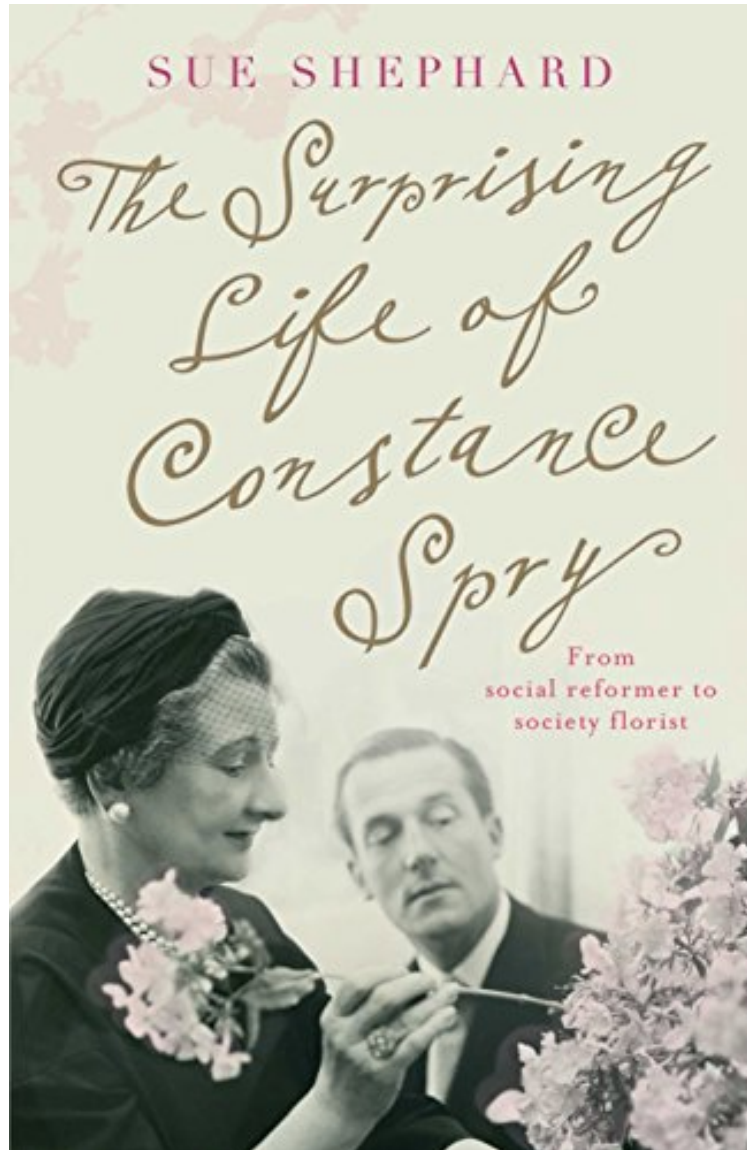


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The Surprising Life of Constance Spry

Sue Shephard

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Sue Shephard : The Surprising Life of Constance Spry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surprising Life of Constance Spry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A delicious, fun, and informative read...By Sigrid OlsenSooner or later, if you read books about English social life in the 20th century, you'll come across a reference to Constance Spry. However, it wasn't until I recently read the book Servants, that I thought some sleuthing was in order. I immediately ordered this book. What a great "filler" of social history it was--and this indefatigable woman is an inspiration to

homemakers even today. Part Martha Stewart, and part floral dynamo, she made the world a more beautiful place. Of particular interest to me was her lack of snobbery. She had the courage to attend the wedding and arrange the flowers for the Duchess of Windsor, she mocked the pretensions of others, and advocated using beautiful "weeds" as interest in her arrangements. Her "titanic" achievement was pulling off the coronation flowers and the luncheon by the students of her homemaking school. The passages where she "receives" floral tributes sent by plane from across the British Empire to honor the new queen is just so fabulous! I wish I could have attended her school...but have to make do with this gem of a book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A surprising and enjoyable read By Aussie Barbi I thought the book was a well researched Biography and very informative and interesting. It would be best suited to readers who are interested in the era of Constance Spry's lifetime. Constance was born in December 1886 in England. I had no idea she had done so much in her life..amazing ! She was loved by all who knew her, and she lived life to the full, sometimes with a little scandal ..an unconventional "marriage" and hundreds of friends, some in very high places. She is mostly remembered for her "Floral Decorations" and her cookbooks, but she should be remembered for so much more . A lot of readers may not know she was responsible for all the floral displays for the Queen's wedding and Coronation, a massive undertaking. A remarkable read about a remarkable woman. A must read for those who like a good autobiography about someone who has had an interesting, happy and productive life. A surprising life really! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. What a Fantastic Lady! By Toni's takes I purchased this book to read for our Garden Club book club. Everyone in the club loved this book when we met to review it. What a fantastic life Constance Spry had. It is not only well written but provides floral designers with some insight into how design became more creative and inspiring. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who likes a true story of a woman who overcame many obstacles while keeping her own unique personality, didn't let anyone stray her from her ideals, and became a very successful and influential woman overcoming female and social status hurdles. Also a great book for people interested in floral design, especially more creative design!

"Dress by Schiaparelli, photographs by Cecil Beaton, flowers by Constance Spry The decorator of the moment, the photographer of the moment, the florist of the moment what more could you ask?" Thus Vogue magazine described the wedding in 1937 of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, but today Constance Spry is better known as the author of that bible of middle-class housewives throughout the land, The Constance Spry Cookery Book. But who was she? Those of us who recognize the name think only of recipes, but her story is in fact that of a profoundly unconventional woman, who went from a poverty stricken childhood to the height of London society, taking in a career as rich and varied as it was unusual for a woman of her era. Connie began her life teaching slum children and ended it creating the floral displays for the coronation Queen Elizabeth II. Along the way, she escaped a violent marriage, had a lengthy affair with a cross-dressing lesbian artist, and built a hugely successful business as a society florist. Today, her influence can be seen in every unorthodox flower arrangement, every "natural" bouquet tied with rattan and, of course, in the gardens up and down the country planted with the Constance Spry rose.

"A great read, whether or not you're into flowers." Design*Sponge.com