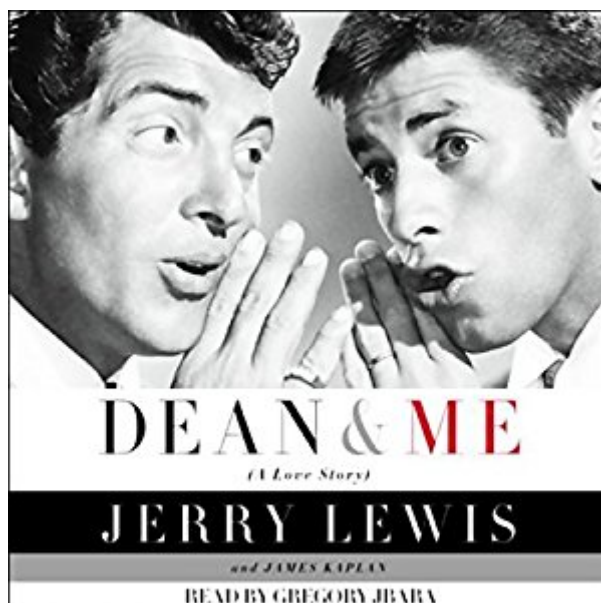


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Dean And Me: A Love Story



Synopsis

They were the unlikelyst of pairs—•a handsome crooner and a skinny monkey, an Italian from Steubenville, Ohio, and a Jew from Newark, N.J.. Before they teamed up, Dean Martin seemed destined for a mediocre career as a nightclub singer, and Jerry Lewis was dressing up as Carmen Miranda and miming records on stage. But the moment they got together, something clicked—•something miraculous—•and audiences saw it at once. Before long, they were as big as Elvis or the Beatles would be after them, creating hysteria wherever they went and grabbing an unprecedented hold over every entertainment outlet of the era: radio, television, movies, stage shows, and nightclubs. Martin and Lewis were a national craze, an American institution. The millions (and the women) flowed in, seemingly without end—and then, on July 24, 1956, ten years from the day when the two men joined forces, it all ended. After that traumatic day, the two wouldn—•t speak again for twenty years. And while both went on to forge triumphant individual careers—•Martin as a movie and television star, recording artist, and nightclub luminary (and charter member of the Rat Pack); Lewis as the groundbreaking writer, producer, director, and star of a series of hugely successful movie comedies—•their parting left a hole in the national psyche, as well as in each man—•s heart. In a memoir by turns moving, tragic, and hilarious, Jerry Lewis recounts with crystal clarity every step of a fifty-year friendship, from the springtime, 1945 afternoon when the two vibrant young performers destined to conquer the world together met on Broadway and Fifty-fourth Street, to their tragic final encounter in the 1990s, when Lewis and his wife ran into Dean Martin, a broken and haunted old man. In *Dean & Me*, Jerry Lewis makes a convincing case for Dean Martin as one of the great—•and most underrated—•comic talents of our era. But what comes across most powerfully in this definitive memoir is the depth of love Lewis felt, and still feels, for his partner, and which his partner felt for him: truly a love to last for all time. --This text refers to an alternate Audible Audio Edition edition.

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Customer Reviews

This was a very interesting book. I thought it told the story of Jerry & Dean's relationship in a very thorough & enjoyable manner. Of course the reader has no choice but to believe things happened the way Jerry said they did since it was told from his perspective & Dean certainly wasn't around to rebut. But all, in all, I enjoyed the book & was very surprised at many things I learned. From Jerry's viewpoint, many times it appeared as though Dean was somewhat of an ass. And it certainly seemed as though that attitude had a lot to do with their break-up. At the same time, there was no surprise about the love between the two or certainly the love Jerry had for Dean. We will never really know for sure if Dean shared that same love for Jerry though. I would recommend this reading to anyone who wants to have a better perspective on just how this pair actually came together.

This is a pretty interesting book considering who wrote it. It comes off as rather candid. Jerry Lewis is clearly a man who is interested in his legacy so you have to assume that there is some fudging in here, both in the positive and negative directions. But even accounting for that bias you do get a rather nuanced picture of one of the great comedy teams of all time. If you are a fan of Martin & Lewis or even if you are interested in the life of an enigmatic human being, I would recommend this book.

Had the biggest crush on the clown-Lewis made me laugh as kid and care about his charity drives as teen/adult. Never knew but could have suspected why the team of Martin & Lewis folded-It was time. Reading now as both are lost to us but forever remembered. No fighting over top billing now, guys! Only love!

A fantastic read. Fun, nostalgic, inside intimate details about Dean and Jerry as young unknowns then giant stars. The inside story of the break up, all told with total love and respect and admiration for his obviously very dearly missed friend Dean Martin. Love hearing how the monumentally popular act began and evolved. Bitter moments between the two and explanations clearly and

honestly written. I was enthralled from page one to the end. Laughed out loud many times. But I am an old Jerry Lewis fan who always weighed the balance of the man's talents and heart, against the ravages that his earned ego took on his talent and relationships. This account is sincerely and emotionally written, more truthful and open than you would expect. Surprisingly so. Great fun and great inside personal account of Dean and Jerry at their best and often at their worst. Bottom line, this is a love letter with a dash of mea culpa, to Dean, from Jerry his greatest admirer and best pal. Once upon a nostalgic time anyway.

Really better than I expected. I was amazed at how quickly they rose to stardom. I remember as a kid how I couldn't believe they broke up as a team. But I always thought that they never really made up, so it was nice to know that the hurt and pain finally wore off, even though it took many, many years to happen.

Been waiting to buy and read this. I guess I was too poor to afford the book years ago; I'd rushed to buy Jerry's other books (if only he would reprint "The Total Filmmaker," the only copy I read was at the San Mateo library and was stolen, of course, because it is not worth around \$700! REPRINT IT, JERRY LEWIS!) Very wonderful for Jerry and Dean fans. Glad Jerry cleared up the issue raised in stupid Arthur Marx's rotten book, where he stated that Dean tricked Jerry, cutting off his hair while slept. Jerry pointed out that Dean asked him to allow him to do a makeover, and Dean learned barbershop skills from his father. The haircut was not a butcher-job, done out of pique and anger and resentment. (Marx used sources completely from magazines and newspapers, years ago, I read each and every one of the originals, because I intended to write a defense of Jerry book, and I saw that Marx had no original writing at all, except his belittling insults of Jerry Lewis). Jerry discusses quite a number of things, so historians need this.

This was an interesting book, I sure did learn some things about the team of Martin & Lewis I never knew before. I like biographies about the 20th Century entertainers- the ones who created "show business". I am not so sure this book is however, the definitive tell-all about the relationship between these two men. Of course it is very one-sided, being told strictly by Jerry Lewis, with Dean Martin long dead and unable to respond. Jerry makes himself out to be perfect - which he was/is not. But it was a very good read, very interesting, and yes, I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in this direction.

I remember watching Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis when I was a kid. Dean was my favorite because Jerry was so frantic and out of bounds that he made me nervous. I also remember when they broke up everyone thought that Jerry would be the big star while Dean would just fade away into the sunset. This was written from Jerry's point of view where he is just beginning to realize how he took over the team, leaving Dean to sing a couple of songs then fade into the background. Jerry made all the decisions both personal and business while Dean played golf and chased the ladies. Eventually Dean had enough of being told what to do and when to do it and became passive aggressive to whatever Jerry decided on doing. After they broke up Jerry did not hear from Dean for quite a few years which really hurt him and I think this is what made him reflect on their early years together and realize just how Dean was ignored.

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