

The book was found

Rita Moreno: A Memoir



Synopsis

In this *New York Times* bestselling memoir, Rita Moreno shares her remarkable journey from a young girl with simple beginnings in Puerto Rico to Hollywood legend 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 debut by age thirteen and moving on to Hollywood in its Golden Age just a few years later, she worked alongside such stars as Gary Cooper, Yul Brynner, and Ann Miller. When discovered by Louis B. Mayer of MGM, the wizard himself declared: "She looks like a Spanish Elizabeth Taylor." Cast by Gene Kelly as Zelda Zanders in *Singin' in the Rain* and then on to her Oscar-winning performance in *West Side Story*, she catapulted to fame yet found herself repeatedly typecast as the "utility ethnic," a role she found almost impossible to elude. Here, for the first time, Rita reflects on her struggles to break through Hollywood's racial and sexual barriers. She explores the wounded little girl behind the glamorous façade and what it took to find her place in the world. She talks candidly about her relationship with Elvis Presley, her encounters with Howard Hughes, and the passionate romance with Marlon Brando that nearly killed her. And she shares the illusiveness of a "perfect" marriage and the incomparable joys of motherhood. Infused with Rita Moreno'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 is and triumphed.

Book Information

File Size: 3999 KB

Print Length: 295 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0451416392

Publisher: Celebra; Reprint edition (March 5, 2013)

Publication Date: March 5, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008RD31SU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #204,836 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #46

in Kindle Store > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Dancers #286 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers > Actors & Actresses #1089 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Women

Customer Reviews

In a memoir that is affectionately dedicated to her daughter, Fernanda, stage and screen legend Rita Moreno takes readers from her tumultuous move from Puerto Rico to New York City as a small child through the trials and tribulations of a Hispanic woman trying to make it on Broadway and in Hollywood. Moreno is one of the few performers to have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony, along with the National Medal of Honor. She recently concluded a one-woman show about her life entitled *Life Without Makeup* and currently appears on the television series "Happily Divorced" on TV Land. No matter who you are, Moreno has probably touched your life in some way during her nearly eight decades of performing. I discovered her on the PBS children's educational series "The Electric Company," which typically aired after "Sesame Street" in the 1960s/70s. How surprised I was to find that she already had decades of experience under her belt, with a highlight being her glorious Oscar win for Best Performance by a Supporting Actress in 1961's *West Side Story*. RITA MORENO tells the entire story of this incredible and determined woman. The memoir opens with a young girl, suffering from a deadly bout of chicken pox, in a run-down New York City hospital in 1936. She is practically right off the boat from Puerto Rico and barely speaks any English. Rosita Delores Alverio arrived in America with her mother, leaving behind a younger brother and large family in Puerto Rico. Young Rosita survived the chicken pox, but never got over the culture shock of leaving the Technicolor world of Puerto Rico for the dreary, black and white façade of NYC. She also did not realize then that she would never see her baby brother again. Rosita loved to dance and was a natural entertainer.

Most of us probably know of Rita Moreno from her role as Anita in *West Side Story*. Her trademark? Being the Latina "spitfire." She's the "Hispanic Elizabeth Taylor." If you know anything else about her, it's probably that she's the first Hispanic woman to win the Oscar. Or more notably, that she's one of the only performers to EVER receive an Oscar, a Grammy, a Tony and an Emmy. Well, now she can add best-selling author to that ever-growing list of talents. In her self-titled memoir, Moreno

opens up about life on and off the screen, touching on family, love, loss and her tumultuous rise to fame. Quintessentially, she's the all-American dream. Moreno's story is broken down into four parts, each one chronicling her evolution from humble little Rosita Dolores Alverio from Juncos into the sizzling songstress/screen siren, Rita Moreno. It's a tumultuous journey of insecurity, doubt, passion and self-discovery told in the most raw and honest of ways. In it, she describes the lush landscape of her native Puerto Rico, her struggle to break on to the Hollywood scene and her harrowing and debilitating relationship with bad boy, Marlon Brando. On the surface, Moreno's life seems so perfect but underneath it all it's one built atop broken promises --- by her mother and father, by Hollywood and by many lovers --- the strength she pulls from all these experiences though, that's what makes this book such an incredible one to read. Her story is as captivating as she herself is on screen. You can really get a feel for Moreno's personality solely by looking at the way she tells her story --- it's exotic, wild, imaginative, vivid and rich with detail. As a reader, I became keenly aware of all of my senses and was atune to the world in an entirely new way.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Rita Moreno: A Memoir PMP Exam Prep, Eighth Edition - Updated: Rita's Course in a Book for Passing the PMP Exam by Rita Mulcahy (June 12, 2013) Paperback Eighth Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser Rita and the Parrot (Haitian Creole) (Creole Edition) Rita Mulcahy's Hot Topics Flashcards for Passing the PMP and CAPM Exams PMP Exam Prep, Seventh Edition: Rita's Course in a Book for Passing the PMP Exam PMP Exam Prep, Sixth Edition: Rita's Course in a Book for Passing the PMP Exam PMP Exam Prep, Eighth Edition - Updated: Rita's Course in a Book for Passing the PMP Exam Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption St. Rita of Cascia: Saint of the Impossible With the Possum and the Eagle: The Memoir of a Navigator's War over Germany and Japan (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir) Love Warrior (Oprah's Book Club): A Memoir Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis Between Breaths: A Memoir of Panic and Addiction Forward: A Memoir The Big Tiny: A Built-It-Myself Memoir In My Shoes: A Memoir Grace: A Memoir Sex, Love, and Fashion: A Memoir of a Male Model Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir

[Dmca](#)