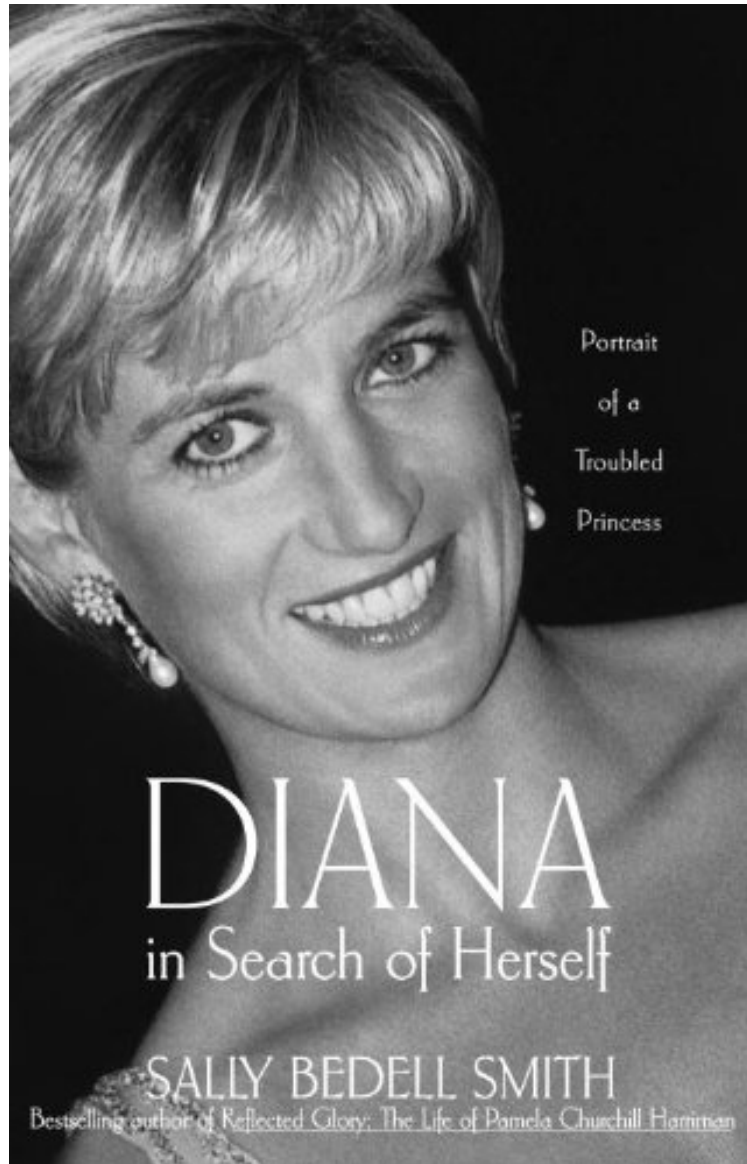


[Download ebook] Diana in Search of Herself: Portrait of a Troubled Princess

## Diana in Search of Herself: Portrait of a Troubled Princess

Von Sally Bedell Smith

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #437397 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2012-08-15Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-08-15File Name: B008NW6M00 | File size: 74.Mb

**Von Sally Bedell Smith : Diana in Search of Herself: Portrait of a Troubled Princess** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diana in Search of Herself: Portrait of a Troubled Princess:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This Look Behind the Smile Reveals A Sad, Damaged PrincessVon C. RossI have just finished "Diana In Search of

