

barbara windsor and the krays

Barbara Windsor and the Krays: A Tale of Glamour, Grit, and East End Legends

barbara windsor and the krays—two names that evoke the gritty charm of London's East End, a world where glamour and gangsterism collided in the swinging sixties. Barbara Windsor, the beloved British actress known for her bubbly personality and iconic roles, had a fascinating and complex connection to the infamous Kray twins, Ronald and Reginald Kray, who ruled the London underworld with an iron fist. Exploring this intriguing relationship offers a compelling glimpse into a unique chapter of British cultural history, blending entertainment, crime, and the raw realities of life in East London.

Barbara Windsor: The Queen of East End Entertainment

Barbara Windsor was more than just a screen icon; she was a symbol of East End resilience and spirit. Rising to fame through the "Carry On" film series and later as Peggy Mitchell in the popular soap opera "EastEnders," Windsor became a household name. Her vivacious personality and unmistakable Cockney charm made her an enduring figure in British pop culture.

Early Life and Career Roots in the East End

Born Barbara Ann Deeks in London's East End, Windsor's upbringing was steeped in the very environment that the Krays dominated. Growing up in a working-class family, she was intimately familiar with the hustle and hardships of the area. This background informed her performances and endeared her to audiences who saw her as a genuine representation of East End life.

The Krays: Ruthless Twins of London's Underworld

Ronnie and Reggie Kray were notorious gangsters who rose to infamy during the 1950s and 60s. With their blend of charm, violence, and business acumen, the Krays controlled much of London's organized crime scene. Their influence extended beyond crime, touching the worlds of entertainment and high society.

How the Krays Cultivated Their Celebrity Status

Unlike many criminals, the Krays were media-savvy and cultivated a public image that

blurred the lines between gangster and gentleman. They mingled with celebrities and politicians, often hosting lavish parties. This intersection of crime and celebrity culture is where their paths crossed with figures like Barbara Windsor.

The Connection Between Barbara Windsor and the Krays

The relationship between Barbara Windsor and the Krays is a fascinating blend of friendship, intimidation, and survival. Windsor's interactions with the twins were not just casual encounters but played a significant role in shaping her personal and professional life.

Friendship Amid Danger

Barbara Windsor was known to have been friendly with the Krays, particularly Ronnie. Despite their violent reputations, the twins reportedly admired Windsor's charisma and talent. In interviews, Windsor has spoken candidly about her complex feelings towards them—acknowledging both their charm and their darker nature.

Protective Role and Influence

It's said that the Krays offered a form of protection to Windsor in the unforgiving world of show business and the East End streets. Their influence was a double-edged sword; while it provided safety, it also came with implicit dangers, given the Krays' volatile temperaments and criminal dealings.

Barbara Windsor's Reflections on the Krays Over Time

In later years, Barbara Windsor spoke openly about her experiences with the Krays, shedding light on the human side of these notorious figures. Her reflections provide valuable insight into the social dynamics of London's East End during a turbulent era.

Balancing Admiration with Awareness

Windsor's accounts reveal a nuanced perspective. She admired certain qualities of the Krays—loyalty, charisma, and a fierce sense of family—but never shied away from acknowledging the fear and violence that surrounded them. This balanced view helps demystify the aura of glamor often associated with the Krays.

Impact on British Cultural Memory

Barbara Windsor's stories contributed significantly to how the public remembers the Krays. Through her vivid recollections and roles that often echoed East End realities, she helped cement the twins' place in British cultural history—not just as criminals, but as emblematic figures of a bygone era.

The Legacy of Barbara Windsor and the Krays in Popular Culture

The intertwined legacies of Barbara Windsor and the Krays continue to captivate audiences through films, documentaries, and television dramas. Their story embodies the complex tapestry of London's post-war social landscape.

Films and Dramas Inspired by Their Story

Several productions have depicted the Krays' reign, often featuring characters inspired by or directly portraying Barbara Windsor. Movies like "The Krays" (1990) and more recent dramatizations highlight the enduring public fascination with this era. Windsor's own roles, especially in "EastEnders," resonate with the themes of loyalty, toughness, and community that defined the Krays' world.

Enduring Fascination with East End History

The story of Barbara Windsor and the Krays taps into a broader public interest in East End history and its transformation. From the post-war struggles to the rise of celebrity culture amid adversity, their narrative offers a microcosm of London's evolving identity.

