



## Swanson on Swanson

*Gloria Swanson*

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*Gloria Swanson*

## **Swanson on Swanson** Gloria Swanson

Once the most famous woman in the world, she still found time to be a loving mother. Worshipped by the world's most dynamic men on screen, and off, and adored by no less than six husbands, directed by such powerhouses as Chaplin, DeMille, Stroheim, Billy Wilder, she surrendered her will to no man. Offered a million-plus tax free dollars by Paramount, she defied the studio to become her own boss. Surviving scandal, disaster, near-death and the collapse of that wonderland called Hollywood - alive, extraordinary, triumphant - this is Gloria Swanson!

## **Swanson on Swanson Details**

Date : Published November 1st 1981 by Pocket Books (Mm) (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780671433543

Author : Gloria Swanson

Format : Paperback 549 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Culture, Film, Autobiography

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# **From Reader Review Swanson on Swanson for online ebook**

## **Winter Sophia Rose says**

Inspiring, Powerful & Compelling!

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## **Frances says**

This was a fascinating book about a truly fascinating woman. It is so amazing to read the way Hollywood was when Gloria Swanson was first starting out. So very different from the way it is today. It was a long book but very much worth the effort. If you like Hollywood stories, this one pulls no punches. You finish the book feeling you know this woman.

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## **Lissa says**

I did not know Gloria Swanson invented shapewear. I also did not know that you can heal serious wounds by exposing them to the sun. The more you know!

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## **Melanie says**

AWESOME! Old Hollywood rocks and there are so many interesting details found in this book. What's amazing is it's written by Gloria Swanson, herself.

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## **Greta says**

Relatively clear-eyed and detailed autobiography, though not sure how accurate it is. Very entertaining.

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## **Julai says**

The first chapter of Swanson on Swanson starts with a bang and ends with a dumpster. Yes, poor Gloria finds herself pregnant, after being SWEPT AWAY BY PASSION (this usually happens once a lifetime to us poor, normal, non-Hollywood folks, but for the great Swanson, it is a near-daily experience.) Although she has just landed a member of the French nobility and become La Marquise de la Falaise de la Coudray (I just read this in my head like "La Marbluh de la bluh bluh de la blahhhh") if she gives birth to a baby, it will Ruin. Her Hollywood. CAREER!

Well, we can't have that. Although her unborn child pleads with her "Please. Do not do this thing! I am afraid ... OF THE SEWERS!" she must. She simply must! She also (swept away by the tide of fortune, and through

NO FAULT OF HER OWN) marries six guys, cures her own uterine tumors through health food, and designs stamps (WTF, right?)

Basically, an awesome Hollywood bio. Lots of pearl-clutching, fainting, descriptions of incredible couture gowns, and conversations with unborn infants. So, you know, just like real life.

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### **Karla says**

We benefited from Swanson's apparent packrat habit of not throwing anything away. This book is massive, and crammed full of facts and details that I'm sure she would have been able to verify by whipping out a telegram or signed contract. She doesn't gloss over much, and her marriage to Wallace Beery reads like a nightmare. I've always wondered why she married him, and I don't think she even knew. "Young and stupid" would be a good bet and an age-old reason.

Swanson was a classy woman whose every stitch and movement screamed "Movie Star!" and her self-told journey from Keystone comedienne to clotheshorse is entertaining every step of the way. Far from being anything like Norma Desmond, Swanson acknowledges the past and its glories, but prefers to live in the here and now.

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### **Ashley says**

One of the best autobiographies I've read. Couldn't put it down. It's as long as *Gone With the Wind* but it is fabulous.

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### **Joy H. says**

This autobiography was so interesting that it read like a good novel. Gloria Swanson was quite a lady. She branched out from acting into other areas like the producing of films, hosting talk shows, designing clothes, and even doing sculpture and creating art. She even tried her hand at inventing. As for her life in the film industry, it was intriguing to go behind the scenes and get the background stories.

