



Britney: Inside the Dream

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Britney Spears – the Princess of Pop – is making a comeback, and there isn't a person out there who hasn't heard about it. In this, a fully up-to-date and authoritative biography, Steve Dennis reveals all there is to know about the much-loved star.

Hitting our radios for the first time in 1998 with '...Baby One More Time', Britney Spears quickly became a pop idol. Now, at just 27 years of age, she has racked up five number one albums, seven top-ten singles and seven sell-out world tours, as well having performed on stage with both Madonna and Michael Jackson. Just a decade after breaking onto to scene, she has become nothing short of a pop legend.

Her private life, however, has not been so easy. In 2004 Britney famously married a childhood friend at The Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas; since then her personal life has seemingly been thrown into turmoil. In the last five years she has had numerous failed relationships and endured a very public divorce and custody battle - all in the full glare of the international media.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with those closest to the superstar, Britney: Inside the Dream is a engrossing portrait of fascinating star. A frank biography, with no detail spared, it reveals the real Britney Spears, like you've never known her before.

Britney: Inside the Dream Details

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From Reader Review Britney: Inside the Dream for online ebook

Mari Biella says

It's fitting, in some respects, that one of Britney Spears' hits is called "Piece of Me". *Everyone*, it seems, wants a piece of Britney, whether it's in the form of a news story to accompany their morning coffee, or a familiar tune on the radio during their drive to work. It's a sad comment, perhaps, on the modern obsession with celebrity, and on what happens when a person is sold as a product. For most of Britney's life, she has been at the centre of a "circus" (another eerily appropriate name for one of her records). And I suppose that, in buying and reading this book, I became part of that circus. (I read it for research purposes, if that makes it any better. Yes, research. That's my story, and I'm sticking with it...)

Behind that circus, though – behind the miles of column inches, the photographs, the performances, the constant stream of stories that set the internet alight – is a real person. What do we know of that person? The obvious answer is, "Not much." Steve Dennis's biography is probably as good a place to look as any for those in search of answers, though of course one can always question how close a biographer gets to capturing his subject. The closer the scrutiny applied to an iconic figure, the more nebulous they become. Britney is no exception in this respect.

Dennis tells a rather sad (and sympathetic) story of a good-natured girl from America's Deep South, who dreamed of and – almost incredibly – achieved stardom. There was nothing in Britney's past to suggest that she was destined to become a star. Yes, she was talented; but so are many others, most of whom are bound only for anonymity. The odds were certainly against Britney. She was born into obscurity. Her family circumstances were far from ideal, her childhood blighted by those banal misfortunes of warring parents, poverty, and drink. But, thanks to her own inner drive – that, and a mother who was either supportive or pushy, depending on your interpretation – Britney found the fame she craved, first as a "Mouseketeer" and then as a pop icon. But what did she lose in the process?

It's impossible to read this biography and not feel at least a smidgeon of sympathy for Britney. She might have been the architect of many of her own misfortunes, but you have to wonder how much better anyone could realistically have handled her situation. Not many people are thrust into the middle of a media firestorm at the age of sixteen; Britney was, perhaps, spectacularly ill-suited to the experience in many ways. Sceptics are probably partly right in considering the young Britney – the sweet-natured, doe-eyed, God-fearing Baptist girl – as being a cynical commercial creation. Partly, but not entirely: as Dennis convincingly argues, that was to some extent the reality. And how Britney was betrayed – it's unlikely that any of the moguls, executives, managers, or media types who surrounded her ever had her best interests at heart. An intriguing, if sad, story.