



# Piaf

*Simone Bertheaut*

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## **Piaf** Simone Berteaut

The true, tumultuous story of Edith Piaf, the Parisian waif who entertained France and the world with her songs, her loves, her scandals, herself.

Written by Simone Berteaut, Edith Piaf's half-sister and lifelong partner in mischief when they sang for tips in the streets, squares, cafés, and military camps, while living in a succession of cheap, squalid hotels during Piaf's early years.

## **Piaf Details**

Date : Published 1973 (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9780140036695

Author : Simone Berteaut

Format : Paperback 432 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Biography

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## From Reader Review Piaf for online ebook

### Roxana Tru?a says

For some people, the love of life can only be compared with the love of music.

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### Marksplatter says

Just like being there alongside M. Piaf. Especially the start on the streets through rough poverty through France in the 20s and 30s, through adventures colored by seedy streets and alcohol, smoky cafe and bistros through all hours of the night with the colorful characters of the cabaret set. Countless love affairs and more tragedies than you can count on hands and feet, balanced out by outrageous fortune and success and a 'dont give a damn' attitude and determination. Edith Piaf is well worth getting to know, in song and character.

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### Natalia Stancheva says

"? ?????? ?? ??????? ?????? ?????!"

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### Allee says

Really long, but an honest and unflinching look at la mome Piaf. Suprisingly entertaining read, really frank and fun.

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### Juliana says

awesome!

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### Sasha says

In the same league like "Lady sings the blues" (read: engrossing, probably embellished tale of artistic life) that appealed a lot to me in my younger days but struck somewhat differently chord today. Berteaut claims to have been Piaf's half-sister (documents tell different story) but no matter who she was, apparently she knew Piaf from earliest days so she does have a tale to tell. Author basically lived parasitic life next to her successful sibling and trough the book constantly paints herself as an innocent accomplice in frenetic, party marathons that cost Piaf money, health and ultimately life. Everything that made Piaf into a passionate artist she was on a records and stages made her also quite a difficult person to be with - it does not diminish my enjoyment in her music but makes me slightly uncomfortable with the fact how "grown up" I became. For one thing,I don't think that roaming the streets barefoot and hungry is romantic anymore. Strange how we

change and see things from a completely different perspective later, its one of the reasons why I love to re-read old books again.

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### **Desislava says**

"I want to make people cry even when they don't understand my words."

Edith Piaf

And she did pretty awesome job!! An incredible life story of one amazing voice, written first hand. I would strongly recommend.

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### **Eliza Clark says**

A biography so beautiful and loving that it reads like a eulogy. This book makes you feel as though you are walking through Paris right alongside the tornado that was Edith Piaf.

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### **Tricia says**

I have always loved Edith Piaf's amazing voice. An aunt of mine recently died and I was given Simone Berteaut's biography of Edith from her estate. It is a 1969 hardcover 1st edition and a little dog-eared but from the first page, I was hooked! You would not have to be a fan of Edith's to enjoy this riveting biography, so lovingly and honestly told by Edith's half-sister. I recommend it wholeheartedly to lovers of biographies.

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### **Sara says**

This particular biography is written by Simone, Edith Piaf's best friend and half sister. They were very close for most of Edith's life, suffering occasional falling-outs, which never lasted forever.

The book seems a lot longer than it needs to be, mostly because the description of Edith Piaf's love life was so repetitive that it could have been boiled down to one chapter.

Piaf squeezed a lot of living into a very short number of years. She is described as a fiery, passionate person, determined to live every single waking second to the fullest, even when that meant doing things that ultimately cut her life short (booze, drugs, etc).

Although her addictions were sad and possibly even tragic, I didn't feel pity for Piaf after reading this book. She lived her life on her terms, and didn't feel much pity for herself. She was a strong lady even when her body was weak. I find that admirable.

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## **Lucy Lang says**

This is a well researched book on the life and times of Piaf, who was a giant in French singing culture and later in her career became internationally known and appreciated. This book follows the turbulent early life of Piaf, who was never able to shake off that sense of insecurity and mental unrest, dating back to her difficult childhood. As a singer, she was very demanding of herself and her entourage, often forcing them to rehearse through the night. Piaf had a Rock & Roll lifestyle many years before it existed. She was drug dependent, a heavy drinker and had a string of lovers, who were each devoted to her. This book is a must read for anybody looking for a fascinating memoir of a Parisian chanteuse who was and is widely respected for her massive contribution to French song.

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## **danielle says**

God, but she was a wonderfully crazy person.

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## **Linda says**

I found the book in a bookstall somewhere before I even realized who Edith Piaf really was ... and my copy has been lost over the years. But it introduced me to a woman who is, for me, the symbol of France.

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## **Ankica says**

Do not read this book without Edith Piaf playlist in background.  
She was a fascinating character but his sister was also. I watched the movie immediatly after reading the book and the only thing that suprised me was Simone. It is hilarious.

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## **Lucy Risner says**

My hairdresser had movie night with me, a physicist, a mild agoraphobic and a massage therapist. We watched the movie about Edith Piaf which really is oe of the most depressing movies ever. But fascinating. Had to read the book.

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