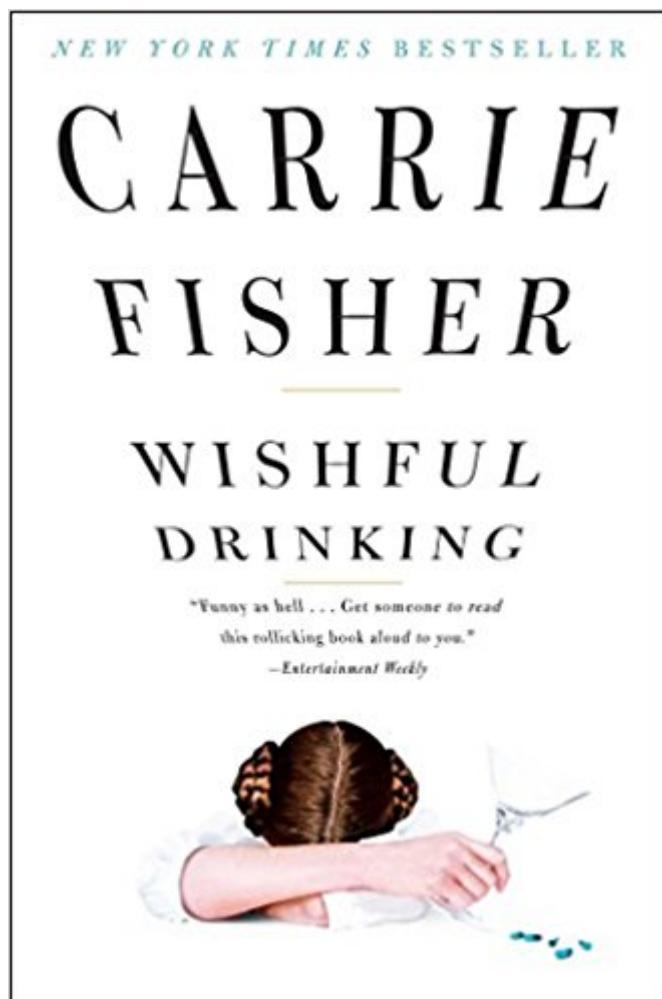


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Wishful Drinking



Synopsis

Finally, after four hit novels, Carrie Fisher comes clean (well, sort of) with the crazy truth that is her life in her first-ever memoir. In *Wishful Drinking*, adapted from her one-woman stage show, Fisher reveals what it was really like to grow up a product of "Hollywood in-breeding," come of age on the set of a little movie called *Star Wars*, and become a cultural icon and bestselling action figure at the age of nineteen. Intimate, hilarious, and sobering, *Wishful Drinking* is Fisher, looking at her life as she best remembers it (what do you expect after electroshock therapy?). It's an incredible tale: the child of Hollywood royalty -- Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher -- homewrecked by Elizabeth Taylor, marrying (then divorcing, then dating) Paul Simon, having her likeness merchandized on everything from Princess Leia shampoo to PEZ dispensers, learning the father of her daughter forgot to tell her he was gay, and ultimately waking up one morning and finding a friend dead beside her in bed. *Wishful Drinking*, the show, has been a runaway success. Entertainment Weekly declared it "drolly hysterical" and the Los Angeles Times called it a "Beverly Hills yard sale of juicy anecdotes." This is Carrie Fisher at her best -- revealing her worst. She tells her true and outrageous story of her bizarre reality with her inimitable wit, unabashed self-deprecation, and buoyant, infectious humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Fisher has fictionalized her life in several novels (notably *Postcards from the Edge*), but her first memoir (she calls it a really, really detailed personal ad) proves that truth is stranger

than fiction. There are more juicy confessions and outrageously funny observations packed in these honest pages than most celebrity bios twice the length. After describing how she underwent electroshock therapy for her manic depression, Fisher then sorts through her life as her memories return. She predicts that by the end of the book, you'll feel so close to me that you'll want to divorce me. At one point, this daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher (one an icon, the other an arm piece to icons) hilariously diagrams her family tree of Hollywood marriages and remarriages to make sure her daughter's potential date is not a relative. Revealing that at 15 she got a vibrator for Christmas from her mother, she writes, You might be thinking that a lot of the stories I'm telling you are over the top... but you can't imagine what I'm leaving out. With acerbic precision and brash humor, she writes of struggling with and enjoying aspects of her alcoholism, drug addiction and mental breakdowns. Her razor-sharp observations about celebrity, addiction and sexuality demand to be read aloud to friends. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"[Fisher] has a talent for lacerating insight that masquerades as carefree self-deprecation...The effect, ultimately, is extraordinarily painful while being extremely entertaining...[S]he's done her best to make sense of it all, and throughout, her humor has held up. In her own defiant manner, she's fought the good fight." -- The Los Angeles Times "She's still funny as hell...Her stories bubble, bounce, and careen with an energy...Get someone to read this rollicking book aloud to you." -- Entertainment Weekly "Fisher makes each crushing tragedy hilarious." -- People (4 out of 4 stars) "[T]here are also sparkling bons mots bespeaking [Carrie's] quirky intelligence and sweetness. Spoken like a true princess." -- Elle "Clearly, you should buy this book....she has expert comic timing and, perhaps more importantly, better stories than most drug addicts....Fisher is unafraid to write, brutally and vividly." -- New York Post "Fisher, unlike most celebrities (especially ones spawned from other celebrities) can actually write, and...Wishful Drinking, though an extremely short book, is super salacious and entertaining." -- Jezebel.com "Fisher is a language obsessive, a nimble verbal acrobat who puns and somersaults around a page with glee...If you are a fan of Fisher's fiction, a follower of her mental illness or simply a looky-loo stargazer curious about her Hollywood heritage, Wishful Drinking will likely make you laugh." -- Slate.com "There are more juicy confessions and outrageously funny observations packed in these honest pages than most celebrity bios twice the length...With acerbic precision and brash humor, she writes of struggling with and enjoying aspects of her alcoholism, drug addiction and mental breakdowns. Her razor-sharp observations about celebrity, addiction and sexuality demand to be read aloud to friends." -- Publishers Weekly (starred