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### **Lucy says**

I fell a bit in love with Gloria reading her biography. It's non stop from her grace onto the silent screens of cinema to working her way to becoming the most famous celebrity on the planet. All without an ounce of arrogance, desperation or any other pathological profile that seems to gravitate celebrities towards hollywood. After all who else would turn down one of the first \$1 million dollar contract to go on to produce her own movies? It only made me wish I had half the ounce of courage and gusto that this lady shows throughout her colourful endeavours.

The only negatives about the book was that there was no scathing character profiles on any one (if you're a tart for hollywood gossip like me, ahem) and not enough pictures!

A truly fascinating life that deserved every page it was written on.

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### **Jane says**

Should be at least 4.5. I've only seen *Beyond the Rocks*, and I didn't realize how interesting and awesome Gloria Swanson is! I appreciated reading a celebrity bio that arrives somewhere legitimately wiser than where it starts. Where David Niven's peters out (although I <3 him), GS rounds everything up with believable life lessons. She makes me hopeful that I will make it through youthful blundering to better self realization and acceptance.

Also, I loved that 2/3 of the book was silent movie era reminiscence. <3!

Lastly: I loved the quote she used from The Prophet:  
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

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### **amy says**

One of the best autobiographies written by a celebrity. A really good read even if you know nothing of Gloria Swanson or her movies.

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### **Lee Anne says**

This autobiography is no sugar-coated reminiscence of Hollywood's Golden Age: chapter one opens with Swanson nearly dead from an abortion she had to save her reputation from the scandal that would have ensued had the public known she was pregnant before her THIRD marriage, which had taken place just the day before the procedure. There are plenty of other juicy details, too, including a teenage marriage, wedding night rape, another abortion (induced by her husband, unbeknownst to her), and of course, her famous affair with Joseph Kennedy.

You may quibble with the pacing--537 pages, 22 chapters, and she doesn't even get to the Kennedy affair, which took place in the 1930s, until chapter 16--but it's still a dazzling look at the beginning of movie-making (Swanson started so early that the bulk of movies were still made on the east coast.). You might also lose track of husbands (six in all!), but you can't deny she led an interesting and full life.

At the beginning of WWII, Swanson started an engineering company, ostensibly a think tank to brainstorm new inventions, but also a front to smuggle Jewish scientists out of Germany and Nazi-occupied France. She had one of television's first "lifestyle" shows, and for over twenty years designed a mass-market dress line for plus-sized ("stout," she calls them) women. She was also a huge proponent of macrobiotic foods, lobbied to pass an amendment which banned chemical additives in farming, and claims to have cured herself of a uterine tumor through diet. And you thought she was just Norma Desmond! A diva to the last.

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## **Samantha Glasser says**

This is one of my favorite movie star biographies. Gloria Swanson was a major star during the silent era, and she worked with greats like Charlie Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille, and Erich von Stroheim. She was married several times, had a famous affair with Joseph Kennedy, and conceived several children. Her career failed when talkies came, but triumphed again in 1950 with *Sunset Boulevard*, for which she was nominated for an Oscar. Through her success, she kept a level head and a great work ethic.

Before reading this book, I had only a mild interest in her, as I was unimpressed with many of the silent films she starred in, but her personality shines through so brightly in this book, it is impossible not to like her. She was no great beauty, but what she lacked there she made up for with intelligence and wit.

The length of Swanson's autobiography is intimidating, but each page is a treat.

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## **C. Zampa says**

I cannot say enough about this book, this woman. My hero. My idol. Swanson on Swanson is an enthralling memoir of a woman whose life reads like delicious fiction. A pioneer. A woman who toughed it out in a man's world and succeeded. A fabulous dynamo. Her story is an inside look into silent Hollywood, intimate peeks at all the famous stars, the life style, the glitz and glamor of days long past. A remarkable woman. A woman far ahead of her time.

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