Dubbed the White Queen of Soul, singer Dusty Springfield became the first British soloist to break into the U.S. Top Ten music charts with her 1964 hit "I Only Want To Be With You" -- a pop classic followed by many others, including "You Dont Have to Say You Love Me" and "Son of a Preacher Man." Today she is usually placed within the history of the Beatles-led British Invasion or seen as a devoted acolyte of Motown. In this penetrating look at her music and career, Annie J. Randall shows how Springfields contributions transcend the narrow limits of those descriptions and how this middle-class former convent girl became perhaps the unlikeliest of artists to achieve soul credibility on both sides of the Atlantic.

Randall reevaluates Springfields place in sixties popular music through close investigation of her performances as well as interviews with her friends, peers, professional associates, and longtime fans. As the author notes, the singers unique look -- blonde beehive wigs and heavy black...
mascara--became iconic of the mid-sixties postmodern moment in which identity scrambling and camp pastiche were the norms in swinging Londons pop culture. Randall places Springfield within this rich cultural context, focusing on the years from 1964 to 1968, when she recorded her biggest international hits and was a constant presence on British television. The book pays special attention to Springfields close collaboration and friendship with American gospel singer Madeline Bell, the distinctive way Springfield combined US soul and European melodrama to achieve her own musical style and stage presence, and how her camp sensibility figured as a key element of her artistry.

**Personal Review: Dusty!: Queen of the Postmods by Annie J. Randall**

Not only do you get a great overview of a singing career, you also get an important history on the state of pop music in the early 60's. Dusty was groundbreaking in many ways. In music she brought new creativity to a very standard recording industry, in politics she shook some trees because of her crossing the strict color barriers of the day and her open bi-sexuality, in pop culture and fashion she championed a new independent woman image. In this book you get a real view of her world and what she struggled with and new insight to the rock n pop world of the early 60's. And some very interesting info on all her contemporaries and what was really going on within the recording industry. A real great read for lovers of pop and the whole 60's movement in general.

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