review)

This author is an alcoholic and I am a bookaholic. When I start reading a book, I compulsively continue it, even if it's God-awful and I hate it. This unfortunate quirk has caused me many a boring hour, but in this case I owe it a debt of gratitude. Which is a way of saying that the giddy, girly style of writing in the first chapter almost drove me insane. Nothing but my reluctance to abandon a book kept me going. But then a miracle happened and the writing (while informal and still WAY too full of whimsy) settled down. By the second chapter, I was glued to Fisher's weird family diagram (parents, sibling, spouses, step-parents, half-siblings, step-siblings, actresses, actors, singers, agents, artists, beauty queens, and a respected Chinese-American author) and laughing hysterically. Welcome to Hollywood. This is not a book you read to find out "what happened." Unless you've been living in a cave, you know all about Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher and Carrie Fisher and Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton and Cary Grant and Paul Simon. Their lives may not have been any more troubled or eventful than many private citizens, but they were lived in full view of the public. Old style Hollywood with its carefully groomed stars and jealously guarded publicity may be a thing of the past, but the celebrity machine is still cranking away even more furiously than when Eddie Fisher caused an international scandal by dumping his wholesome wife and marrying Liz Taylor (who soon dumped HIM and married Richard Burton.) Who cares? A lot of people, judging from the ink that was wasted on reporting every detail. Fisher herself grew up the daughter of two celebrities and became one herself at the tender age of 19 when she played Princess Leia in the Star Wars series. She married a famous singer and then an agent, had a daughter, wrote books, and performed one-woman shows. She also abused drugs and alcohol, attended AA meetings, was in and out of mental hospitals, was diagnosed as bi-polar, and underwent electroshock therapy. You could say she's lived a "full life." I'm disinterested in the entertainment industry and in celebrities in general, and yet Fisher is an appealing woman. She comes across as brutally honest, especially about her own problems and mistakes. You get the impression of someone who has been through so much craziness that she has both developed an inner toughness and been stripped of the need to hide her defects and weaknesses. I read this book or a version of it years ago and remembered being impressed. I was happy to find the Kindle version and enjoyed re-reading it. I think it's a valuable story. No, most of us didn't grow up in Beverly Hills, but most of our lives have been touched by addiction and mental illness. In the end, this isn't a story of a celebrity. It's a story of a woman and how she's dealt with her problems.

I bought this book the day after Carrie's death, about an hour after I learned of her mother's death. I was too sad to go to bed so I bought this book instead. And read it straight through. I'm glad I did. "Postcards from the Edge" was my only prior impression of the relationship these two women had. This memoir paints a very different picture. I am sorry the world has lost these two brilliant and beautiful souls, but I am glad for them both that they still have each other.

Repurposing material she covered in her eponymous tour, this book covers a few choice anecdotes from Carrie Fisher's life, focusing heavily on some bizarre experiences--and some of the fallout from her drug use. It's highly readable and often funny, although it only scratches the surface of a woman who is clearly way more than just a pretty face.

Carrie Fisher in person was a force to be reckoned with. Now at least, we have her memoir to enjoy. I saw her one-woman show in person in Berkeley before she took it to Hollywood, and it was a hoot. Out of her pain and suffering, she crafted a light-hearted account of growing up the daughter of Debbie Reynolds, which enough to make anyone crazy. Add in all the dysfunction of her life, and it is a wonder she was able to cope at all. Underneath all the laughter, there is a serious tale of substance abuse and mental illness. Through it all, it was her own innate honesty that made it possible for Carrie to hold it together.

"Wishful Drinking" must have been very cathartic for Carrie Fisher. She lets a lot out. It is let out in fits and spurts, jumping from subject to subject, time period to time period, making it very hard to follow. I feel a little shell shocked just trying to keep up! I wish it were better pulled together as I wish she were.

This is one of the best autobiographies I've ever had the pleasure to read. Carrie's open honesty and her edgy sarcasm were both poignant and had me laughing - I couldn't put the book down. Her reflection and intelligence about mental health, everyday problems and life itself made me look inside to how I could better react to situations I'm thrown into in this world. She truly was a princess and anyone who reads her books will remember her for more than just Star Wars.

I loved Carrie Fisher and always thought she was funny, but this book, at times, made no sense. I know she had mental illness and things, but I would have thought an editor would have caught and corrected the way she wrote this book. There were some good stories in it, and I will be buying her

other books to see if they are different, but I felt cheated.

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