Understanding the East End Through Barbara Windsor and the Krays

More than just a tale of crime and celebrity, the connection between Barbara Windsor and the Krays offers a lens into the social fabric of East London. It reveals how community, survival, and identity intertwined in the face of hardship.

Lessons on Resilience and Complexity

Both Windsor and the Krays exemplify the multifaceted nature of human experience. Windsor's career and personal stories show resilience and grace, while the Krays' story

highlights how power and vulnerability coexist. Together, they paint a picture of a community marked by both danger and hope.

The Role of Storytelling in Preserving History

Through Windsor's candid interviews and the many retellings of the Krays' saga, storytelling becomes a powerful tool for preserving and understanding history. It reminds us that behind headlines and legends are real people navigating complex lives.

Barbara Windsor's life and her connection with the Krays remain a compelling chapter in British cultural history. Their intertwined stories offer not only entertainment but also profound insights into the spirit of London's East End—a place where glamour and grit have long walked hand in hand.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Barbara Windsor in relation to the Krays?

Barbara Windsor was a British actress who had a personal relationship with Ronnie Kray, one of the infamous Kray twins, during the 1960s.

What was the nature of Barbara Windsor's relationship with Ronnie Kray?

Barbara Windsor and Ronnie Kray were romantically involved for a period, with Windsor often recalling the intensity and complexity of their relationship.

Did Barbara Windsor ever speak publicly about the Krays?

Yes, Barbara Windsor spoke openly about her relationship with Ronnie Kray and her experiences during that time in interviews and her autobiography.

How did Barbara Windsor's connection to the Krays influence her career?

While Windsor was a successful actress in her own right, her association with the Krays brought additional public interest and sometimes unwanted media attention.

Were Barbara Windsor and the Krays ever depicted together in films or TV shows?

Yes, adaptations of the Kray twins' story, such as the film "Legend," have depicted their relationship with Barbara Windsor as part of the narrative.

What did Barbara Windsor say about the impact of the Krays on her life?

Barbara Windsor acknowledged that her involvement with the Krays was a turbulent period that shaped her personal life, but she remained focused on her acting career.

Did Barbara Windsor face any danger due to her association with the Krays?

Although Ronnie Kray was a notorious gangster, Windsor has not publicly reported facing direct physical danger, but she did describe the relationship as intense and sometimes frightening.

How is Barbara Windsor remembered in connection to the Krays today?

Barbara Windsor is remembered as an iconic actress who had a notable and personal connection to the Krays, adding a human dimension to the infamous criminal stories.

Are there any books or documentaries about Barbara Windsor and the Krays?

Yes, Barbara Windsor's autobiography and various documentaries about the Kray twins include references to her relationship with Ronnie Kray and her experiences during that era.

Additional Resources

Barbara Windsor and the Krays: An Intricate Intersection of Fame and Infamy

barbara windsor and the krays represent a fascinating chapter in British cultural history, intertwining the worlds of entertainment and organized crime in mid-20th century London. Barbara Windsor, an iconic actress renowned for her vivacious personality and roles in the "Carry On" films and the long-running soap opera "EastEnders," had a complex and often publicized association with the notorious Kray twins, Ronnie and Reggie Kray. This connection offers a unique lens through which to examine the interplay between celebrity culture and criminal notoriety during a turbulent era in London's East End.

The Cultural and Historical Context of Barbara Windsor and the Krays

Barbara Windsor emerged as a beloved figure in British entertainment from the 1950s onward, her career spanning theater, film, and television. Meanwhile, the Kray twins operated a criminal empire in London's East End during the same period, becoming symbols of gangsterism and the darker underbelly of post-war Britain. Their activities

ranged from protection rackets to murder, while maintaining a veneer of celebrity status through their public personas and connections.

The intersection of Barbara Windsor and the Krays is emblematic of how the twins' influence permeated various sectors of society, including the entertainment industry. Windsor's relationships with the Krays—particularly her friendship with Ronnie Kray—have been the subject of extensive media coverage, biographies, and dramatizations, highlighting the blurred boundaries between crime and celebrity.

