



Barbra: The Way She Is

Christopher Andersen

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From the author of *The Day Diana Died* and *The Day John Died* comes this fascinating *New York Times* bestseller about one of the greatest legends who ever lived—Barbra Streisand—revealing an up-close, intimate portrait of the woman behind the star.

She is a global icon, the ultimate diva, the Brooklyn girl made good, the ugly duckling who blossomed into a modern-day Nefertiti, the Oscar-winning actress and bona fide movie mogul, and arguably the greatest female singer who has ever lived. Yet even to the multitudes who idolize her, Streisand has remained aloof, unknowable, tantalizingly beyond reach . . . until now.

Drawing from in-depth interviews with eyewitnesses to her remarkable life and career, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Andersen paints a fascinating, startling portrait of Barbra Joan Streisand—the artist, the woman, a true American original.

Barbra: The Way She Is Details

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Gayle says

I really good insight on Streisand and her personality, some good and some bad. She was brilliant and driven.

Jordon Hensley says

It is remarkable how much I disliked this book. I am a HUGE Barbra fan and this read like a cheap article in Star magazine. This is just dirt. I suppose this book is suitable for someone who never really liked Barbra but for someone who loves her, it is filth. I'm not saying that I need a glossed over bio but to read 400 pages of Anderson trashing Barbra is a bit extreme. I bought this book and immediately donated it once I had finished.

Kriangkrai Vathanalaoha says

My bias...

This book contains around 400 pages.....and I finished it within 2.5 days. Think about it, then!!!

Sasha says

Christopher Andersen is so full of vitriol and deliberately spiteful that he hardly stops to catch a breath.

Not a single word about what makes Streisand a performer who can command \$ 2 500 per concert ticket but a tons of gossip from cleaning ladies, grocery shop salesmen and people who immensely hate the star because she did not give them autograph when they ambushed her in a restaurant. Since he is not interested in her work, Andersen goes about Streisand's son being gay and her mother suffering from Alzheimer - its that kind of the book that actually gives you headache as sheer amount of envy, spite and obsessive negativity becomes tiresome. Anderson (and his spiritual sister, Kitty Kelley) is a kind of guy who could easily write book about any of us and gleefully expose our classmates testimonials.

Ilze says

Let me add that although I liked it, I liked James Spada's biography better.

Kerstin says

All people have assets and shortcomings, celebrities too. It is like the writer is saying "she may be a famous person, but look what a terrible person she is in private. I am not a very big fan of Barbra Streisand, but this book is 98 % negative.

So what If she has had many lovers, so has Mick Jagger.

There are informative biographies and then there are gossip biographies. Mr Andersen should learn from James Kaplan, who has written two biographies about Frank Sinatra, he describes Sinatra's good and bad sidens without being mean spirited.

Candace says

I thought this was a good and informative book...but I don't think I should have read it! I love Barbra Streisand's voice and I love watching her in movies, but I kind of wish I would have left it at that! Sometimes it's so disappointing to find out what people are really like. Having said that, I still enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at her life and at the entertainment industry in general.

Sharon says

I have always loved her singing and have been a fan. I found it enlightening but did a lot of skimming through the last 3/4 of the book. A bit too much.

Did not realize how much work she has done and with so many stars.

But like I said it was enlightening into who she was and is, a lot of which I never heard or knew.

Britt says

I heard plenty about the men Barbra dated, but I didn't hear to much about who she was. This book was very surfacy and gossipy. Raspberries.

Shannon says

I had to stop listening to this after only 1 cd. I enjoy Barbra movies and music but it is 90% ruined. What an awful wench she is. Just listening to the way she treats her staff was enough to enrage me. I took this book back to the library with a quickness. She is still a very talented and entertaining woman but what a super asshole. Coming from her poor background should have made her a kinder and more understanding woman. Not a huge bitch throwing her money around. Anyone who spends \$100,000 on wedding flowers needs a good ass kicking.

Elena says

I could only make through half of the book. Not being the greatest admirer of Barbra's talent couldn't hear

over and over again how terrible she is as a person. Clearly author is not her biggest fan.

Lorena F. Pimentel says

The book does a decent job in depicting both the good, the bad and the ugly, but I felt disappointed by it in its entirety. The last chapters were especially hard to read, as it deals with a lot of Barbra's involvement with political issues.

It is up to the reader to decide whether to absolute hate or be in awe of Barbra's tour-de-force character. I've never been a hardcore fan, and I suppose I'll always remain an admirer of her talents and many accomplishments, but as flawed as the book is, it certainly changed my perception of Barbra as a human being (for the worse).

Margaretflynn says

A very compelling read about a complicated talented woman. As a life long fan I leave this read disappointed and sad. I could have gone my whole life without knowing Barbra has gardenia petals placed in the toilets she uses on the road. I mean...really.....WTF? Too late. I have the info and now you do too. Sorry for the spoiler.

Laurel-Rain says

This story of the legend that is Barbra Streisand chronicles moments of her life from the beginning.

Barbra: The Way She Is, however, starts in 1998 as she weds her soul mate James Brolin at their Malibu estate.

Circling backwards in time, we learn about her early ambitions to act, and how she found a way into that magical world that would hopefully give her what she had missed the most in life: acceptance and love. We learn of her critical mother and the hole in her life after her father's death. Her cruel stepfather definitely informed her journey.

In some ways, Andersen's biography seemed, however, to focus most on the negative elements in Barbra; almost as if he had an ax to grind. Was she really as atrocious, demanding, objectionable, and obsessive as his portrayal suggests?

But to be fair, he also gives us her stellar moments and lavishes the reader with details about her romances and numerous love affairs. His descriptions of her gorgeous lifestyle bring the reader right into those moments with her.

My favorite parts of her story dealt with her passion for design, bordering on almost obsessive perfectionism for creating rooms in her houses, as well as the details she would bring to the sets in the films she produced and directed. That perfectionism might seem overly zealous, but the results were fabulous.

In recent years, Streisand has produced her own fabulous book chronicling her Passion for Design. I

luxuriated in those glossy pages.

At the end of Andersen's story, I liked this summation that seems to describe all facets of the woman:

"She is, to be sure, a mind-spinning tangle of contradictions: the ugly duckling regarded by millions as an exotic beauty, the boldly confident upstart riddled with self-doubt, the thrift-shop refugee who became a style icon, the generous philanthropist with miserly habits, the demanding diva in search of a father figure, the liberal firebrand with the queenly lifestyle, the electrifying performer crippled by stage fright."

A colorful read that I recommend to anyone who enjoys celebrity journeys, and specifically, for fans of Streisand, if one can discount the somewhat negative slant of the author. Three stars.

Samantha says

I had heard a lot about this book and I'm not big into Barbra Streisand. I could see why a true fan may not want to read it. It tells the good, the bad and the ugly about her. Christopher Andersen is known to dug up dirt just like Kitty Kelley. I felt this was a good book for me. I didn't know much about Barbra, so it was good for me to learn about her. I had no clue that she had slept with as many famous men as she had. I also didn't know about her son, Jason's fight with HIV/AIDS. I thought it was interesting to see the quotes from others and Barbra's own thoughts on different parts of her life. This is definitely an unauthorized biography. The last section dealing with Barbra's hatred of President George W. Bush and the Republicans was a little overdone. I felt Mr. Andersen at times dramatized some events and downplayed some others that I wanted to know about. Overall, it wasn't a bad book and I would recommend it to others that just want an overview. However, if you are a huge Streisand fan then you will be upset with the amount of dirt that has been dug up.
