers will never experience. Downtown Abbey may be a better choice if that is the main appeal because one would have to read through hundreds of pages of facts about Diana to capture this slice of the life of Britain's most

fortunate. One could also read this book to get the definitive account of who, to put it bluntly, Diana slept with. The author does cut through a lot of the rumors to give a fact based account but somehow reading the book for that is to miss the whole point of Diana's all too brief life. What comes through powerfully in these pages is that Diana lived a life, from the age of six on, of incredible personal suffering. She then used that personal experience to connect to people who were also deeply wounded. By doing so she literally changed world history. Before Diana AIDS was a scary disease, possibly God's punishment for the sin of homosexuality. By shaking the hand of a man dying from AIDS she began the transformation of public perception of the disease from something scary to a health care crisis that needed to be dealt with. She also transformed the perspective of what is to be expected of the royal family. People now demand their princes and princesses not to be remote demigods but people actually interested in the problems of everyday citizens. Modern people do not necessarily want doctrines or policies to solve their life but they do want to feel like the most privileged care and empathize with them. This is what all the scandalmongers about Diana fail to see. Diana was not a role model in the full sense of the term. She believed in silly things like astrological forecasts and psychics and could be dishonest and arrogant in her private life. But none of these "revelations" matter because people adored Diana because they believed, rightly, that she cared about people who were suffering. The only kind of revelation that could ruin her reputation is if it was discovered that she privately made fun of the many victims she visited. Such a revelation would be so completely contradictory to everything said about her, even by her enemies, that it would almost certainly be false. Diana made bad decisions, could make people recognize how her royalty elevated her above them and believed in ridiculous things like astrology but somehow managed to live one of the most important lives of the 20th century because, instead of wallowing in pain, she used intense personal suffering as a means of empathizing with the unfortunate and forgotten. Surely, this should be the primary focus of those of us who will never experience her privileged life rather than obsessing over a detailed history of her failings, both personal and public. I personally believe that as time passes, and those Diana personally hurt fade from the public scene, her importance as a world figure will only increase and her peccadillos will be more and more simply forgotten. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerLoved the book. Looking forward to reading more from Sarah Bradford 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By R. AEnjoy

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.

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 her 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.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The definitive biography. In this authoritative account, Bradford paints a revealing, accurate portrait of a complex woman flawed and adored in equal measure. * Daily Telegraph * Readers will find themselves gripped by this gloriously gossipy account. Bradford is even-handed and unafraid. -- Jeremy Lewis * Sunday Times Books of the Year * 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 has a real grasp of history and the ability to make it spark into new life * Sunday Telegraph * A woman of intelligence and taste ... Bradford is an

excellent writer who has produced a balanced and well-researched biography. -- Philip Hensher * Spectator * A very sad story. Bradford tells it eloquently, but it's her admirable detachment that leaves one pitying all, not one, of the characters involved. -- Antonia Fraser * Guardian Books of the Year *About the AuthorSarah 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, Americas Queen: The Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and Lucrezia Borgia.