Barbara Windsor's Friendship with Ronnie Kray

One of the most significant elements of the Barbara Windsor and the Krays narrative is her close friendship with Ronnie Kray. Windsor has spoken candidly about this relationship in interviews and her autobiography, describing Ronnie as charismatic yet dangerous. This personal bond sheds light on the human dimensions behind the public personas of both the actress and the gangster.

Ronnie Kray, despite his violent lifestyle and criminal convictions, was known to cultivate friendships within the entertainment industry. Windsor's association with him has been characterized by a mix of admiration, fear, and eventual disillusionment. This dynamic illustrates the complex social networks that the Krays navigated, which extended beyond the criminal underworld into mainstream culture.

Impact on Barbara Windsor's Career and Public Image

The connection to the Krays had nuanced implications for Barbara Windsor's career. On one hand, it placed her in the public eye in a context that went beyond her acting achievements, intertwining her legacy with one of Britain's most infamous criminal families. On the other hand, Windsor managed to maintain a successful career, becoming a beloved figure in British television and film.

Her role in the "Carry On" series and later as Peggy Mitchell in "EastEnders" cemented her status as a household name. Yet, the public's fascination with her Kray connections often overshadowed her artistic work, demonstrating how associations with notorious figures can affect celebrity narratives. Despite this, Windsor leveraged her experiences, including her interactions with the Krays, to inform her performances and public discourse.

Media Portrayals and Public Perception

The relationship between Barbara Windsor and the Krays has been dramatized in numerous films, television programs, and documentaries. These portrayals often explore themes of loyalty, danger, and the seductive allure of gangster culture. Notably, films such as "The Krays" (1990) and "Legend" (2015) include characters inspired by Windsor, reflecting her significance in the Krays' story.

Media coverage has fluctuated between sensationalism and more nuanced examinations, reflecting broader societal attitudes toward crime, celebrity, and morality. The public perception of Windsor's connection to the Krays has evolved over time, from scandalous intrigue to a more empathetic understanding of the complexities involved.

Comparisons with Other Celebrity Associations

Barbara Windsor's association with the Krays is not unique in celebrity culture, where figures often become entangled with infamous personalities. Comparisons can be drawn with other entertainers who had friendships or relationships with controversial figures, highlighting the risks and reputational challenges involved.

Such comparisons illustrate common patterns:

- Public fascination with the intersection of glamour and crime
- The impact of these relationships on career trajectories
- Media's role in shaping or distorting public narratives

These dynamics underscore the delicate balance celebrities must maintain when navigating social circles that include both legitimate and illegitimate power brokers.

Barbara Windsor's Legacy Beyond the Krays

While the connection to the Krays is a notable aspect of Barbara Windsor's life story, it represents only one dimension of her enduring legacy. As an actress, Windsor broke ground for women in comedy and drama, bringing warmth, humor, and strength to her roles. Her commitment to charity work, particularly raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease in her later years, further defines her public persona.

Understanding Barbara Windsor and the Krays together enriches the narrative of post-war British cultural history, illustrating how personal relationships can transcend and transform public identities.

Conclusion: Reflecting on a Complex Relationship

The story of Barbara Windsor and the Krays remains a compelling study of contrasts—between light and darkness, fame and infamy, loyalty and betrayal. It invites ongoing exploration into how individuals navigate complex social landscapes marked by power, danger, and affection. For historians, fans, and cultural critics alike, this intersection serves as a powerful reminder of the multifaceted nature of celebrity and the enduring

impact of personal connections on public life.

Barbara Windsor And The Krays

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barbara windsor and the krays: The Krays and Barbara Windsor! Steven King, 2018-10-08 Ronald Ronnie Kray and Reginald Reggie Kray, identical twin brothers born on 24th October 1933, Hoxton, London, England, UK, were West End nightclub owners and gangsters, the main leaders of organised crime in the East End of London during the 1950s and 1960s. With their gang, known as The Firm, the Krays were involved in murder, armed robbery, arson, protection rackets and grievous bodily harm. The pair mixed with politicians and prominent entertainers including Diana Dors, Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland, becoming celebrities during the 1960s, being photographed by David Bailey and interviewed on TV.

