

HIS
WAY

THE
UNAUTHORIZED
BIOGRAPHY
OF
FRANK
SINATRA



BY
KITTY
KELLEY



BANTAM

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father, Charles Blakeley, and stood alongside Frank, who was flanked by his best man, Freeman Gosden (Amos of *Amos 'n' Andy*), and Bea Korshak, the matron of honor, who was wearing the antique sapphire and diamond necklace that Barbara and Frank had given her the night before. Reading the civil wedding vows, Judge Walsworth asked Barbara: "Do you take this man for richer and for poorer?"

"Richer, richer," said Frank, causing everyone to burst into laughter.

"All she wants to do is make Frank happy. That's her goal," explained Barbara's mother, Irene Blakeley. "And he wants her to have the best of everything."

After the ceremony a champagne reception was held in the Annenbergs' marbled atrium decorated with bouquets of bouvardia, garlands of gardenias, and huge sprays of lilies of the valley. The bride cut a four-tiered wedding cake with a knife festooned with stephanotis. As she and Frank paused to make a wish, presidential contender Ronald Reagan piped up: "If you can't think of anything you want to ask for, I can make a suggestion." Everyone laughed.

Waiting outside for the guests, who included Spiro Agnew, Jimmy Van Heusen, Gregroy Peck, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Leo Durocher, and Sidney Korshak, were air-conditioned buses to transport everyone a few blocks to the Sinatra compound for an elaborate seafood dinner and a view of the couple's wedding gifts to each other: hers was a \$100,000 peacock blue Rolls-Royce with license plate reading BAS-I for Barbara and Sinatra; his from her was a \$100,000 gray twelve-cylinder Jaguar.

The couple planned to honeymoon with three couples from New York—the Morton Downeys, the Bill Greens, the Paul Mannos—and set off the next day for Frank's mountain chalet in Idylwild, about fifty miles from his Palm Springs compound. Frank stayed up late drinking with Bill Green that night and didn't go to bed until four A.M., hours after Barbara was asleep. As he stood up to retire, he walked over to his friend, and cupped Green's face in his hands.

"Bill, sometimes I wish someone would really hurt you so I could kill them," he said. This was his way of telling his friend how much he cared for him.

Although she had been living with Frank for years, marriage opened up a whole new world to Barbara, who suddenly found new respect and attention as Mrs. Frank Sinatra. *Town and Country* wanted to photograph her; Charlotte Curtis, society editor of *The New York Times*, interviewed her; designers threw open their doors