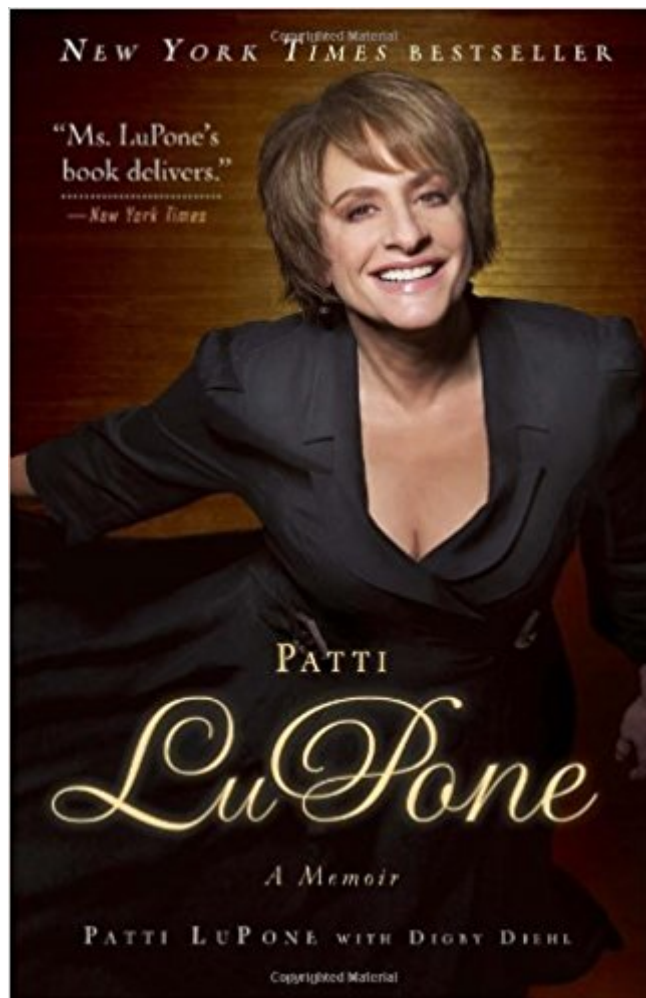


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Patti LuPone: A Memoir



Synopsis

The legendary Patti LuPone is one of the theatre's most beloved leading ladies. Now she lays it all bare, sharing the intimate story of her life both onstage and off--through the dizzying highs and darkest lows--with the humor and outspokenness that have become her trademarks. With nearly 100 photographs, including an 8-page four-color insert, and illuminating details about the life of a working actor, from inspired costars and demanding directors to her distinct perspective on how she developed and honed her Tony Award-winning performances, *Patti LuPone: A Memoir* is as inspirational as it is entertaining. And though the title might say "a memoir," this is ultimately a love letter to the theatre by a unique American artist. Raised on Long Island's North Shore, Patti discovered her calling at the age of four and knew that she was destined for the stage. A prodigiously gifted child, she was one of only 36 young actors chosen for the inaugural class of The Juilliard School's Drama Division, where she fought near-constant criticism from her instructors, and here describes those early years with disarming frankness. From the heady days of her early twenties--crisscrossing the country as a founding member of the classical repertory theatre ensemble, The Acting Company--to her early success on Broadway, her four-year stint as Libby Thacher on the television series *Life Goes On*, her loving marriage to Matt Johnston, and much, much more, Patti chronicles her professional and personal life with inimitable candor and wit. With its insightful retrospective of her career-defining turns, both on Broadway and abroad, in *Evita*, *Les Misérables*, *Anything Goes*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Gypsy*, *Patti LuPone: A Memoir* reveals the artist's deeply felt passion for music and the theatre and is, in the end, the compelling and quintessential tale of an exceptional life well lived. "I have been incredibly fortunate over the course of my career to have been associated with some extraordinary dramatic and musical productions, and also some rather spectacular disasters. Looking back, I can find gifts and life lessons in every one." • From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Carol Burnett Reviews Patti LuPone: A Memoir Carol Burnett is an American actress, comedienne, singer, dancer, and writer. Read her review of Patti LuPone: A Memoir: Patti's story had me from the moment I turned to page one of the prologue until the absolutely triumphant final chapter. The passion with which she writes about the theatre and her love of it found me, at various times, crying and laughing. I thoroughly enjoyed her backstage tales that were both victorious and horror-filled. The lady pulls no punches in describing her most humiliating moments, such as the backstabbing that unfortunately happens all too often in this business. She recreates her failures and even includes quotes from her worst reviews. She writes about her loves and losses without a tone of self-pity. The chapter about her struggles with bringing Evita to life gave me goose bumps. It was definitely not an easy journey. She persevered and that role made her a bona fide Broadway star. The chapter about the backstage goings on during the production of Sunset Boulevard are even more harrowing. The fact that she could take such slings and still remain standing is proof that this is a woman of great strength and grit...and talent. God gave her the gifts of being able to brilliantly bring characters to life onstage. She's a wonderful actress...and, oh yes, she can sing like nobody's business. This is a heartfelt memoir that exposes Patti's innermost feelings, fervor, temper, and humor. There's no "censorship." She tells it like it is, warts and all. And by the time I finished reading the last chapter, I found myself giving Patti a standing ovation in the privacy of my very own living room. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Broadway legend LuPone, a five-time Tony nominee and two-time Tony winner, raises the curtain on her life and career in this engaging memoir. Detailing both her travails and her triumphs, she takes the reader on a guided tour recalling some memorable moments in musical theater. She began in her teens when she and her twin brothers performed on Long Island as the LuPone Trio. On a 1968 scholarship at John Houseman's Juilliard Drama Division, she was "overwhelmed with fear," but then toured with Houseman's Acting Company from 1972 to 1976. After her 1973 Broadway debut in Three Sisters came a parade of awards and acclaimed performances (Evita, Sunset Boulevard, Sweeney Todd, Gypsy), solo concerts, films (Driving Miss Daisy), TV (Oz, 30