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barbara windsor and the krays: The Secrets of The Krays - My Life in The Firm John Dickson, 2018-11-01 The inside story of life with the Krays John Dickson arrived in London from Edinburgh in 1964, looking for work...and adventure. He soon found it in the pubs and card clubs of the East End, where he met and go to know the twins and the members of the 'firm'. He was, for many years, a close and trusted henchman of the Krays, and was the man who drove Ronnie to the Blind Beggar pub the night that George Cornell was shot. In this explosive book, Dickson tells the inside story of Ronnie and Reggie's gangland underworld. He recounts the increasingly erratic and senselessly violent behaviour of the twins, and their final arrest, which came at a time when they had thought they were invincible. The Secrets of the Krays is an illuminating and thrilling journey into the world of the East End's most notorious sons.

barbara windsor and the krays: The Krays: A Violent Business Colin Fry, 2011-05-05 Twins Ron and Reg Kray were without doubt the most powerful, violent and deadly gangsters that London has ever known. They ran protection rackets, clubs and casinos, as well as fraudulent 'long firms'. They blackmailed, intimidated and killed - for many years with impunity thanks to their powerful cronies in the Establishment. Working with all five main Mafia families in New York, they were expanding their business worldwide when they were imprisoned for murder in 1968. Featuring revealing new material, The Krays: A Violent Business is the story of their lives - and of the secrets and scandals the British government still doesn't want you to know about.

barbara windsor and the krays: The Krays' London Caroline Allen, 2019-12-19 A true crime travel guide to the haunts and hangouts of the most notorious gangsters of London's East End. There are many conflicting stories about who Ronnie and Reggie Kray were. Films depicting their lives have made the public vilify them, adore them and even admire them. This guidebook will dig a

little deeper into the places they spent their time. Many of the places are renowned as the stomping grounds of the devious duo, but there are one or two exclusives that are not yet covered anywhere else, including the untold story of their lifelong hairdresser. Chapter by chapter, a map of their lives will reveal itself, making this the perfect read for anybody around the world interested in London's gangster scene. "I remember going home from a cinema visit to London in the early 1960s with police sirens all over the place as we went through the East End. I remember the newspaper reports of the time, and wondering how the police could allow such people to control the East End to such an extent, and to apparently countenance the horrors this evil gang inflicted on their own and their enemies. It was a horrendous time to be alive in the East End of London, and Caroline's superb book brings it all back to life." —Books Monthly

barbara windsor and the krays: *The Krays and Me - Blood, Honour and Respect. Doing Porridge with The Krays* Charles Bronson, 2007-04-30 Two names reigned supreme in London's underworld in the sixties - Ronnie and Reggie Kray; and it wasn't until 1969 that the twins went down at Brixton Prison for murder. I was only seventeen, on remand up in Risley, Warrington, for nicking a furniture lorry. Most of the lads in there had newspaper photos of the Krays stuck up on their cell walls. They were the cream of the criminal crop, and that's why I took such an interest in 'em. Once I was put away, it wasn't long before I got to meet them, and over the next 29 years I got closer to the Krays than any self-proclaimed henchman, any autograph hunter. As their trusted friend they let me in on it all - no holds barred behind bars! Since Ronnie and Reggie died, all I've heard is a load of bollocks! 'Reggie shot my cat; Ronnie stabbed my uncle Bert 75 times; Reggie ran over my hamster; I'm Ronnie's son, I'm Reggie's daughter.' Gutless maggots spreading rumours with their sham stories for sale. The shameless rats. Well now the twins are gone and I can talk. And let me tell you, I've got a lot to say and all the time in the world to say it. No bollocks. No silly stories. Just the facts about the time I spent doing porridge with the Krays.

barbara windsor and the krays: *The Krays - The Final Countdown* Colin Fry, 2011-11-25 The Krays were a product of their age, nurtured by a doting mother and created by their community, the East End of London. Their name alone conjures up images of power, violence and greed - and even brother Charlie couldn't steer the twins Ron and Reg clear of murder mayhem as they killed their way to the top of the criminal tree. They lived by their own rules. And they died by them. The three brothers will never be forgotten. They are an indelible part of our history, whether we like it or not. And from media manipulation to control freak paranoia, The Krays were masters of deception. Even at the end Reg Kray was still portraying himself as just an ordinary East Ender - mistreated by the Home Office and the police, misunderstood and mistakenly labelled 'Godfather of Crime' by the media. The Kray Anthology traces their history from childhood and early adolescence to manhood and death. This book explores the brothers' fantasy lives, full as they were of mind games and false memories. Whatever you want to know about the Krays and the real reasons behind their success, you can read it here for the first time. Only now can the truth be revealed - without fear of intimidation, retribution or revenge. The Krays are dead and buried, but the myth lives on.

