



# **Audrey Hepburn (Best Sellers)**

*Donald Spoto*

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Her name is synonymous with elegance, style and grace. Over the course of her extraordinary life and career, Audrey Hepburn captured hearts around the world and created a public image that stands as one of the most recognizable and beloved in recent memory. But despite her international fame and her tireless efforts on behalf of UNICEF, Audrey was also known for her intense privacy. With unprecedented access to studio archives, friends and colleagues who knew and loved Audrey, bestselling author Donald Spoto provides an intimate and moving account of this beautiful, elusive and talented woman.

Tracing her astonishing rise to stardom, from her harrowing childhood in Nazi-controlled Holland during World War II to her years as a struggling ballet dancer in London and her Tony Award-winning Broadway debut in *Gigi*, Spoto illuminates the origins of Audrey's tenacious spirit and fiercely passionate nature.

She would go on to star in some of the most popular movies of the twentieth century, including *Roman Holiday*, *Sabrina*, *Funny Face*, *The Nun's Story*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *My Fair Lady*. A friend and inspiration to renowned designer Hubert de Givenchy, Audrey emerged as a fashion icon as well as a film legend, her influence on women's fashion virtually unparalleled to this day.

But behind the glamorous public persona, Audrey Hepburn was both a different and a deeper person and a woman who craved love and affection. Donald Spoto offers remarkable insights into her professional and personal relationships with her two husbands, and with celebrities such as Gregory Peck, William Holden, Fred Astaire, Gary Cooper, Robert Anderson, Cary Grant, Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney and Ben Gazzara. The turbulent romances of her youth, her profound sympathy for the plight of hungry children, and the thrills and terrors of motherhood prepared Audrey for the final chapter in her life, as she devoted herself entirely to the charity efforts of an organization that had once come to her rescue at the end of the war: UNICEF.

Donald Spoto has written a poignant, funny and deeply moving biography of an unforgettable woman. At last, *Enchantment* reveals the private Audrey Hepburn—and invites readers to fall in love with her all over again.

“She was as funny as she was beautiful. She was a magical combination of high chic and high spirits.”

—Gregory Peck

“In spite of her fragile appearance, she's like steel.” —Cary Grant

“Audrey was known for something which has disappeared, and that is elegance, grace and manners . . . God kissed her on the cheek, and there she was.” —Billy Wilder

“There is not a woman alive who does not dream of looking like Audrey Hepburn.” —Hubert de Givenchy

“Her magnetism was so extraordinary that everyone wanted to be close to her. It was as if she placed a glass barrier between herself and the world. You couldn't get behind it easily. It made her remarkably attractive.”  
—Stanley Donen

“She has authentic charm. Most people simply have nice manners.” —Alfred Lunt

## **Audrey Hepburn (Best Sellers) Details**

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## From Reader Review Audrey Hepburn (Best Sellers) for online ebook

### Carmo says

A imagem de **Audrey Hepburn** sobreviveu à passagem do tempo como um ícone de beleza e elegância, talvez mais marcante que as suas interpretações no ecrã.

Todavia, atrás da imagem de mulher deslumbrante encontrava-se uma menina que sempre havia desejado ter uma família feliz. Abandonada pelo pai, viveu com a mãe que era rígida e exigente e não sabia expressar o amor que sentia pela filha.

**Audrey** sobreviveu à brutalidade da II Guerra Mundial mas ficou com sequelas físicas devidas ao longo período de fome. Começou aí, na adolescência, a sua determinação em ajudar os mais desamparados.

Os anos de sucesso em Hollywood não a seduziram para uma vida de glamour, preferia refugiar-se na Suíça sempre que podia.

Entre os sucessos cinematográficos, criou dois filhos, sofreu mágoas, traições e sonhos desfeitos.

Afastou-se do cinema e entrou para a **Unicef** como **Embaixadora da Boa Vontade para O Fundo das Nações Unidas para a Infância**. Foi a demanda de uma vida, usou o seu estatuto para benefício dos mais desfavorecidos, particularmente as crianças. Infelizmente, passados cinco anos foi-lhe diagnosticado cancro e morreu na sua casa na Suíça, onde também está sepultada e onde vinte e cinco mil pessoas encheram as ruas da localidade para assistir ao seu funeral.

As 5\* que dei a este livro não são só pelo trabalho do autor, mas especialmente em memória da mulher por trás da atriz; um ser humano altruísta que merecia ter tido mais momentos felizes.

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### Jackballoon says

I loved reading about Audrey, but the book was repetitive and therefore too long

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### Alyne says

I recently started watching classic films, which prior to my 25th year held little interest to me. I always WANTED to enjoy them, I just couldn't get past the black and white. Now that I have aged a bit, (that, or run out of Netflix options ;)) I have begun to really enjoy classic films. I love the simplicity, the straightforward plotlines, the raw emotion of Hollywood's brightest. I enjoy the good simple stories, and the lack of overt sexuality, violence, and vulgarity. It's very lovely.