Herself" and suspect Sally Bedell Smith will catch all sorts of hell for it. I also think the story is largely true and this made it sadder still. I am a huge fan of Diana but always suspected her amazing face hid a lot of misery. Smith's work is thorough and delivered with great effect and authority. I don't think I seriously considered how much pain there could have been - one gets side tracked by the beauty, the clothes and all the other trappings of her life. When she died, I did realize her walk down the aisle of St. Paul's in 1981 was the first choreographed step into a hall of mirrors from which she would never escape. This book takes us into that hall and it's not a pleasant place to be. I saw myself at a younger age, repeatedly - grateful that I managed to live past 36 because I didn't get it right until about I was about 42. I think many women will identify even more strongly with Diana after reading this book. Baby boomer women born through the early 60's grew up in confusing times. Learning from Smith's book how deeply her pain, confusion and recognizable symptoms were, I can't imagine she could smile at all let alone on cue. It hurts to realize the avenues of treatment were all but forbidden to her - in fact or in her own fear of retribution. There was a moment - after she died - when people were angry because they felt she had lost her chance at a happy future but this book makes that wishful thinking very unlikely. It is hard to accept but quite believable, that as her nest grew emptier and her choices in men grew worse she would have spun out of control sooner than later. Perhaps that trip through the tunnel was an awful fulfillment of the magic thinking, omens and portents Smith mentions Diana believing. It was a sad and disturbing book - I imagine the author must have felt this as she became more embroiled in it. It has definitely changed some of my perceptions about Diana - although nothing can change how lovely she was for all those years. I am surprised she didn't drink like a fish or throw public fits. The desire for constant approval and attention is exhausting and consuming. There is never enough until one can learn to be alone happily. I can empathize tremendously. Many of us who have gotten better in some way or another can pinpoint what stopped or helped us; I have a strong streak of pragmatism that she lacked. I don't, however, believe Diana would have had a miraculous epiphany and that is sadder still - she couldn't or wouldn't see deeply enough and no one would tell her nor would she have listened if they had. The real pity is that when one friend was honest, she dropped them and there were always others ready to jump into the space they left. I can't say I enjoyed the book - but I don't think it was one meant to be enjoyed - it was well written and hard to put down - and the research was excellent. I think Smith did a hard job well and I think anyone who admired or loved the Princess of Wales at all should read it. Die hard Diana protectors and fans will surely hurl bricks at the author for what they may see as the maligning of their Princess. I don't think this part of the truth diminishes her at all. I think enough people - the media in particular and her friends and family, grew rich and smug on her misery to be called more than just enablers - the book names names and we all come away knowing that she was encouraged in her behavior by anyone who wanted a photo, a story or a little of the glow that spilled onto them from her presence. She may have been her own worst enemy but no one who claimed to care for her did much to change this. Shame on them. More than anything, I wish none of it were true. I know otherwise though because I have been there with many of my generation. It isn't pretty no matter how pretty you are. What is even less pretty is that rarely are borderlines or near borderlines fortunate enough to fall off the edge to safety - I was very lucky. I am so sorry she wasn't. I urge people to read this insightful book about this misunderstood and lonely Princess and I hope they will see past what they may feel are perceived slights to Diana. What they will realize is that she was more like many of us than we ever imagined. It is a shame no one was able to really touch her and guide her back to a safe, happy place where she could enjoy herself as much as we all enjoyed her. I recommend "Diana, In Search of Herself" highly - for the important truths we need to know to better understand both the life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Idol With Feet of Clay Von Bragan Thomas I just finished this book logged on to to review it when my attention was caught by the generally low rating of the work by 's readers. Having scrolled through all 90+ reviews, I was not that surprised to note that the reviewers who really blasted this well-written, well-researched and balanced biography were, for the most part, persons who seemed to be unable to regard Diana as anything other than a strange hybrid of victim and goddess. The almost hysterical denunciation of the author merely reveals just how great an emotional investment so many have made in a woman whom they never met - is it really so difficult to face the fact that Diana was a human being with flaws just like the rest of us? While I might question the author's pseudo-diagnosis of Diana as a "borderline" personality, clearly Diana was troubled - again, just like so many of us. There is little in the book which is new information (aside from a much-needed debunking of certain legends of Diana's "abuse" at the hands of her in-laws and husband). Rather, the author has simply refused to fall victim to Diana's charisma and glamour. We see here a portrait of a fragile, neglected girl who, through luck and accident of birth, was thrust by her marriage into the international spotlight. The book is a powerful study of the nature of celebrity - it becomes obvious that Diana's fame actually prevented her from maturing as a person - she became caught inside a hall of mirrors, surrounded and sustained by a level of fame and an image so powerful that she could neither live with it nor without it. Her erratic behavior and mental instability may have been exacerbated by the unique position in which she found herself, but her own character played its part in the destruction of her life. Diana would still be alive had she not entrusted herself to Dodi Fayed (a shady character if ever there was one) - and her very choice of this man reveals the weaknesses of her character as well as the public's persistent imposition of their own fantasies onto this woman's body. Upon finishing this book, I felt sad at living in a world where so many people seem to need

the comfort of a phantasmagorical relationship with a "celebrity" to get through the day, a world which could produce the "Diana" phenomenon. Diana was the perfect star product - just attractive and charismatic enough to be seen as exceptional, but just ordinary enough to be a figure of identification. It is true that the Diana in this book comes across as a selfish, manipulative, and self-pitying creature (albeit one blessed with great good fortune), low on brains and lower on self-awareness. Perhaps the real tragedy of the Diana story is that her death happened just as she was, perhaps, beginning to mature. What would she have become? 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Did the author actually interview anyone at all? Von Simone Simmons Sally Bedell Smith purports to have written about Diana, a book supposedly based on interviews with friends and relatives of the late Princess. I, for one, was mentioned and was faintly amused that this woman whom I have never spoken to or corresponded with in any way should claim to have interviewed everyone (including myself) for this book. I do see however, that she has taken some choice paragraphs out of my own book, re-worded them herself and has taken them completely out of context. Other contacts of Diana don't seem to have been interviewed by the author either. Maybe she can explain herself at a later date! This is not a book which portrays the Diana I knew, who had the same range of emotion as every other woman, but who enjoyed having fun, being "normal" when in disguise and had a propensity for practical jokes. She was a warm, spiritual person who cared about people, the environment and wanted to rid the world of horrors. She was emotional about disasters in her love life as are millions of other women on this planet. She certainly was not unstable as this book suggests and therefore, in my opinion, the material for this book is questionable.