barbara windsor and the krays: *Running with the Krays - The Final Truth About The Krays and the Underworld We Lived In* Freddie Foreman, 2017-11-02 For over fifty years, Freddie Foreman's name has commanded respect, and occasionally fear, from those who work to uphold the law - and those who operate just outside of it. With almost all of his compatriots - like the notorious Kray twins - now gone, Freddie is the last real gangster. A true entrepreneur and businessman, Freddie was one of the great personalities of the criminal underworld. A man of principle, protective of his family and unfailingly loyal to his friends, Freddie was someone who could be relied upon with complete confidence in all circumstances. Running with the Krays is the no-holds-barred account of life alongside the Kray twins - as well as dozens of other recognisable 'Faces' - and the exciting and glamorous world they lived

barbara windsor and the krays: *The Krays: The Prison Years* David Meikle, Kate Beal Blyth, 2017-06-01 In the 60s, Ronnie and Reggie Kray were Britain's most notorious gangsters. With violence and intimidation they were the kings of London. They sipped champagne with celebrities

and rubbed shoulders with politicians. They were untouchable. Until they weren't. After an undercover operation, the Kray twins were found guilty of murder and were sentenced to life in prison. They were just 35 years old. But once inside, the twins were determined to make their stay truly historic. The Twins began earning more money inside than they ever did on the streets. They sold branded t-shirts and memorabilia and they allowed books and films to be published about their lives. They didn't stop. Whilst locked up, their mother died as did their brother Charlie, and their associates and friends all fell away. But while Britain changed as a nation, the brothers continued to operate as the gangsters they once were. Their violence ingrained so deep that they couldn't leave it behind. The Krays: The Prison Years explores the fascinating and largely untold story of the Kray twins following their imprisonment.

barbara windsor and the krays: The Last Real Gangster - The Final Truth About The Krays And The Underworld We Lived In Freddie Foreman, 2015-09-03 For over fifty years, Freddie Foreman's name has commanded respect, and occasionally fear, from those who work to uphold the law - and those who operate just outside of it. With almost all of his compatriots - like the notorious Kray twins - now gone, Freddie is truly The Last Real Gangster. A true entrepreneur and businessman, Freddie was one of the great personalities of the criminal underworld. A man of principle, protective of his family and unfailingly loyal to his friends, Freddie was someone who could be relied upon with complete confidence in all circumstances. Together with co-authors Frank and Noelle Kurylo - who have themselves been intimately involved in the underworld for a number of decades - as well as dozens of previously unpublished photographs, The Last Real Gangster contains the musings and reminiscences of someone who truly was there and really did see it all. Including a detailed look at the life of the Kray twins, alongside dozens of other recognisable 'Faces', this book is the no-holds-barred story of Freddie's life and the exciting and glamorous world in which they lived.

barbara windsor and the krays: Surviving the Krays David Teale, 2021-03-18 David Teale: groomed by the twins, controlled by threats, raped by Ronnie, falsely imprisoned by the State for his 'own protection' as younger brother of Kray-informer Bobby. Turns out that's only half the story. David first met the Krays when he was seventeen years old. He was drawn into London's underworld, and became Ronnie's reluctant foot soldier, driver, errand boy. He was close to murder, and witnessed menaces and the increasingly psychotic behaviours of the most feared men in gangster land. Unbeknown to David, his brother Bobby had bravely turned informer at great risk to his own safety and that of his brothers. That had its own consequences. But why, when the police were being furnished with eye-witness statements, from an impeccable source, were they seemingly incapable of bringing the twins to justice? The Krays were untouchable. After tireless research through newly released documents in the National Archives, and piecing together previously classified information together with his own, first-hand knowledge of the time, David Teale uncovers the shocking new truth, revealed in this book for the first time. David's story rewrites True Crime history.

