



Bunny Mellon: The Life of an American Style Legend

Meryl Gordon

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**AN INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER * AN AMAZON BEST BOOK OF THE MONTH
IN BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS**

A new biography of Bunny Mellon, the style icon and American aristocrat who designed the White House Rose Garden for her friend JFK and served as a living witness to 20th Century American history, operating in the high-level arenas of politics, diplomacy, art and fashion.

Bunny Mellon, who died in 2014 at age 103, was press-shy during her lifetime. With the co-operation of Bunny Mellon's family, author Meryl Gordon received access to thousands of pages of her letters, diaries and appointment calendars and has interviewed more than 175 people to capture the spirit of this talented American original.

Bunny Mellon: The Life of an American Style Legend Details

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Author : Meryl Gordon

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From Reader Review Bunny Mellon: The Life of an American Style Legend for online ebook

Kay Wahrsager says

Fascinating look at an iconic woman

Betty says

It is difficult for the average person to imagine that much wealth and to understand why anyone needs seven houses and 10 Rolex watches but Bunny Mellon was intriguing and her life was filled with indulgence and charity. Her magnificent work on the White House Rose garden was a masterpiece. The research was excellent and I think the author learned to care about her subject without showing prejudice.

Kristine Rosemary says

a treasury of memories

ten thousand books in seven houses collected in a 103 year lifetime filled with precious gardens and a private plane to oversee them all. great details about a wonderful friendship with jacqueline k.o. essentially new insights and meaning on an extraordinary life.

Faith McLellan says

Excellent job by the biographer, and what a life--full of originality and happenstance and luck and talent. But I was so saddened by the broken relationships and the toxic effect of money, enormous money, too much even to spend. It destroyed the whole family in the end. Fascinating and truly heartbreaking.

False says

I have to first give credit to Meryl Gordon for creating such a well-researched and well-written book. I also appreciate she approached the ugly side of the rose and let us see the thorns. Bunny. Such a harmless name. So....bucolic. She grew up wealthy, she made sure she married wealth, then left her husband for even greater wealth. She was an unchecked spender. Even her generous husband bemoaned her habits, but didn't try to stop them. You could almost predict in leaving her that estate without trustees in place, or some boundaries, that she would cheat her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. One grandson was flat out treated abusively from birth, other than this grand "lady" decided she didn't like the cut of his jib in the hospital nursery. I could go on and on, and intended to, but to what end? I always heard what great friends Jacqueline Kennedy was with the Grand Lapin. More calculations. More scheming. Takes one to know one. And

Caroline Kennedy? I love the little charmer at ten declaring Mellon should be her new(er) godparent, and continue to be hovering around into adulthood, but it always reads "playing with Mummy's rubies" mindset. Greed, greed, greed. Great wealth does not make for easy sleep. Grand, unchecked wealth does not a good friend make. Luckily, most of her family struck out on their own, knowing full well what would happen....and it did. Brooke Astor was another one. I think of her pink granite tomb out in those woods. Hopefully, the stone has rent a huge crack, and no one to see it. There has to be a special level of hell for these women.

Becky Morlok says

This is one of those books that you miss after you have finished it. Don't know why I am drawn to this period of history - nor did I realize Bunny Mellon and Jackie Kennedy were such close friends.

This biography is quite thorough, well researched and fascinating. It is impossible to comprehend a life with SO much money! Bunny Mellon was gifted, eclectic and lived quite a long full life of great joy and great tragedy. Meryl Gordon did a superb job with this one - enough to send me to her previous books.

Lisa of Hopewell says

Found at <https://bvitelli2002.wordpress.com/20...>

B says

OK- Read, half of it. OMG so much detail and description of everyone who has met Bunny, Paul, or her ex husband.....I had to stop reading- I got as far as the rose garden. Bunny was an interesting person who came of age during a time of great progress. Good read, if you can devote a lot of time.

Irene says

In the mid- 1970s, I lived across Whitehaven Street (in D.C.) from Paul and Bunny Mellon. Bunny (I feel so strange calling her by her first name) invited me to Sunday lunch every so often. The walls in the dining room were full-on trompe l'oeil.. Soup was served in covered dishes shaped like little cabbages--more trompe l'oeil. The lunches lasted for hours and, eventually, spilled out into the perfectly manicured garden that somehow looked just a little bit wild.

Bunny was charming, refined and quiet. Paul was charming and gregarious. I was young and thrilled to be in the presence of such illuminati.

Thank you, Meryl Gordon, for providing a such an unvarnished (but tender) picture of Bunny--especially in her later, lonely years when she was so much involved with John Edwards' failed presidential campaign. An excellent and well-researched book.

Maureen says

I'd give this 3.5. Bunny was a very insecure and talented woman who loved flowers and botany. Her life is proof that money cannot buy happiness. It is impossible to understand a life with so much money and the extravagant spending.

Mary says

I can't say enough about Gordon's meticulous research which evolves into a wonderful read. Her book about Hugette Clark was masterful, Bunny Mellon is even better.

Judith says

What kind of person goes through life answering to the name of "Bunny"? Old-money rich white women from the Eastern Seaboard. Every once in awhile I like to torture myself by reading books about women who are just like me except for one difference: they are swimming in money from birth to death.

Bunny Mellon's dad made his money off Listerene, after he promoted it as a cure for halitosis, a thing which had previously not been mentioned in advertisement. And Bunny increased her original fortune by marrying wealthy men. The reason I was interested in reading this book in the first place is because I have seen her name and her husband's name in countless art museums all over the world, as in "on loan from the collection of Paul and Bunny Mellon" or "donated by Paul and Bunny Mellon".

I wish I could have learned the whole story but every time I tried to read the book I nodded off. Bunny's hobby from childhood was gardening and designing gardens. She, in fact, designed the rose garden at the white house at the request of JFK. And became good friends with Jackie Kennedy for life.

My one-star rating is no reflection on the author or Bunny. It's just that I couldn't get past the blandness of the descriptions of a life spent gardening and collecting art. I wouldn't discourage anyone from reading this and I may pick it up again someday, pop a few no-doos and dig in again.

Kate says

4.5 stars, really. I found this to be a fascinating biography of a fascinating life. Bunny Mellon's cold-heartedness (almost cruelty) at times was a lot to take, and that's where my half-star is lost, but that's not the author's fault. (And I suppose to be human is to be flawed...though I think a bit more kindness would have been a good thing in her life....) In the end, I found this an inspiring read—if I had that kind of money, I'd also hope to spend it on art, antiques, books, and gardens!

Marcia says

Bunny Mellon's life was extremely interesting. She was a woman of her time and circumstance but her views

on life were very unexpected. I enjoyed reading about her love of gardening which led to her designing the White House Rose Garden.

Judie Kelloff says

Maybe I'm a voyeur, but I was totally fascinated by this biography of Bunny Mellon, the very rich lady whom we knew so little about. In spite of her millions, I think she led a very lonely life, always looking for love. I would love to visit some of her gardens and take in her great talent. My heart is sad for her and the many tragedies I. Her life, especially the tragedy that befell her daughter Eliza.
