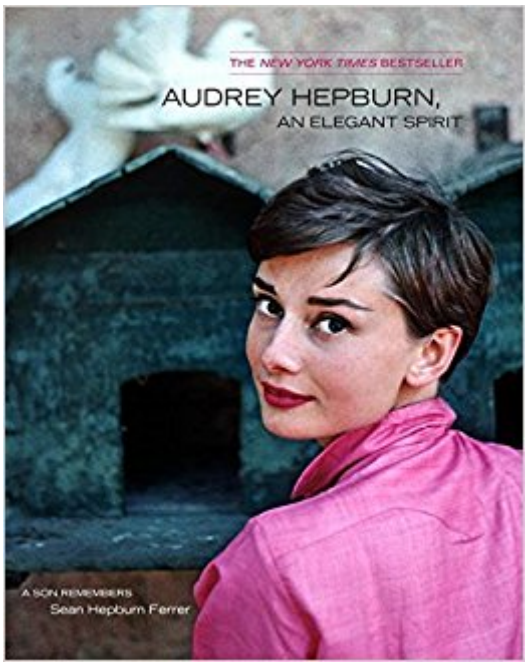
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Audrey Hepburn, An Elegant Spirit



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Synopsis

Now in paperback, an intimate look at the woman the world adored, by the son who adored her with unique photos, drawings, and other rare Audrey memorabilia.She dazzled millions as Gigi. Eliza Doolittle. Holly Golightly. But to her most adoring fan, Audrey Hepburn was best known for her role as Ã¢â ¬Å“Mummy.Ã¢â ¬Â• In this heartfelt tribute to his mother, Sean Hepburn Ferrer offers a rare and intimate glimpse into the life of one of Hollywood's brightest stars. Audrey Hepburn, An Elegant Spirit is a stunning compilation of nearly 300 photographs, many straight from the family album and never before published; archival documents, personal correspondence, and mementos; even paintings and illustrations from the actress herself. Sean tells Audrey Hepburn's remarkable story, from her childhood in war-torn Holland to the height of her fame to her autumn years far from the camera and the crush of the paparazzi. Sean introduces us to someone whose grace, charm, and beauty were matched only by her insecurity about her appearance and talent, and who used her hard-won recognition as a means to help children less fortunate than her own. With this unique biography, Sean celebrates his mother's history and humanityÃ¢â ¬â •and continues her charitable work by donating proceeds from this book to the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund.

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Customer Reviews

Hepburn's son (with actor Mel Ferrer) shows his mother as a compassionate, emotional woman who searched for and offered love above all. He traces the roots of his mother's longing in her experiences with her distant father and the destruction of her native Belgium during WWII. Via photos and stories, he notes how Hepburn (1929-1993) aimed to live an everyday family life of

home, school and holidays. Rendering her husbands respectfully and without off-color stories, Ferrer doesn’t offer lascivious behind-the-scenes dramas or quips about directorial injustices. Instead, he lets designers and composers who worked with Hepburn talk about the actor’s inimitable talents. Composer Henry Mancini believes her "quality of wistfulness" inspired the songs he wrote for her, especially Breakfast at Tiffany’s "Moon River." Designer Cecil Beaton calls her an "authentic existential Galatea" with a voice containing the "quality of heartbreak." Ferrer also details Hepburn’s influential friendship with clothing designer Hubert de Givenchy, including the dressmaker’s generosity in Hepburn’s final days. Directors William Wyler and Billy Wilder also appear, as do actors Gary Cooper and Fred Astaire (the latter was Hepburn’s co-star in her favorite movie, Funny Face). Movie-related photos abound, but the most memorable images are of Hepburn’s family and the children she met in her work with UNICEF. Her 1989 speech to members of the United Nations staff on the millions of dying children in developing countries concludes the book. What began as a son’s remembrance and selective movie survey becomes a call to action. In this way, the work differs greatly from standard self-important star bios. 300 full-color and b&w photos.Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A family memoir.Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If there is a polar opposite to Christina Crawford’s scathing poor-me memoir, "Mommie Dearest", it has to be this loving tribute to Audrey Hepburn from her eldest son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer. Rather than being an exhaustive biography on the legendary film star (and enough of those exist anyway), it is more a very attractive coffee table book with remembrances from her colleagues, family friends and most importantly, Ferrer himself. It is a testament to Hepburn that all these books, especially this one, have been nothing less than respectful and at times downright reverential. There is no getting around the fact that she was well loved by those closest around her and certainly by her fans, me included. That she comes across as such a giving person merely validates what we all want to believe about her, and this becomes especially clear in Ferrer’s account of her later years making goodwill trips to Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Somalia on behalf of UNICEF. And while as a fan, I was disappointed about her long absences from films from the late sixties until her death in 1993, Ferrer makes it clear how important motherhood was to her and how imperative it was for her to stay at home with her sons during those years. Just from the treasure trove of family photos, this book clearly shows that her dedication to them was and continues to be reciprocated.The