barbara windsor and the krays: The Kray Madness Chris Lambrianou, Robin McGibbon, 2016-05-05 For many, the Kray twins are legends but for Chris Lambrianou they were something else entirely . . . As a young East End tearaway, Chris turned to crime to escape the grinding poverty of his life. Armed robbery, safe blowing, fraud, even attempted murder - the big brash Cockney did the lot. Then, when he became too successful, the Krays decided they wanted a slice of his action. Pulled into their orbit, Chris was unimpressed by a crime empire built on fear, and alarmed to realise his brother Tony had become a paid up member of their firm. Then Chris was lured to the party that ended in the murder of Jack the Hat McVitie. Wanting to protect Tony, Chris helped dispose of the body. He was arrested along with the Krays and their firm, and after a sensational trial he was jailed for life in 1969. In this searing autobiography, he also describes what it's like to face life as a category A prisoner, the beatings and harsh regime, the friendship he found with other prisoners like Charlie Richardson and Bruce Reynolds. Still, in deep despair after years inside, he tried to kill himself but ultimately found the strength not just to survive but to change his life forever

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barbara windsor and the krays: Doing the Business - The Final Confession of the Senior Kray Brother Charles Kray, 2011-02-07 The final confessions of the senior Kray brother. Only one man knew everything about Ronnie and Reggie Kray and that was their brother Charlie. Until now nobody has ever revealed the truth about the Firm. • Gossip and rumor have been rife, fact has blended into fiction and the unwritten law of the street meant that the real story was buried. But before his death, the eldest Kray brother, Charlie, decided to set the record straight once and for all. Revealing everything to Colin Fry, his co-author, he finally told his incredible story. By the man who knew them best, this is the ultimate history of the twins who ruled the East End with their peculiar blend of seductive glamour and terrifying violence.

barbara windsor and the krays: Evil Twins John Glatt, 1999-05-15 They give a whole new meaning to the phrase Dead Ringers Identical twins, with the exact same genetic information, are a fascinating study in human behavior. It is a known fact that when separated at birth, they will often end up with very similar lives, without ever having met one another. So it seems to follow that if one twins turns out to be a bad seed, the other will also go to the dark side. the shocking stories in Evil Twins prove this to be the case time and time again. And even more astounding are stories of twins turning upon each other in furious rivalries that may date back to the womb. Here is just a sampling of the compelling true stories about evil twins: Sins of the mothers: Harvard-educated chemical engineer Jane Hopkins stabbed her two young children to death before killing herself-six years after her twin sister Jean had tried to poison her own two children... My brother's killer: Identical twins Jeff and Greg Henry were close as brothers could be, inventing their own language and often exchanging identities. But they grew up to become violent alcoholics, and on one fateful binge, Jeff turned on his own twin brother and shot him in the heart with a shotgun... Loathsome Lotharios: Handsome, charming twin brothers George and Stefan Spitzer went to Hollywood to become famous actors. But their movie-star good looks never landed them any parts-except in the lurid home movies they shot of themselves raping the unconscious women they doped up on Roofies... Evil twins: Double the deadliness...with eight pages of shocking photos!

barbara windsor and the krays: The Kray Files Colin Fry, 2011-11-25 When Ron and Reg Kray were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1968, most people thought that was the last they'd hear of two of the most notorious and vicious criminals Britain has ever produced. Instead, the twins and their evil doings have since achieved almost iconic status. Simultaneously, they have become 'Ronnie and Reggie', cuddly Robin Hood characters, little more than a couple of bad lads who loved their mum. The Kray Files is an explosive investigative work which strips away the myths that have grown up around the brothers. It examines why the twins were put away, the true extent of their crimes and the truth about the last 30 years, which Ron and Reg spent at the expense of the country while making a quiet fortune through duplicitous dealings from behind bars. It looks at why their brother Charlie turned to drugs as his only way out of a life of deprivation and misery, and tries to discover the reason why some women have found the Krays fatally attractive. For the first time ever, The Kray Files goes behind the scenes, painting a vivid picture of the brothers' world through psychological profiling, studying the sociology of the East End of London with the help of academics, and investigating the violent legacy the brothers have left behind.

barbara windsor and the krays: Running with the Krays Billy Webb, 2012-01-20 Running with the Krays lifts the lid off London's underworld, from street gangs and race-course con games to protection rackets, beatings, maimings, intimidation and even murders. It reveals elements of police corruption and provides insights into the interdependence of both sides of the underworld scene - a compelling and gruesome account of how the other half of London lives. Born in wartime London's east end, Billy Webb grew up in the violence of air-raids and street warfare. His first weapon was a knuckleduster which he had made to measure for the price of five cigarettes when he was 11. When he first met the Krays they were scraping a living by doorknocking for old clothes to be sold in street markets. For three years he and the twins were on the run together as army deserters, and over the course of time, he was a friend, ally and foe of the Krays in their violent rise to fame.

