



Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke

Patty Duke

Download now

Read Online ➞

Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke

Patty Duke

Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke Patty Duke

The Star--The public saw her as a gifted child star: the youngest actor to win an Oscar for her role as Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker* and the youngest actor to have a prime-time television series bearing her own name.

The Nightmare--What the public did not see was Anna Marie Duke, a young girl whose life changed forever at age seven when tyrannical managers stripped her of nearly all that was familiar, beginning with her name. She was deprived of family and friends. Her every word was programmed, her every action monitored and criticized. She was fed liquor and prescription drugs, taught to lie to get work, and relentlessly drilled to win roles.

The Legend--Out of this nightmare emerged Patty Duke, a show business legend still searching for the child, Anna. She won three Emmy Awards and divorced three husbands. A starring role in *Valley of the Dolls* nearly ruined her career. She was notorious for wild spending sprees, turbulent liaisons, and an uncontrollable temper. Until a long hidden illness was diagnosed, and her amazing recovery recovery began.

The Triumph-- *Call Me Anna* is an American success story that grew out of a bizarre and desperate struggle for survival. A harrowing, ultimately triumphant story told by Patty Duke herself-- wife, mother, political activist, President of the Screen Actors Guild, and at last, a happy, fulfilled woman whose miracle is her own life.

From the Paperback edition.

Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke Details

Date : Published (first published 1987)

ISBN :

Author : Patty Duke

Format : Kindle Edition 338 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography Memoir, Health, Mental Health

 [Download Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke Patty Duke

From Reader Review Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke for online ebook

Joy says

Even though this book came out some time ago, it is still an excellent read for anyone who is a fan of Patty Duke, whose given name was Anna. I've loved her work for years but had no idea what a difficult and turmoil-filled early life she had. This autobiography tells of her childhood, which was filled with dysfunction, as well as her early career, marriages and also her struggle with undiagnosed manic depression.

I admire her greatly for her courage and wish I had found this book sooner. I plan to read her other book that goes more into detail regarding her struggle with manic depression, which is now called bipolar disorder. I thoroughly recommend this book to her fans.

Louise says

"The youngest person to win an Academy Award - for her performance as Helen Keller in 'The Miracle Worker' - and winner also of three Emmys for outstanding dramatic appearances on television, Patty Duke is one of the most honored stars in America, a woman so respected by her fellow actors, she has been elected president of the Screen Actors Guild. With such unanimous public and professional recognition of her talent, Patty Duke would appear to represent the ultimate American success story.

But appearances, as Anna Marie reveals, are deceiving. For Anna Marie Duke is her real name; "Patty" was the stage name assigned to her by John and Ethel Ross, the managers who shaped her career as a child star and who, as she reveals in this deeply personal autobiography, made her life a living hell. Patty Duke spent most of her childhood and teenage years in the public eye, yet even her most devoted fans had no idea of the life she was living offstage.

When the Rosses took over Patty's life, she was not permitted to have friends; her parents were coldly and skillfully maneuvered out of her life. Her every word, public or private, was monitored; her days became an endless grind of schoolwork, auditions, rehearsals and performances. The Rosses' tyranny culminated in their forcing Patty to make terrifying appearances on TV's 'The \$64,000 Challenge', appearances that led to her first act of defiance, before the congressional subcommittee investigating the show. Patty was only able to break the Rosses' fierce psychological hold on her life when they tried to stop her from seeing the first man she fell in love with.

But breaking away from the Rosses was not enough, because Patty, denied the normal stages of childhood development, had no idea who she was. Although her tremendous talent assured her of roles, there followed years of out-of-control behaviour, times when Patty didn't know what she might do or say next. On the 'Dick Cavett Show' she announced she was pregnant - a secret she hadn't even told the baby's father, who contrary to popular opinion was not her headline-making lover, Desi Arnaz Jr., but actor John Astin. Later, she married Astin, had a second child by him, adopted his three sons from a previous marriage, and enjoyed periods of happiness before their divorce in 1985.

But the nightmare of her childhood and adolescent years wouldn't be resolved until her thirties when a doctor diagnosed the manic-depressive illness that complicated her childhood problems and began her successful rehabilitation with a combination of psychotherapy and Lithium treatments. And so, finally, with courage and determination, Patty Duke has come to experience what she herself terms the miracle of life lived,

without the wild ups and downs she thought were inevitable. She takes pride in her roles as wife (she has remarried), mother, actress, political activist and president of The Screen Actors Guild, one of the largest labor unions in America.

