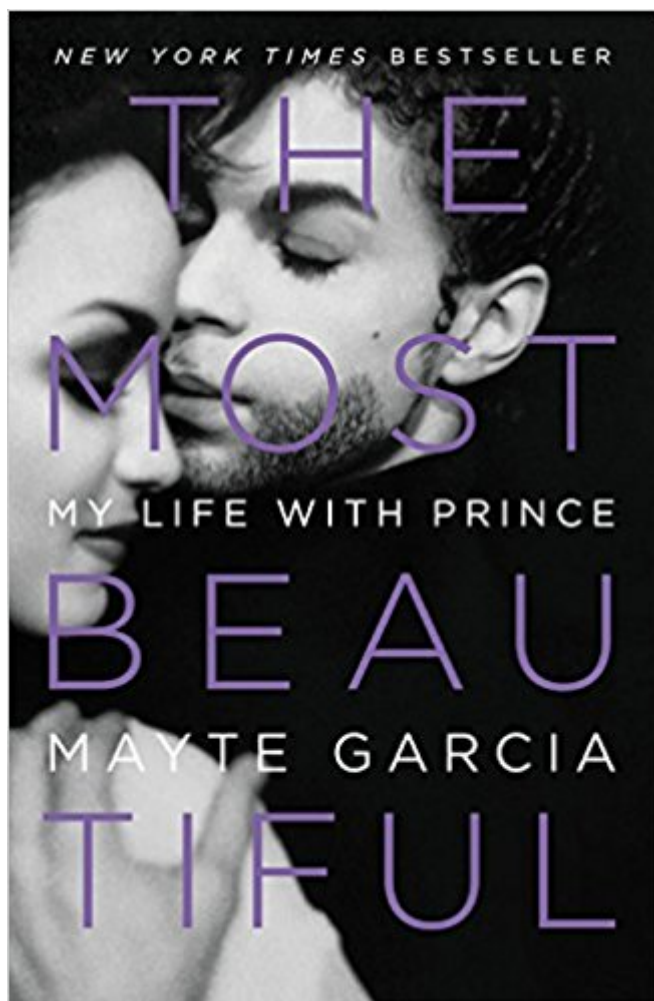


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The Most Beautiful: My Life With Prince



Synopsis

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER At the one-year anniversary of his death, legendary musician Prince's first wife shares a uniquely intimate, candid, and revelatory look inside the personal and professional life of one of the world's most beloved icons. In *The Most Beautiful*, a title inspired by the hit song Prince wrote about their legendary love story, Mayte Garcia for the first time shares the deeply personal story of their relationship and offers a singular perspective on the music icon and their world together: from their unconventional meeting backstage at a concert (and the long-distance romance that followed), to their fairy-tale wedding (and their groundbreaking artistic partnership), to the devastating losses that ultimately dissolved their romantic relationship for good. Throughout it all, they shared a bond more intimate than any other in Prince's life. No one else can tell this story or can provide a deeper, more nuanced portrait of Prince--both the famously private man and the pioneering, beloved artist--than Mayte, his partner during some of the most pivotal personal and professional years of his career. *The Most Beautiful* is a book that will be returned to for decades, as Prince's music lives on with generations to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An achingly loving memoir...a heartbreaking inside look at the tortured side of genius that most of us are never allowed to see, and it belongs on the shelf next to the definitive Prince bios." — *Entertainment Weekly* "Garcia's memoir raises complex issues about the nature and the value of privacy, whether between celebrities and their fans, or two people in their intimate lives together....given all of her book's revelations, Garcia never comes across as

vindictive...."â •Maclean's

Mayte Garcia is an internationally acclaimed dancer, actress, singer, and choreographer. She has appeared in numerous films and starred in the VH1 reality series "Hollywood Exes," as well as "Army Wives," "Psych," "The Closer," and "Nip/Tuck." She lives in Los Angeles with her young daughter.

As someone who's been a Prince fan for literally as long as I can remember, I knew I wouldn't be able to resist reading this book. Initially, I did feel a tiny bit of skepticism, for headlines and the Prince fandom alike loved to give the impression that Mayte was being a sell-out, and that she should be ashamed of herself for writing a tell-all book to cash in on the death of a world icon. However, that's not what this book is in the slightest. A pretty big chunk of Mayte's life was spent with Prince, so this is very much her story to tell. She does not pretend to know every detail about Prince's life, she does not pretend to know what precisely was going through his mind during some of the lowest moments of life. She does not use 300+ pages to give away juicy and scandalous secrets about his life. Instead, she gives readers a glimpse into what her life was like growing up as young belly-dancer, and getting swept up into a whirlwind friendship-turned-romance with a real-life Prince charming. Ever a mysterious man, even to those closest to him, Mayte simply sheds some light on the unique view she had of him, first as his "student", then as an employee, then as a wife, and then, as someone who understandably had issues with him but still loved him from afar despite tremendous loss and heartache. Highly recommended for every Prince fan who wants a brief glimpse into the man behind the Icon.

