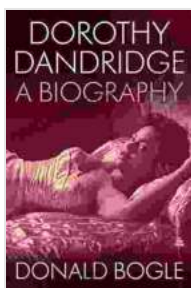


# Dorothy Dandridge: The Tragic Life and Career of a Hollywood Icon

Dorothy Dandridge was an American actress, singer, and dancer who became the first African American woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress. Her career was marked by both triumph and tragedy, and she died at the age of 42 from a drug overdose.



## Dorothy Dandridge: A Biography by Donald Bogle

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 71463 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 752 pages



## Early Life and Career

Dorothy Jean Dandridge was born on November 9, 1922, in Cleveland, Ohio. Her parents were Cyril Dandridge, a minister, and Ruby Dandridge, a homemaker. Dorothy had two older sisters, Vivian and Etta. The family was poor, and Dorothy often had to help her mother with housework and childcare.

Dorothy began singing and dancing at an early age. She won a talent contest at the age of six, and by the time she was a teenager, she was performing in local nightclubs. In 1939, Dorothy and her sisters formed a

singing group called the Dandridge Sisters. The group toured the United States and Europe, and they even performed at the White House for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## **Film Career**

In 1942, Dorothy Dandridge made her film debut in the musical *Star-Spangled Rhythm*. She went on to star in a number of other films, including *Carmen Jones* (1954), for which she received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Dandridge was also a talented singer and dancer, and she often performed in her films.

Dandridge's career was not without its challenges. She faced racism and discrimination throughout her life, and she was often paid less than her white counterparts. However, she never gave up on her dream of becoming a successful actress.

## **Personal Life**

Dorothy Dandridge's personal life was often tumultuous. She married twice, first to dancer Harold Nicholas in 1942 and then to actor Todd Duncan in 1959. Both marriages ended in divorce.

Dandridge also struggled with addiction to drugs and alcohol. She was arrested for possession of drugs in 1959, and she entered a rehab facility in 1963. However, she was unable to overcome her addiction, and she died of a drug overdose in 1965.

## **Legacy**

Dorothy Dandridge is remembered as one of the most talented and glamorous actresses of her time. She was a pioneer for African American

actresses, and she paved the way for others to achieve success in Hollywood.

Dandridge's life and career have been the subject of numerous books, articles, and documentaries. She has also been portrayed in several films and television shows, including the 1999 HBO film "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," which starred Halle Berry.

Dorothy Dandridge's legacy is one of triumph and tragedy. She was a talented actress and singer who faced many challenges in her life, but she never gave up on her dreams. She is an inspiration to all who dream of achieving success in the face of adversity.

## **Image Gallery**





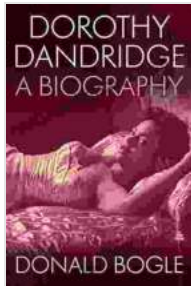
Dorothy Dandridge performing on stage



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- Mills, Nancy. *Dorothy Dandridge: The Complete Story*. McFarland, 2003.



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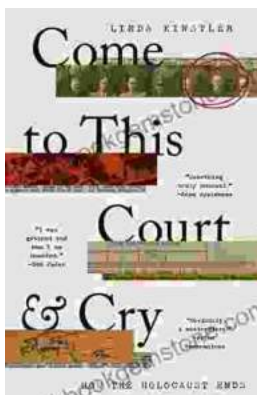
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