And now, for the first time, she tells her story, her journey from child star to award winning adult actress, from confused and abused teenager to a highly respected, refreshingly honest show business personality - and she tells it in a voice so familiar to millions of us, yet so starkly and startlingly frank that you will never see Patty Duke the same way again - or forget the little girl whose real name was Anna Marie."

Kelly says

read this when it came out. it was very interesting and sad.
sorry to hear about Patty's passing today.

Graceann says

Patty Duke's harrowing memoir recounting her horrifying, abusive childhood and her long journey to diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Painful but necessary reading.

Wendell Hennan says

"In some areas of my life I am totally crazy." For almost 200 pages Patty Duke with the piercing brilliantly beautiful eyes that I remember from her TV show, ranted and raved about the Ross's who commandeered her life as a young child and controlled her more mercilessly than any child star's mother possibly could. I was about to quit at several points, fed up with the childishness.

The Miracle Worker time of her life became more interesting and she finally began to mature and take more independence. The final 50 or more pages were fascinating as she shared her understanding of Manic Depression and talked about her relationships and parenting the two youngest of her 5 sons. Patty Duke became like the caterpillar butterfly, finally evolving from an immature child into a caring and enlightened adult.

Leanna Dinsmore says

Honest and sad, with self awareness and humor. Patty details her life in an open way, as she moves through changes & strangeness. Her parental figures(or lack there of) certainly had an impact in her formative years. Patty makes her struggles relatable to those of us not in showbiz.

Amy says

Sad, troubled life. I found it interesting in many ways: the abused child actor past with evil Dicksonian managers, serious mental health breakdowns, and her acting career range from child Broadway star, Oscar, Emmy, acting award winner, to her grand flops & cheesy tv. Major kudos to Patty for being so honest & forthright about her mental illness.

On the down side her author's voice seriously annoyed me & exhibits her lack of writing talent. She writes how she talks using slang terms like "I mean" and "the man" so often it really becomes grating & makes her come of as low class, too casual- not the sophisticated, intelligent woman that I hope she is.

Though I do like her, aside from her tragic life, there's something about her that makes me recoil. I can't quite put my finger on it. Something seems off with her to me in a big way concerning healthy personality and existence in the world. I do know her lackadaisical attitude toward her abusive managers and her life is very disturbing to me. Maybe it's her general aggressiveness, or her denial over her situation, or some bipolar personality manifestation- I just don't know. Either way, I feel sorry for her and I do like her even amidst the recoiling. She has courage for hanging in there & I wish her the best.

Bronwyn says

this is a book about the life and career of patty duke from an award winning child actress, to her life as an adult, her career, her marriages, her relationships with such people as desi arnez jr, , her relationships with her children, and finally her diagnoses with and ongoing battle with bipolar disorder, and her life today

Leeanne says

I'm torn between 4 stars and 5 stars. I hate to give almost everything I read 5 stars. Makes it seem that a REALLY great book isn't quite so great then... But on to my review.

This was a well-written, poignant story about a very interesting woman! I bought this book at the library from their Friends of the Library "shelf sale". I wasn't sure if I would be interested in it or not, but thought, "Maybe I'll get around to reading it." Once I started it, I couldn't put it down! I had no idea that the person that I knew as the "identical cousins girl" had done so much, been through so much, survived so much.

I'm not very good at writing reviews about books. For one, I don't want to give too much away about a book. For another, I can't seem to quite explain what any certain book means to me. I'll just say this; if you like autobiographies, have an interest in Patty Duke, or just want to learn what this lady's life was life up to that point; then DEFINITELY check out this book!!

Abbi Dion says

I shit you not when I say this book is a masterpiece. Loved it. The anecdotes are riveting (her recounting of The Miracle Worker, in particular). The topics are engaging (family life, manic-depression, self-medicating, sleeping disorders). And the photographs are incredible. This memoir/autobio left a deep and lasting mark.

Love.