Kurzbeschreibung Diana in Search of Herself is the first authoritative biography of one of the most fabled women of the century. Even those who knew Princess Diana will be surprised by author Sally Bedell Smith's insightful and haunting portrait of Diana's inner life. For all that has been written about Diana--the books, the commemorative magazines, the thousands of newspaper articles--we have lacked a sophisticated understanding of the woman, her motivations, and her extreme needs. Most books have been exercises in hagiography or character assassination, sometimes both in the same volume. Sally Bedell Smith, the acclaimed biographer, former New York Times reporter, and Vanity Fair contributing editor, has written the first truly balanced and nuanced portrait of the Princess of Wales, in all her emotional complexity. Drawing on scores of interviews with friends and associates who had not previously talked about Diana, Ms. Smith explores the events and relationships that shaped the Princess, the flashpoints that sent her careening through life, her deep feelings of unworthiness, her view of men, and her perpetual journey toward a better sense of self. By making connections not previously explored, this book allows readers to see Diana as she really was, from her birth to her tragic death. Original in its reporting and surprising in its conclusions about the severity of Diana's mental-health problems, Diana in Search of Herself is the smartest and most substantive biography ever written about this mesmerizing woman. NOTE: This edition does not include photographs. de The Diana who was in search of herself was, according to this relatively beefy addition to the writings on the late princess, engaged in a futile exercise. Born after her parents tried three unsuccessful times to produce a male heir--two older sisters and a brother who died within hours of birth preceded Diana Spencer's arrival--she felt unwanted from the start. Her mother's abandonment of the family six years later compounded Diana's feelings of self-worthlessness. At a tender age, the girl who would grow up to be the beloved Princess of Wales had already irrevocably lost her sense of self. The book, which relies heavily on the accounts of anonymous intimates of the late princess, describes her as a deeply conflicted character. A friend is quoted as saying, "Her dark side was that of a wounded trapped animal ... and her bright side was that of a luminous being." The strikingly tall, blond princess who cradled young cancer victims and graciously accepted flowers from admirers, who frolicked on camera with her young sons and flashed her sparkling smile as she exited limousines, was often sulky, depressed, and vengeful in private. "Why?" one might wonder--if volumes hadn't already been written about the awful truth of her life. Author Sally Bedell Smith revisits the well-trod ground of Charles's continuing love affair with Camilla Parker Bowles, Diana's intimidation by her royal in-laws, and her push-me, pull-me relationship with the voracious paparazzi. In addition, she details Diana's numerous love affairs and her acts of self-mutilation and bizarre behavior, such as the incident in which she tap-danced alone in her room until she wore down the wood parquet. Prince Charles comes off as a sympathetic if somewhat wimpy character, while, as the book progresses, Diana grows into a woman navigating the fine line between neurosis and full-blown psychosis. At the time of her marriage, the princess is quoted as saying she was "so in love with my husband that I couldn't take my eyes off him. I just absolutely thought I was the luckiest girl in the world." Years later, she would recall this same day thus: "The day I walked down the aisle at St. Paul's Cathedral, I felt that my personality was taken away from me, and I was taken over by the royal machine." Her bulimia (even while pregnant with Prince William), paranoia, lying, and flightiness are all confirmed in Smith's tome but they are commingled with testimonials to the late princess's generosity, intuition, genuine warmth, and ability to put anyone at ease. Diana was fine--to wit sane--as long as she was in a safe environment. The bosom of the royal family was not one of those havens. But she wasn't a passive victim--her famous comment about her marriage being overcrowded, involving three people, presumably herself, the

prince, and Parker Bowles--wasn't quite true, as she was also having an affair at the time, bringing the number up to four. All of these excruciating details--including Smith's analysis of how long the Dodi and Diana match would have lasted, had they not been killed that night in Paris--seem to be carefully researched and attributed when the source allows it, and build to the grand crescendo of the book, in which Smith proffers her diagnosis of the princess's mental health. The punchline here is that the tabloid assertions that hounded Diana throughout her lifetime, asserting that she was "loony," "potty," a "basket case," or "barking mad," may have held more than a kernel of truth. But if the princess was as expert a manipulator as the book suggests, no one, it seems, could ever hope to know the whole truth. --Jordana Moskowitz

Pressestimmen

Advance praise for *Diana in Search of Herself*"An engrossing character study of the beautiful, brave, but psychologically bent princess who became an icon . . . an informed and astute appraisal of the twentieth century's possibly most celebrated celebrity."--Kirkus

sPraise for *In All His Glory: The Life of William S. Paley*"A sweeping study of the emergence of broadcasting, the American immigrant experience, and the ravenous personal and professional tastes of Paley as he charmed and clawed his way to the top of society."--Los Angeles Times

Praise for *Reflected Glory: The Life of Pamela Churchill Harriman*"The author has left no stone unturned . . . the portrait is finely balanced, and the fullest we are likely to get."--Ben Macintyre, *The New York Times Book*