



## Dream Lovers: The Magnificent Shattered Lives of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee - by Their Son Dodd Darin

*By Dodd Darin, Maxine Paetro*

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The superstars of an era, singing star Bobby Darin and movie star Sandra Dee were the perfect American show business couple. Now, their son reveals the fascinating truth about these stars, based on his own memories, interviews, and letters. Features rare photographs.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Darin was an extraordinarily talented singer who became a pretty good actor; Dee was an extraordinarily beautiful child model who became a pretty good actress. Both were major stars when they married—she at age 16 and he at 24—and this is the fairly depressing story of their lives and of their brief marriage as told by their son. Dodd Darin relies on his own memory and on extensive recollections from the family's friends and associates. His father suffered from a heart condition that he knew would kill him at a relatively young age and that led him to concentrate on his career to a fanatical degree. His mother was a teenaged alcoholic, hobbled by an abusive childhood and an intrusive, overprotective mother who never permitted her to grow up. Their marriage was doomed from the start, and this book is their son's way of trying to deal with his conflicting feelings about their lives and his father's death. The book's tone varies from chatty to despairing but is always intensely personal, giving the reader the unsettling impression of eavesdropping on someone else's psychotherapy. Recommended only for large general collections.

--Rick Anderson, *Contoocook, N.H.*

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From [Booklist](#)

At first glance, a book about singer Bobby Darin and his onetime wife, actress Sandra Dee, would seem to be of interest only to their son, Dodd, who happens to be the book's author. But glance again. With the help of cowriter Maxine Paetro (oddly absent from the title page), Darin has fashioned a real page-turner--part insider's look, part exposé, part *cri de coeur* from the author, an injured bystander on the scene of a broken celebrity marriage. Those who remember Bobby and Sandra, stars of the late 1950s and early 1960s, will do so from his songs ("Mack the Knife," "Beyond the Sea") and her movies (*A Summer Place*, *Gidget*). Darin, a brash, sometimes unlikable scambler, moved fast because a damaged heart ensured that he would die young. Dee, an American sweetheart, was a closet anorexic, sexually abused by her stepfather. Darin died in 1970 at age 35, but Dee survives, an alcoholic and a recluse. The book is peppered with quotes from celebrities, but its strength is the vivid chronicling of Dodd Darin's intense personal journey and his own observations of what life was like with two talented yet tormented people. *Ilene Cooper*

From the Back Cover

Every night, I hope and pray A dream lover will come my way... For a generation those words evoke memories of a happier, more innocent time, when Bobby Darin electrified America and Sandra Dee was everybody's sweetheart. When they became husband and wife, the marriage looked like the picture-perfect culmination of an American dream. But was it? In this intensely personal biography the son of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee goes far beyond the ordinary celebrity bio, revealing the real story behind his parents' shining image - their troubled childhoods, up-and-down careers, brief marriage, and tumultuous lives together and apart. Bobby Cassotto was a manic, fast-talking street kid from New York who scratched and clawed his way into the music business. But his charm was fueled by an illness that he knew would shorten his life and the secret scandal of his true mother's identity. Sandra Douvan was the sweet, wispy-thin teenage model from New Jersey who seemed to rise to fame without effort. But Sandra had her own dark secrets: a lifelong obsession with food and dieting, and sexual abuse at the hands of her stepfather. At sixteen she had never been kissed, and found herself in love with twenty-four-year-old Bobby Darin. Bobby's career was still rising as he restlessly reinvented himself from a pop crooner to an acclaimed actor, music producer, and blockbuster nightclub performer. Twelve years later Bobby was dead, Sandy was beginning a life as a Hollywood shut-in, and America was changed forever.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Grimm:**

The book untitled Dream Lovers: The Magnificent Shattered Lives of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee - by Their Son Dodd Darin is the guide that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, therefore the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Dream Lovers: The Magnificent Shattered Lives of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee - by Their Son Dodd Darin from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

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