Lori says

I would give this a 4.5. I read this book years ago right after it came out almost 30 years ago. I was saddened to read that Patty Duke died this week. In honor of her, I decided to read this book again. Ms. Duke writes a very honest memoir of her life as a child actress who went on to many other roles as an adult. She was known for playing Helen Keller in the Broadway play and movie. And for having her own show The Patty Duke show in the 1960s. There is so much more to this book. Her childhood was not easy. Her parents split up by the time she was eight. Around the same time she became a child actress following her older brother into acting. Her career was taken over by the Rosses' John and Ethel. Not only did they control her career, they took her from her mother into their own home and raised her for the rest of her childhood. These people were very controlling of her life. One of the worst things they did to her was to tell her that from now on her name is "Patty" and that Anna Marie{her real first name} was dead. She also writes of her problems with an undiagnosed mental illness that many times took over her life. She writes of her marriages especially to John Astin. Her life was not always easy and she is very honest about what she dealt with. Toward the end of the book she shares how she was diagnosed with bi-polar illness.{ at that time known as manic- depressive. this is one of the better memoirs I have read. It ends in 1987. since then she has written another book about bi-polar disease. She also won many acting awards, including an Oscar at 16 for the Miracle Worker. I will miss this talented lady.

Anna says

This autobiography is very inspirational and well-written. In the 1960s, Patty Duke was seen as a peppy teenager and a gifted Oscar-Award winning actress. On the outside, it seemed as if she had everything--she was the youngest actress to win an Oscar Award for her performance as Helen Keller in the film adaptation of The Miracle Worker (1962). She was also the youngest actress to star in a TV series bearing her own name (The Patty Duke Show).

But nobody really knew of the deep struggles she dealt with as a child, a teenager and a woman. Regardless, she was eventually able to make peace with her past and overcome her struggles, including being under tight scrutiny of abusive managers and battling bipolar disorder. I highly recommend this book to anyone.

Mike (the Paladin) says

As Charlie Brown was wont to say, "Good grief". I read this book years ago...no really when it came out.

I picked it up because I remembered The Patty Duke Show and had seen her on TV and in films (never saw her on the stage) as we both grew up.

If you are aware of her then I think you'll find this an interesting and even touching read. Even if you aren't familiar with her I don't see how anyone could "not" find it poignant in some places.

Anna Marie "Patty" Duke passed away a couple of years ago. Reading this book there are places where I had to question her...thinking(?) or whatever. I can only say read this for what it's worth and look at a life made, unmade and remade by "show business" and living with fans who think they know you. I think she may have

metaphorically shot herself in her own foot a few times and suppose that with certain backgrounds and certain lives that may just be part of the package.

Diane says

I was sad to learn that Patty Duke has died. I read her memoir when I was in junior high, and it had a profound affect on me. Her stories about the pressures she faced as a child actor and her battles with mental illness were deeply moving.

I thought this book was so interesting that I read it several times, and I even did a school report on it. Several decades later, I can still vividly recall scenes from this book. It's one of the great celebrity memoirs of the 1980s.

Julie Barrett says

Oh boy, talk about a life filled with turmoil! Really made me appreciate the non-craziness of my life. Patty/Anna had a rough childhood. Rough! Ok, not Tatum O'Neal rough, but still bad. Her adult life wasn't much better since she was bipolar but not diagnosed until she was nearly 40. That's a long time to have manic episodes. I am actually impressed she managed a career at all, considering all the bridges she burned over the years. Everyone in Hollywood thought she had a drug problem. Maybe that actually worked in her favor since that is a common issue in the movie industry.

I felt she was very honest about her issues. I'm glad she finally found a good therapist & was diagnosed & lithium worked for her. I think her therapy helped Patty/Anna in terms of writing this book - she was able to discuss her behavior as well as the underlying issues surrounding the behavior. I appreciate she did not gloss over her problems. Talking about being an unfaithful wife, a demanding employee, an angry stepmother, a poor friend etc. must have been hard to write about, but she did. I am shocked her third husband stayed with her as long as he did. Talk about a handful. Whew.

Since this book was written 25 years ago, I googled her to see what had happened since the book ended. (Yet another memoir written in middle age so the book ends before the story is over.) She is still married to her fourth husband - that's good. Her son Sean has had moderate success as an actor. The most interesting discovery I made is that Sean's biological father is her third husband - the one she married in Vegas in the middle of a manic episode. The 13 day marriage. In her memoir, she insists they never had sex but apparently they did, according to the DNA test Sean Astin had. In-ter-est-ing. Hmmmm. Maybe she felt weird already admitting that she was sleeping with Desi Arnez Jr - a teenager! - and with John Astin, who was still married at the time and no one was sure who the father was.

Patty/Anna's memoir was a quick, easy read. Worth reading for her discussion of making The Miracle Worker and for a glimpse into what it is like being an undiagnosed manic-depressive.
