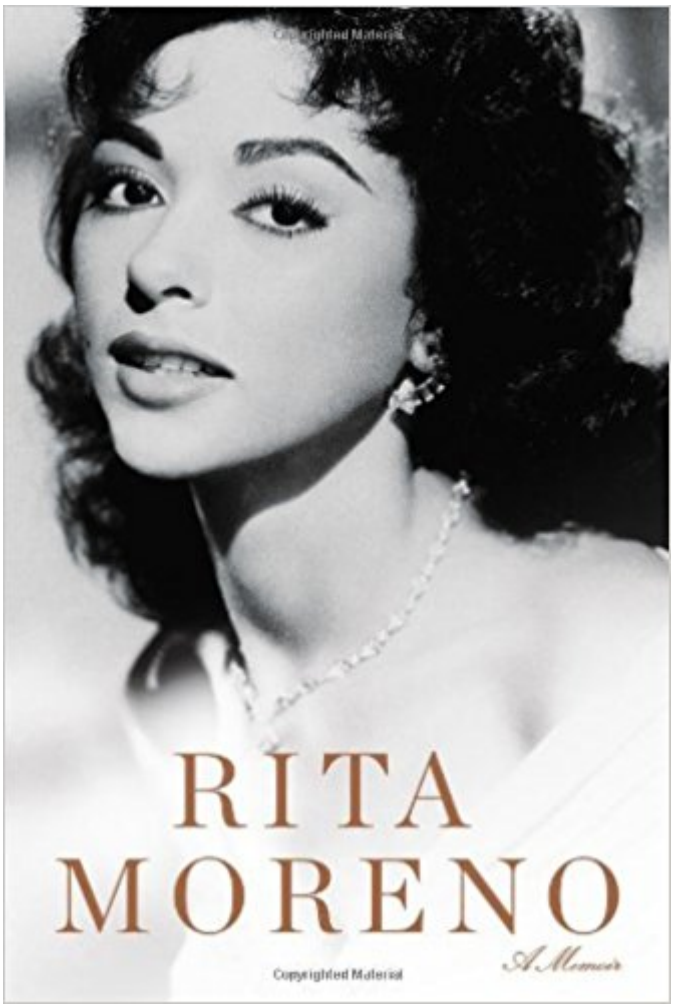
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Rita Moreno: A Memoir



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Synopsis

In thisÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestselling memoir, Rita Moreno shares her remarkable journey from a young girl with simple beginnings in Puerto RicoÃ Â to Hollywood legendÃ¢â ¬â •and one of the few performers, and the only Hispanic, to win an Oscar, Grammy, Tony and two Emmys.Born Rosita Dolores Alverio in the idyll of Puerto Rico, Moreno, at age five, embarked on a harrowing sea voyage with her mother and wound up in the harsh barrios of the Bronx, where she discovered dancing, singing, and acting as ways to escape a tumultuous childhood. Making her Broadway debutÃ Â by age thirteenÃ¢â ¬â •and moving on to Hollywood in its Golden Age just a few years laterÃ¢â ¬â •she worked alongside such stars as Gary Cooper,Ã Â Yul Brynner, and Ann Miller.When discovered by Louis B. Mayer of MGM, the wizard himself declared: Ã¢â ¬Å“She looks like a Spanish Elizabeth Taylor.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Cast by Gene Kelly as Zelda Zanders in SinginÃ¢â ¬â„¢ in the Rain and thenÃ Â on to her Oscar-winning performance in West Side Story, she catapulted to fameÃ¢â ¬â •yet found herself repeatedly typecast as the Ã¢â ¬Å“utility ethnic,Ã¢â ¬Â• a role she found almost impossible to elude.Here, for the first time, Rita reflects on her struggles to break through HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s racial and sexual barriers. She explores the wounded little girl behind the glamorous faÃƒÂ§adeÃ¢â ¬â •and what it took to find her place in the world. She talks candidly about her relationship with Elvis Presley, her encounters withÃ Â Howard Hughes, and the passionate romance with Marlon Brando that nearly killed her. And she shares the illusiveness of aÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“perfectÃ¢â ¬Â• marriage and the incomparable joys of motherhood.Infused with Rita MorenoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s quick wit and deep insight, this memoir is the dazzling portrait of a stage and screen star who longed to become who she really isÃ¢â ¬â •and triumphed.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“It’s clear Rita Moreno was a pioneer in every aspect of her life.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Huffington PostÃ¢â ¬Å“Sure to inspire and empower, straight from our very own living legend and the original triple threat:Ã Â Rita Moreno.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Being LatinoÃ Â

Rita Moreno is one of the few artists to win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony. She has also received a Golden Globe Award and a National Medal of Honor. She recently concluded a sold-out run of her one-woman show, Life Without Makeup, at the Berkeley Repertory Theater in Berkeley, California, and regularly appearsÃ Â in the television show, Happily Divorced.