barbara windsor and the krays: Meetings with Morrissey Len Brown, 2010-04-07 Morrissey is

one of the most provocative, individual and controversial performers in popular music. From the formation of his Manchester band The Smiths in 1982, through to the imminent release of his 2008 solo album *Years Of Refusal*, his career has spanned 50 UK Top 40 singles and 20 UK Top 10 albums. Including previously unpublished encounters, *Meetings with Morrissey* gets behind the public image to tell Morrissey's story in his own words and explore in fine detail the extraordinary subject matter of his songs. The book offers in-depth insight into the diverse artists Morrissey has celebrated, via lyrics or Smiths' covers, including Patti Smith, Pat Phoenix, Billy Fury, Marc Bolan, James Dean and The New York Dolls. Above all, it focuses on Morrissey's lifelong commitment to promoting the genius of Oscar Wilde. Len Brown, a former NME writer and television producer, has interviewed Morrissey more times than any journalist. He first saw The Smiths back in 1983 and became the first writer to interview the artist about the death of his band and the birth of his solo career in 1988.

barbara windsor and the krays: The Krays Martin Fido, 2000 An illustrated study of the British criminal underworld of the 1960s, including the Kray brothers and their gang. It includes eyewitness accounts and ties in with a Carlton Television documentary on the subject.

barbara windsor and the krays: Rule, Britannia! Homer B. Pettey, R. Barton Palmer, 2018-10-09 Winner of the 2019 SAMLA Studies Book Award for Edited Collections presented by the South Atlantic Modern Language Association *Rule, Britannia!* surveys the British biopic, a genre crucial to understanding how national cinema engages with the collective experience and values of its intended audience. Offering a provocative take on an aspect of filmmaking with profound cultural significance, the volume focuses on how screen biographies of prominent figures in British history and culture can be understood as involved, if unofficially, in the shaping and promotion of an ever-protean national identity. The contributors engage with the vexed concept of British nationality, especially as this sense of collective belonging is problematized by the ethnically oriented alternatives of English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish nations. They explore the critical and historiographical issues raised by the biopic, demonstrating that celebration of conventional virtue is not the genre's only natural subject. Filmic depictions of such personalities as Elizabeth I, Victoria, George VI, Elizabeth II, Margaret Thatcher, Iris Murdoch, and Jack the Ripper are covered.

barbara windsor and the krays: Desert Island Discs: 70 Years of Castaways Sean Magee, 2012-09-13 'For seventy years now Desert Island Discs has managed that rare feat - to be both enduring and relevant. By casting away the biggest names of the day in science, business, politics, showbiz, sport and the arts, it presents a cross-sectional snapshot of the times in which we live. As the decades have passed, the programme has kept pace; never frozen in time yet always, somehow, comfortingly the same.' Kirsty Young BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs celebrates its seventieth birthday in 2012. Since the programme's deviser Roy Plomley interviewed comedian Vic Oliver in January 1942, nearly 3,000 distinguished people from all walks of life have been stranded on the mythical island, accompanied by only eight records, one book and a luxury. Here the story of one of BBC Radio 4's favourite programmes is chronicled through a special selection of castaways. Roy Plomley, inventor of the programme as well as its presenter for over forty years, quizzes the young Cliff Richard about 'these rather frenzied movements' the 1960s pop sensation makes on the stage. Robert Maxwell tells Plomley's successor Michael Parkinson that 'I will have left the world a slightly better place by having lived in it.' Diana Mosley assures Sue Lawley that Adolf Hitler was 'extraordinarily fascinating' and had mesmerizing blue eyes. And Johnny Vegas tugs Kirsty Young's heart-strings with his account of a childhood so impoverished that family pets were fair game: 'My dad had always claimed that rabbits were livestock, but we'd never eaten one before.' Desert Island Discs is much more than a radio programme. It is a unique and enduringly popular take on our lives and times - and this extensively illustrated book tells in rich detail the colourful and absorbing story of an extraordinary institution.

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