Rock), recordings, and her one-woman show, Patti LuPone on Broadway . LuPone is the ultimate backstage gossip, and she never pulls her punches: During the ill-fated *Baker's Wife*, she despised actor Chaim Topol ("an asshole") and had little enthusiasm for his replacement, Paul Sorvino ("like having Howdy Doody at Auschwitz"). With razor-sharp memories and hundreds of colorful anecdotes, LuPone knows how to capture an audience. She makes an easy transition from stage to page, writing with wit, flamboyant energy, and a theatrical flair. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

There are celebrity memoirs that surprise you, where the person is nothing like what you expected. For instance, Bill Clinton's long, rambling memoir has none of the punch and sharpness of his public speeches. And then there are the memoirs where the person is exactly who you expected her to be, and the memoir is exactly what you expected it to be. It's not good, it's not bad. Patti Lupone's autobiography falls into that second category. For many years this pint-sized Broadway diva has starred in legendary shows and productions, and acquired a reputation for being an exacting perfectionist. This comes through loud and clear in Patti's memoir. Her life is her work, and her work is her life. Personal life is mentioned casually -- a decade long on-again, off-again relationship with Kevin Kline goes no further than "we were back together again" or "we broke up again." She's married with a son but that also is dispatched of in a few sentences. What this memoir is is a candid, fun look at her storied career. Lupone has enough self-awareness to sprinkle her memoirs with candid admissions of her temperament. Lupone is a diva (she admits she got so frustrated with that she had to be sedated with xanax, that she wrecked her dressing room when she found out she was fired from *Sunset Boulevard*, and she abruptly told the directors not to tell her how Faith Prince sang anything in *Evita*). As you might expect any project with Andrew Lloyd Webber is colored by her infamous fall-out with him during *Sunset Boulevard* (in which she was abruptly fired after opening the show in London and having a contract to transfer the show to Broadway). So she doesn't have much nice to say about *Evita* (her breakout role), saying it wrecked her voice. And she writes that she was "so happy" when *Sunset Boulevard* closed on Broadway. Other memories are happier: *Gypsy* (for which she won her second Tony award), *Anything Goes*, *Les Miserables*, *Sweeney Todd*. She has an earthy fun sense of humor as well as a charming lack of humility -- of her infamously muddled diction she says "I didn't understand why people complained about it. I understood myself just fine." There's lots of gossip, most of it fun and appropriate. And there are a FEW surprises -- she says that to unwind after shows she often went to dive bars and hung out with

prostitutes. So basically, this memoir is a great read for those who love theater and Patti Lupone. It's not earth shattering, there are few surprises, but hey, part of the reason she's lasted so long in the biz is consistency. So here's to more years of the pint-sized diva belting on the Great White Way.

I adore Patti Lupone as an artist. I've seen her on Broadway in *The Old Neighborhood*, *Sweeney Todd*, in *Gypsy* at City Center and again at the St. James Theatre. I saw her in concert in Miami at the Arscht Center and years ago, at the Tony Awards held at Radio City Music Hall sometime in the late '90s. I have met her and found her to be quite welcoming. I thoroughly enjoyed *A Memoir*. With Patti it's what you see is what you get. She is honest, direct, funny and quite moving. Reading this book is almost no different from seeing her perform or hearing her speak. I read it in one sitting; I could not put it down. It's a must have for lovers of the theatre and for those of us who hold a special place in our hearts for NYC theatre. Patti is who she is...a rare talent with the insides of a volcano, with her emotions on the surface. She is an absolute original.

"Patti Lupone: A Memoir" is a MUST READ for people in the industry as well for the people who are patrons of the art. Ms. Lupone speaks with great candor about the ups and downs, the hits and misses, the struggle to create while the powers that be seem to be constantly underlying the importance of the talent and creativity of the actor. As an accomplished, extraordinary talented performer, Patti lays out her path to stardom. The joy of having a job, the fear of being overlooked, the abusive treatment that can easily deflate one's creative ego and the skulldugery of what goes on behind the scenes. A fast paced read that tells the tales, good and not so good, that come out of one's struggle to remain sane, while trying to create and exhibit their talents, to the best of their ability. Ms. Lupone will go down in history as a Queen of Broadway. Her immense talent has survived the backstage autocracies, the back stabbing, the selfishness and dishonesty of the producers, the hurt and insults of the critics, the uncertainty of the "Next" job, the struggle to keep her sanity and self worth. Through all this, she has held her head high and persevered, made long lasting friendships, created memorable experiences out of not so good situations and most importantly, she has survived and still going strong. The road to stardom is not what one may think it is. It is not all roses and glory. That is just a small part of the journey. One, told so well in this Memoir. You will have a much deeper respect for all actors, once you have read this book. I can honestly say this, as I am one of those talented actors who have had the boom come down all too often. This book gives me hope as I am still striving to cement my name in this business we so fondly call "Show". Thank-you Patti, for not being afraid to tell it like it is. Your book gives me hope

and joy, and reminds me of the evil forces that hide behind the scenes. After all, no matter how good a book or score is, it is the actor who makes it come alive. I commend you for your courage to tell it like it is. You are indeed a bright shining star and a very generous human being.

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