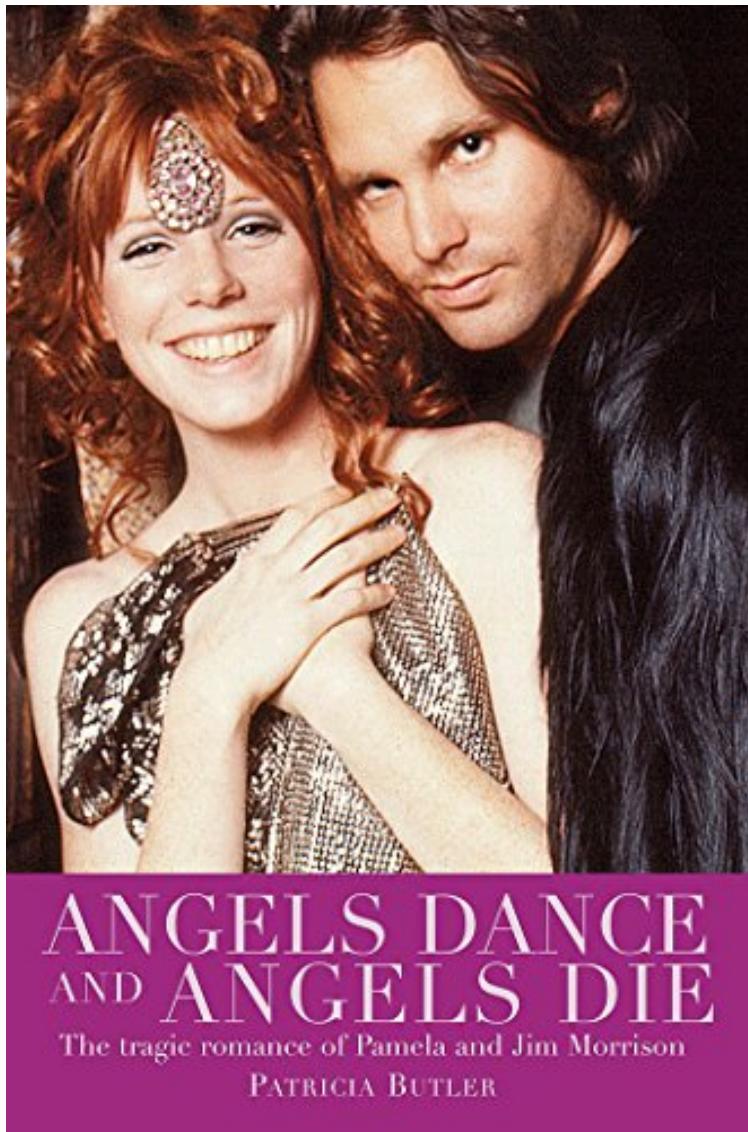


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## **Angels Dance and Angels Die: The Tragic Romance of Pamela and Jim Morrison**

*Patricia Butler*

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**Patricia Butler : Angels Dance and Angels Die: The Tragic Romance of Pamela and Jim Morrison** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angels Dance and Angels Die: The Tragic Romance of Pamela and Jim Morrison:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Examining Jim and Pamela's private lifeBy Elizabeth LefflerThis is not just another book about the legend of Jim Morrison. It looks at the relationship he had with the woman he considered his soul mate, which is something that has been obscured by the rest of his outrageous life. The author has