Have loved her since ’West Side Story’. Very well-written. Great story of being a cherished little girl on one island, then suddenly being brought by her mother to the ’island of Manhattan’ and the very different life she lived here. I felt, while reading, that Rita Moreno was in the room talking to me; being a long-time fan, I could hear her voice. I found the last 30 or 40 pages to be poignant and wise. Today is my 68th so I am at least old enough to recognize her honesty about her life; getting older is not so bad. The story of her childhood in Puerto Rico, her memories of the sounds and fragrances and warmth of her home, made me feel her physical and psychic pain at finding herself in a freezing cold winter in NYC. Her long affair with Brando and their lifelong friendship is beautifully presented. A wonderful book. As another reviewer said, well worth your time.

This was an excellent biography of the life of Rita Moreno. From her days in Puerto Rico as a young happy child to a shocking arrival to Spanish Harlem in New York City where she and her mother lived in very difficult circumstances. A very determined young woman she went to each and every audition. At this time, her Mother gave her too much freedom and at times it was dangerous. She arrived in Hollywood with emotional problems including quite a few stepfathers and the death of one brother in addition to Francisco the brother her mother left in Puerto Rico. She loved this brother and never knew what happened to him. She encountered Marlon Brando, a man with many emotional problems himself. She refers to him as beyond handsome and words couldn’t describe how beautiful. At that time, according to her, he was an Adonis. He had a muscled physique at the

time although later on he became very obese. Addicted to women, he seduced them and left them although I don't think he did this deliberately. She almost succeeded in killing herself she was so addicted to Brando, his intelligence, charisma and talents in bed. She says she had two great loves in the life, Marlon Brando and the doctors she married. Although she was married to him for over 35 years. The marriage wasn't that happy because the doctor had a way of controlling her. Never the less, because of his levity and faithfulness she made the concessions which allowed her to stay in the marriage. After Brando, she was looking for peace and some semblance of serenity. Although, she had two great loves in the life, I think Brando was the love of her life. It was sad that he was so emotionally disturbed himself because when he died, there was only a picture of Rita Moreno in his house. The Hispanic version of Elizabeth Taylor never forgot him and he never forgot her. It was a riveting book for me and I read it in three nights. The book arrived in a timely manor, was in good condition and packaged very well. I would reccommend the seller and the book. It you like celebrity biographies for fun, this is a book to purchase. In fact, after I read it, I gave it to my girlfriend, she read it quickly to and gave it to another girlfriend to read.

Rita Moreno's grasp of the English language amazes this reader. Description of setting and characters vibrate on the page. The problem rests with the memoir, which spends half the book explaining an idyll childhood in Puerto Rico, but quickly interrupted by migration to New York. The chapters on Rita's men and family drop a hint or two of the situation and then the story turns to another topic. Rita praises many of her friends, lovers, and co-workers, but in the end, Rita stands as the brilliant star that lesser folk must revolve. The ultimate praise for Rita rests in her determination to succeed and to never give up the battle. Rita wins by sheer forbearance an Oscar, a Grammy, a Tony, and two Emmys.

I really liked this book! I couldn't put it down and read it in one day. I ordered it after seeing Rita Moreno on a morning talk show. She was lively, charming and full of good humor. The book did not disappoint. There are a few pages of black & white pictures. I would have liked more pictures. She has great recall, the book is full of interesting detail. She speaks and writes with great word-smithing. It's hard to believe English isn't her first language.

Loved Rita Moreno since seeing her onstage in the early 60s, so devoured this. Her occasional TV roles earned her more Emmies than I realized. Some life! First to win the four "biggies" of stage-TV screen- film world, and I never saw her in a role that diminished her Puerto Rican heritage as is true

of many ethnic actors. And WOW how about that longtime romance-to- friendship w/Brando?Would love to re-view the CSI Criminal Intent episodes where she portrayed "Bobby's" mad mom: they were fab together! Good memoir of a true professional, a likable woman!

I bought this book. Why? Simply put, Ms. Moreno inspires me to be a better person.I have no great interest in `Hollywood' biography and have only read one other, and that at a young age. I am more inclined to read about scientists or philosophers, people who have really changed the world for the better. Entertainers are just...entertainers: fun, but not serious.This all changes when the entertainer is such a decent, genuine, and intelligently reflective person as Ms. Moreno. She becomes the lens through which I can view the world of Hollywood with greater interest. Her honest and tender heart makes her "one of us": A normal, loving woman who happened to be crazy for show business and talented enough to make many of her dreams come true. I care about her stories because it is so easy to care about Ms. Moreno.It's also a really good read. It is revealing but dignified. Honest but not hurtful. And, yes, there are some juicy details. But the real juice is in the story of the girl who becomes this wonderful woman. We are lucky to have her.This book is a triumph.

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