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My Mother Was Nuts



Synopsis

Most people know Penny Marshall as the director of *Big* and *A League of Their Own*. What they don't know is her trailblazing career was a happy accident. In this funny and intimate memoir, Penny takes us from the stage of *The Jackie Gleason Show* in 1955 to Hollywood's star-studded sets, offering up some hilarious detours along the way. *My Mother Was Nuts* is an intimate backstage pass to Penny's personal life, her breakout role on *The Odd Couple*, her exploits with Cindy Williams and John Belushi, and her travels across Europe with Art Garfunkel on the back of a motorcycle. We see Penny get married. And divorced. And married again (the second time to Rob Reiner). We meet a young Carrie Fisher, whose close friendship with Penny has spanned decades. And we see Penny at work with Tom Hanks, Mark Wahlberg, Whoopi Goldberg, Robert De Niro, and Whitney Houston. Throughout it all, from her childhood spent tap dancing in the Bronx, to her rise as the star of *Laverne & Shirley*, Penny lived by simple rules: try hard, help your friends, don't get too crazy, and have fun. • With humor and heart, *My Mother Was Nuts* reveals there's no one else quite like Penny Marshall.

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Customer Reviews

An honest, self-deprecating, hilarious life story with tons of "inside Hollywood" tales by a truly funny lady. Penny tells all -- the good, the bad, and the ugly -- no filters and no holds barred. She is the friend everyone wishes they had. This is a great read for all of us of the Baby Boom Generation by a great storyteller.

Never having a good memory myself, I am always amazed at people's recollections when I reading autobiographies. Penny Marshall does a wonderful job recounting her life in this fun autobiography. The fact that I got the audio version and Marshall reads it all herself I'm sure added to my enjoyment. Expect the language to be bawdy at times. Expect there to be decadence with regards to the lifestyle (flying here and there on a whim because of the exorbitant salaries actors make). Expect touching recollections of family and friends. Overall, this was an enjoyable 'read' and I recommend it to you. Hearing the inside scoop on what goes on in Hollywood behind the camera always seems to catch my attention. If you find yourself in the same boat, you will probably enjoy Penny Marshall's autobiography.

A hilarious and poignant look at the life of Penny Marshall, from her humble beginnings tap dancing in a Bronx basement to her stellar work behind the camera as a director of blockbuster films. But it's the stuff that happens in between that kept me turning the pages, such as her travails with lifelong friend Carrie Fisher, her love affair with Art Garfunkel (who knew?), the ups and downs of starring in the classic TV sitcom "Laverne & Shirley," and her indomitable spirit and joie de vivre that permeates everything she does. After all, all she ever really wanted to do was hang out with friends late into the night, talking and smoking cigarettes, and those people just happened to be performers and writers and actors. Sounds like heaven on earth to me, even if her mother was nuts and her father boring (her words, not mine!). Penny's world is one that I would be eager to assimilate into; I would stay up all night talking and smoking with her. She is one fascinating and hysterical creature!

This biography was exactly how I like my biographies. It was truthful (well, as far as I can tell!), giving both the positive and negatives of Ms. Marshall's life. She takes everything in stride, and is able to look back at times with a realistic view of what happened. While it does talk of drugs, it

doesn't glorify them. The book does not have salacious descriptions of people, nor is a "let me get back at so-and-so" type of book. I hate books that are intentionally over the top just to feed people's "Kardashian" appetite! It's a real book about a real person - one who I think would be fascinating to know!

Every once in a while, I pick a bio to read. I prefer historical fiction as I feel I get enough of people's real life drama at work, but I'm glad I picked this one to be the exception to the rule. Penny is a no-nonsense doing things her way. ("We'll do it our way, yes our way. Make all our dreams come true." And now you're welcome for getting that stuck in your head.) I do wish she would stop smoking though. Best part about the book -- you'll find out what the beginning of the L&S lyrics stand for!!!!

I am close in age to Penny Marshall, so I remember a lot of the same tv shows that she worked on. I wasn't aware that she was a movie and tv director. She certainly has a great work ethic, like many of us from that era. I really enjoyed the book!

When it's all said and done, Penny Marshall was an amazing person. Even though she had her brother to help her get her foot in the door, she took that opening and did some brilliant work with it. Her relationship with Cindy Williams was sad. Maybe it would have been better if she'd found someone else to play the role and just stayed friends with Cindy - encouraging her career as a "serious actress." The book is a quick and easy read.

Entertaining and funny. Didn't really realize she was quite as promiscuous as she was, but I guess that's Hollywood. Also didn't realize she was quite as accomplished a director or as smart as she is (she always comes off kinda' slow and shlumpy in her interviews -- maybe it's the Brooklyn accent), but she's actually quite brilliant. -All in all an interesting read.

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