obviously done her homework and presents it in a concise and well-written manner. They were a young couple in love who had some dramatic ups and downs, but nothing ever changed the connection they had with each other. I felt like I was shown a more human side of Jim Morrison and it was refreshing. My only complaint is that it seemed to end rather abruptly - but then, so did Jim's life, with Pamela right behind him. I get the feeling that when Jim died, so did Pam, and it just took a little longer for her body to catch up. If you are a fan of rock biographies in general and Jim Morrison in particular, you will enjoy this book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Finally, the real Jim Morrison love story By bookworm77 I really loved this book. It felt factual and accurate to me. Patricia Butler takes her time telling you about Jim and Pam, starting in their childhoods and ending when Pam died. She can site all of her sources. She talked to ALOT of people close to the couple. She paints a very real picture, and doesn't over romanticize their very stormy relationship. At the same time, she explains how, despite their troubles, Pam Courson is the only woman who can be considered Jim Morrison's "cosmic mate". There have been a lot of women who have claimed to have been Jim Morrison's true love. This book is the final word on that. She also talks a lot about Jim's life before the doors, interviewing people who knew him best at those times. We learn things that may give some perspective on the tortured inner workings of a rock star who would have rather been a poet. We also learn about the circumstances surrounding Jim's death. For me, this book answered a lot of questions. I only hope that where ever Jim and Pam are, they are together and at peace. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Book By pianoguy87 The best insight about Pamela you could ever read. I didn't know how wild she was until I read this book. When Meg Ryan plays her in the film, it is the total opposite of how she really was. I have read a lot about Jim from other books, so I kind of knew everything already the book talked about. It's a good book if you want to know more about Pamela.

Angels Dance and Angels Die tells the story of the turbulent relationship between legendary Doors front man, Jim Morrison, and his common-law wife, Pamela Courson. Follow the lives of Courson and Morrison before their fateful meeting in 1965; their lives together until Morrison's death in 1971; and Courson's life without Morrison, including her fight to gain the rights to his estate until her death from a heroin overdose on April 25, 1974.

From Booklist Sixties rock kingpin Jim Morrison personified the period's allegiance to sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll. Butler reexamines his life, emphasizing his "cosmic mate" and common-law wife, Pamela Courson. More or less ignored by previous Morrison biographers, Pam and Jim's relationship was relatively private and long term for a rock couple then and maybe for any couple anymore. A few years after Morrison's 1971 death, Courson died of an apparent heroin overdose. In the finest rock tradition, the circumstances of her death were questionable and were not much investigated: "At that time, in that place, if it looked to us like someone had died of a drug overdose, frankly we thought they deserved it and didn't waste our time on it," said one police officer who asked to remain anonymous. Perhaps this well-referenced, moving book will spark yet another renewal of interest in Morrison. After all, as a 1980s Rolling Stone headline put it, "He's hot, he's sexy, he's dead." More of his strange story only makes him more so. Mike Tribby From Kirkus sHow one views this gossamer-thin account of the doomed Doors frontman and his equally troubled common-law wife rests largely on one's (forgive the expression) ``perception of the Doors.'' This book will be tonic to those eager for more dish on the man they regard as the Rimbaud-esque cynosure of the angst-filled '60s generation. Those baffled by Morrison's fame--particularly the respect he received as a poet--will find this book supports, quite unintentionally, their contentions as well. It's not that Butler didn't do her homework; among the people she interviewed and sources she consulted are the Elektra Records AR tyro Jac Holzman and the surviving members of the Doors, school and police records, and even medical journals. The problem rests chiefly with Butler's subject. This story has in large part been told many times before, from many angles, and often to better effect. Readers, whether Doors fans or not, will have a tough time piecing events together chronologically, as this narrative only sketchily covers the background events that shaped and defined Jim and Pam's world. Additionally, Butler seems to cast a sentimental and too often uncritical eye on the ``tragic lovers'' relationship, neglecting to acknowledge that the two were essentially beautiful booze- and drug-addled twenty-somethings with money to burn, and that their fatal flaw was not so much being at odds with the material world as it was never having been forced to confront it without help from agents, roadies, groupies, or sycophants. The Doors' keyboardist and co-founder (with Jim), Ray Manzarek, claims that Pamela and Jim will ``go down in history as great lovers," and that their tale recalls Romeo and Juliet, Heloise and Abelard. Perhaps one could argue that a more fitting, albeit less flattering, comparison might be Sid (Vicious) and Nancy (Spungeon). -- Copyright copy; 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. About the Author Patricia Butler is a freelance writer based in the Chicago area.