As for the book, I became interested in Audrey Hepburn after viewing several of her films, and being "enchanted" as are most people. I would have given the biography 5 stars, but I felt that it focused too much on her career and roles and not enough on her as a person. (Not that it didn't, but I just wanted a bit more).

My favorite thing about Audrey, is that at the end of her life, she wants to use her fame for good. It's a perspective that I don't know how some famous people don't understand. What's the point of fame and

money if you don't do something productive with it? That's the point of life, no? To feel fulfilled, by helping others who often are in horrible positions? That's how I feel, and how many good people all over the world feel. It's a great lesson.

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### **Erin says**

I have always loved Audrey Hepburn. I was not overly impressed with this book about her though. The author made it seem like she was never happy. Whether that was true or not, no one but Audrey would know for sure. For most of this book the author focused on the the hollywood making of the movies aspect, not so much Audrey. i felt like she got lost in the shuffle of a book that was supposed to be about her.

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### **Chelsia says**

For Audrey Hepburn to be one of my favorite actresses and someone's classic ladylike style I've always looked up too, I sure didn't know a lot about her before reading this book. I was shocked to discover how similar we were in many ways, for example she suffered from constant insecurity, never knowing what her self-worth was.

She ended up living a pretty sad and tragic life that I think her parents, sadly are partially to blame for. A controlling, unfeeling, private mother (whom never showed affection) to a father who abandoned her when she was little - these are the things that set her up for failure in her relationships. She married men and became involved with men, who were a lot like her father. Her time during the holocaust was so hard to read and to imagine what it must be like to live through. It's a miracle she did survive it at all...but it's that experience I think that gave her a soft grace onscreen. She had a magnificent movie career in the beginning. I haven't seen all of her movies or any of her more serious, not to mention grown up dramas, but she was a remarkable actress with a great amount of talent that sadly she never saw.

It wasn't till about her mid 50's when she truly began to find herself. After she gave up the movies and her sons were grown, she joined UNICEF and it was there that she found herself and channeled the idea of her character, Sister Luke into who she really was and was passionate about. From a young age, all Audrey wanted to be was a wife and mother. 2 failed marriages and 5 miscarriages and an endless string of lovers, her love life left something to be desired, but it was her children, her sons, Sean and Luca who gave her life meaning and she used that love toward being a voice to all the children in poverty, disease stricken countries where the children were dying right before her eyes. For the first time in her life, she seemed to have a real drive and purpose and completely opened herself up to the spotlight, but only as an ambassador to Unicef to help raise awareness. She was on fire and I think had she lived longer, she would of done even more amazing work.

Her death happened somewhat fast and she was rather young. She got cancer and died not long after it was diagnosed.

Her life is to be remembered and learned from. An amazing book! I learned so much and it's one of the best biographies I've read in a long time.

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### **Victoria Miller says**

Breakfast At Tiffany's is one of my favorite films, and I've enjoyed most of the films in which Audrey

Hepburn starred. I adored her when she was the representative for UNICEF, and when I watched her touring rose gardens. She was a heroine, a perfect lady. Well spoken, a face that radiated light when she smiled, a gamine yet a model of style and grace. However, after reading this beautifully written book, I learned that I really didn't know much about her at all. I was amazed at her childhood background, and her life in Holland during the WWII years. Reading this book broke my heart, and made me smile, and caused me to wonder. Truly, the world was her oyster (although there were some monsters along the way). I have about a dozen DVDs of her films, and just ordered a couple I don't have. One of these weekends, I'll enjoy an Audrey Hepburn film festival. I'm grateful we were on the planet at the same time for awhile. (An added note: I had just made a donation to UNICEF on the day that this book about her arrived in the mail; quite a coincidence! And when I read the part of the book that dealt with her time with that organization, I was so glad I did.)

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### **AJ says**

I really like reading about her. I don't love this author's writing style. He is a little repetitive and kind of adds his own opinion to some things. He is, however, very thorough, and seems to have a lot of really good sources that actually knew the people he wrote about. He does write in a way that actually makes their lives very interesting and kept me wanting to know more. I would recommend his biographies.

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### **Lindsay says**

I have always admired Audrey Hepburn, but sadly did not know much about her besides her filmology. This biography is written really well, so it does not seem like a dull text book but almost like I am reading fiction. Her life was so much more than just an actress and this book gives much detail showing that. Even if you don't think you are interested in her life, you might surprise yourself while reading this.

