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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: work 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

I have read the five star reviews, and sadly, I can't give the same rating. Prior to the book, I really liked Penny Marshall. After reading the book, I can't say I feel the same. First, just looking at the book itself, the writing is okay...she talks like she is having a conversation, rather than writing "literature", and I like that. But, her conversations are somewhat superficial. There is no true insight into Ms Marshall. No great revelations of a "gee, that's really amazing" when it comes to her personal career and those celebrity friends she name drops ad nauseum (? spelling). As far as what I walked away with? I found her lacking in any warmth, except when she talks about Carrie Fisher. She wasn't a good mother. She makes no bones about it, and no apologies or sincere regrets. She didn't like, respect or appreciate her parents. Her mother wasn't a great, loving mother, I got that. Her father was a blah personality, I got that. But honestly, nothing gave me the impression she tried to be a loving daughter, either, other than she moved them to California and helped support them financially, but that was done more, I got the impression, because she had the money to do so and was expected of her. You did drugs....I got that. Over and over, I got that. She apparently didn't care much for her sister, because I didn't see any overtures of closeness or wanting to be close to her...more pointing out her sister's faults. I am sure that this is Penny in real life. Her words certainly ring true, and I appreciate the honesty. There was some humor, often sad or black humor. No true insight into her marriage with Rob Reiner or other personal relationships...everything seems to be glossed over.

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