Okay this will be long, but I have a lot to say about this book....Let's all take a moment. Take a deep breath. 4 counts in. Hold it. 4 counts out. You good? Okay. Mayte Garcia is probably one of the most polarizing figures in the P universe. We knew she was his first wife. Mother of his kids. They shared several tragedies. She was on a reality show. Things happened. Not a ton of info about their time together other than what was heard on the grapevine...and OH what a grapevine it has been. So informed by said grapevine, I came to this book full of side eye, salt, and envy if I can be completely honest here. Lump on the features in People magazine, I came with WHY?! Reading that absolutely tuned my stomach and I felt horrible for wanting to know such personal things. But then I realized, I was reading this in People magazine, which isn't the most credible source for information as they tend to be sensational most of time. So I said to myself, I've read

dozens upon dozens of Prince books and articles from former band mates, scholars, super fans, journalists, groupies, ex-girlfriends...why not read one by his first wife. Also, if I want to speak about this book with any credibility, I have to read it. And so I did. Can I tell you that I had to eat every single judgmental thought I've ever had about her? Can I tell you that she addresses pretty much every "why" question I had regarding her? Can I tell you about the amount of self-awareness this woman has and perhaps even had during her time with Prince? Can I tell you how surprised I was about how well written this book is? About how good of a story teller she is? About how my respect for her just as a woman skyrocketed? Can I tell you how ashamed I was for being surprised about how well written this book is? About how good of a story teller she is? About how my respect for her just as a woman only skyrocketed after having read this? Can I tell you that even at the sweetest moments with her and P, I did not have an iota of envy and was excited and happy that they were so in love? Can I tell you how important context is when considering what people do and why they do it? This book is about Mayte Garcia. It's about HER life and when Prince enters it, it's still about HER life. When he exits...still about HER life. I feel like I grew as a person by reading this, learning not to judge, and to look at myself and really consider the reasons why I react or get upset about things regarding P, or really just in general. I learned to address those things so I can be free to just absorb and appreciate other people's life experience without placing my own projections onto it. Not gonna lie, this is a VERY difficult book to read, especially leading up to the anniversary, not because of what's in it (the info about Prince and his habits isn't new if you've read Dance, Music, Sex, Romance by Per Nilsen or Possessed by Alex Hahn) but because of the emotionally raw place it comes from. Everyone will stand in front of a huge mirror when it comes to this book. What you see in it will be very revealing of who you are as a person. If you're coming to it with an anti-Mayte agenda and a point to prove, you will find evidence here that will corroborate what you think about her...because that is what you will want to find...and that is all that you will see. If you're coming with a set idea that Prince is a wonderful, loving, sexy and giving musical genius, you may be in for a disruptive experience that will humanize him in more ways you're ready for (ESPECIALLY if you haven't read the aforementioned books). If you come with a general curiosity about him with no context about him otherwise, you will find it to be a depiction of a flawed genius...and maybe a few other not so nice judgements without having the context of his upbringing. If you come with a critical, but open minded place of love for one another and really lean into this, really dig in and challenge yourself, your perceptions, your prejudices, your bias, you will find this book to be an incredibly DIFFICULT, but humbling and cathartic experience. I thoroughly enjoyed this deeply resonating and evocative

journey. I came with a critical, but open minded mindset, had to reset my own feelings every few pages...then found that I didn't have to anymore as I progressed through the book. I emerged with HUGE amounts of respect for Mayte, and yes Prince was humanized even more in a MAJOR way through her lens, even given that much of the info here isn't new if you've been around. It's interesting in that he is in this book for sure, but this book is not about him at all. You still only get a glimpse of who he was. I found I still very much loved and wanted to protect the complex and human man that was depicted here (as much as you can a stranger). He is still a wonderful, loving, sexy, giving musical genius. Even at the most difficult points when he seemed to be only one of those things (lol), he was still transparent, pure of intent, and INCREDIBLY consistent in the way he dealt with really everything. Whatever your perception of this book is, in reading it, you will be challenged deeply on the reasons why you are fam and you will have to face that truth in a VERY direct way. It will take some time to process and you should let this marinate for a minute while you do. Don't be afraid of what might come up as you work it out. Let it wash over you and really do some self inventory...if you do this right, it can really be an amazingly healing ride. That was my experience and I hope you are able to free yourself so you can learn, grow, and heal from this journey as well.

This book was wrote from the heart. The love they shared was beyond compare but the heartache was beyond repair . It takes you on a personal journey from start to finish. 5 stars. A must read.

Bought it for my wife, she read it in a day. She said she laughed/cried/got angry and then did it all over again. She said the book was awesome just as the author is. She's a huge Prince fan since high school & enjoy the book. A must read.

Really good read. If there was a happier ending it would make a great big screen movie. As I was reading it I was really hoping that they could have gotten back together before he died. Mayte really made this a long love letter to him. Even through the imperfect times she was very kind in her story telling. Great read, sad but very Interesting.

Standing ovation! One of the BEST memoirs I've ever read. I was skeptical at first - but this book does NOT disappoint. It's a story about Mayte's life - from childhood to wife to mother. There are so many emotions in this book. It will make you laugh, cry, feel pain, be shocked, elated, and so on. It is SO well written. I even purchased the audiobook and that was so beautifully spoken by Mayte

herself. Definitely a must-read. Loving and classy. Beautiful until the end. ã ã ã

I pre-ordered the book through .com, I was highly anticipating the release of this book. I finally received it and began reading it. I pretty much read the whole book in one day. I'm glad I took time out of my very busy schedule to write this very touchy memoir of her life with Prince. She's two years older than me, but the similarities of her losing her virginity and writing it exactly like I wrote it in my diary had me laughing and the sad part when she attempted her second pregnancy with Prince on 5/10/98, which was my due date for my daughter. She detailed, the good, the bad, and the ugly about her relationship, which at the end of the day, I would find difficult to relive. Everybody has an opinion on her relationship with Prince, but she was the only one who birthed his only child. I cried and felt her pain towards the ending of her relationship. I've always wondered in another universe, if their son had survived, they would have been happily married and he would still be alive and we as fans not be mourning him. Mayte wrote this beautifully and her love for him is eternal. Just wished she would have displayed more pictures.

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