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### **Vicki says**

I started out this book really rather excited about it. Her early years were fascinating, and the author's style was good. I was really enjoying it up to the point when Spoto started discussing the movies she was in. Then he really started to annoy me.

While Spoto's writing is well done for the most part, he seems to blur the line between biographer and film critic. A biographer should deal in the facts. Tell me what films she did, what happened during filming, what the public reaction was to the film, etc. Things that are concrete. A film critic can give their opinion of the films, but because they present themselves as film critics, we know that it is just their opinion. So when, for example, Spoto started talking about "Sabrina" and how difficult Humphrey Bogart was to work with, that was just fine. When he stated as fact that Bogart was "m miscast," that didn't sit well with me. He offered no quotes from critics saying that they thought so, nothing from anyone working on the picture saying that they thought he wasn't good in the movie. Just his opinion that Bogart was "m miscast" (yes, they had wanted Cary Grant originally, but that doesn't mean that Bogart didn't work in the film as well). And yes, I disagree with him that Bogart was miscast, but the point is that it is not his job as a biographer to be a film critic as well.

I was willing to get past it that first time, but it happened again with several other films. "The Nun's Story,"

which I have never seen but plan to, is, according to Spoto, pretty close to the best movie ever. "Green Mansions," which I happened to like, is terrible (though there are no quotes from critics to prove this). Marni Nixon as the singing voice in "My Fair Lady" was a total disaster and the audience immediately felt a disconnect between the singing and Audrey every time a song started (the way that the studio handled the whole dubbing situation was awful, but the movie itself is not). By the time it got around to "My Fair Lady," I was pretty annoyed with Spoto.

Still, I finished the book, because I wanted to hear about her work with UNICEF. That part was interesting. So I enjoyed the beginning and the end, and some tidbits of information in the middle. I wish that I had gotten a different biography, but at least this was a bargain book.

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### **Jo Ruth Patterson says**

#### **Enchanting Read**

I loved this biography from the moment I read the 1st words. It was well researched and compact, not meandering through her life but clearly bringing out the qualities of a highly professional and talented actress. I was truly enchanted with the story of Audrey's life and her truly unique personality. Highly recommend!

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### **Lisa Kay says**

Love, love, love Audrey; however, this book was just middle of the road for me. Somewhat repetitious, too. I would have liked to have read the actual critics' reviews instead of just this author's opinion of her movies; I would have preferred him to be more factual instead of opinionated throughout.

For instance, what was Audrey's reaction to Julie Andrews' quip in her acceptance speech at the 1964 Oscars, thanking Jack Warner? (He chose not to cast Andrews - who originated the role on stage - but Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*, leaving Andrews open to take the role of *Mary Poppins*, for which she won an Oscar. Audrey was not even nominated. She also originally refused the offer, advising Warner to cast Andrews.) Surely she laughed, too. Right?

It was interesting - and appalling - to see the salary difference in actresses and actors in that era. Audrey received \$11,914 for her role in *Sabrina*; William Holden \$80,000; Humphrey Bogart \$200,000.

In addition, more on Ms. Hepburn's work with UNICEF would have been great. He would also skip a whole decade here or there. I was also disappointed in the photo selections, so I posted some that I like, but were not in the book.

The book had such an overshadowing of sadness to it all...from her choice in men, to her mother not being able to tell her she loved her, to her absent father, to her five miscarriages...to her many affairs... something I don't get from her pictures at all, proving, I guess, that she was quite the actress.

She was such an icon of class, elegance, style, grace, and gentle strength.

*Jardins des Tuileries, 1956.*

*Audrey Hepburn sporting a black turtleneck in Funny Face, 1957.*

*Audrey Hepburn with William Holden in Sabrina, 1954. She's wearing the exquisite Givenchy gown, for which he received no credit, but certainly helped Edith Head win her Oscar.*

*Audrey Hepburn publicity shot for Breakfast at Tiffany's, 1961.*

*Audrey Hepburn in My Fair Lady, 1964.*

*Audrey Hepburn, Somalia, 1992 - UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.*

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### **Kati Callais says**

Absolutely Inspirational!

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### **Jessica says**

Meh. Audrey Hepburn was/is one of my all time favorite actresses. I've always loved her movies, her classic style, and her anthropic habits with her infamous work with UNICEF. But, in reading this, it kinda disappointed me. For one thing, she was kinda a hoe. She had no qualms about getting involved with married men, or having love affairs while she was married. I can't have a lot of respect for that. Also, I'm just not a big fan of biographies, even one of an actress I like.

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### **Kim Baccellia says**

I've been reading all I can about this icon for research with my YA series NO MORE GODDESSES. Let's just say I'm totally falling in love with Audrey. Her story is nothing short than amazing.

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### **Abigail says**

Audrey's life was extremely sad and depressing.