perspective of this book is understandably biased but fresh, and obviously Ferrer's access to his mother's personal belongings - family snapshots, paintings and drawings done by her, even her passports - builds an intimate story. I have to admit I was taken aback by the more familiar photos of Hepburn during her Hollywood glory years (especially the glamorous Cecil Beaton pictures) and amazed at how lovely she continued to look in the professional photos taken a year or so before her death. Not surprisingly, the most moving part is Ferrer's account of her final weeks when she took one last flight from California to what looks to be a most idyllic place, her home La Paisible in Switzerland. This should be the final word about her, but that is unlikely as she continues to fascinate. Somewhere Joan Crawford must be eating her heart out.

Wow! This one would have been a shame to miss. I always strongly admired Miss A. Hepburn (and Miss K. Hepburn) and was saddened by her demise. Audrey was the opposite of the busty Hollywood stars such as Miss Monroe, who I also liked. I preferred Audrey's class over the many crass others. Those eyes alone were enough to make a young male fascinated, and then there was her voice and grace. Back to this book, written by her son: Buy it. He writes his views in a simple, straightforward style that conveys information in a penetrating manner that itself is marvelous. No, memorable! I'm nearing the end of the book now, and don't want it to end. It is a fitting tribute to an unforgettable woman who was truly "An Elegant Spirit." I can not top that title.

What an elegant spirit indeed. She was such a kind gentle personality and there will never be a finer soul for UNICEF than Audrey Hepburn.. Shetook on the ambassador role with reluctance, but I feel she was the best they ever had. Gone far too soon!

I have always appreciated Audrey Hepburn's talent and her movies ... She was not only beautiful but had a heart of gold the way she treated the UNICEF children!!! This was a beautifully written book by her son and showed her to be so thoughtful and kindly of others! She will always be in my memory...RB

Beautiful book. Photos I had never seen before and lovely memories by her son. Stays out on the coffee table.

Can't say I didn't cry several times when reading this book. But author Sean Ferrer discloses his relationship with his mother Audrey in such a candid way that it's very touching from his birth to her

death. They weren’t mere mother and son; they were best friends and she told him so over and over. Oh, to have a mother that cared so, that liked you, not just went through the motions of saying they loved you, but never showed it. Ferrer provides revealing details of her life, her attitude toward the many Hollywood stars and agents who helped make the brand "Audrey." For example, the one person she regretted never meeting was the Dalai Lama. Don’t we all! He details her death, too, and how quickly she went once the cancer took hold, but at least they had enough time to say goodbye to each other. What a lovely book about two lovely people. I can’t recommend it enough as a gift, or as a keepsake.

We were looking for a book that one of our kids could use for a 5th grade book review. This one stood above all the other ones we looked at because it was written by one of Audrey Hepburn’s sons and provides an intimate, personal and detailed narrative of her struggles, triumph, health issues little-known quirks. A big bonus is that there are lots great pictures and paintings by Ms. Hepburn that you want won’t in other books.

it is a very nice tribute from a loving son to his mother but also permits to all readers to travel inside the private life of a charismatic actress. I enjoyed very much the reading as the writing is fluid and easy to understand; as English is not my mother’s language. This book do not intent to be a biography of Audrey Hepburn, but a very nice recite about some facts of her private life seen by her son. The pictures, in the Kindle version are not of the best quality.

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