

How I Slept My Way to the Middle: Secrets and Stories from Stage, Screen, and Interwebs

Kevin Pollak

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One of Comedy Central's Top 100 Stand-Up Comedians of All Time, award-winning dramatic actor, and an internet pioneer, Kevin Pollak has done it all for thirty years and is ready to spill the beans. Best known for performances in *A Few Good Men* and *The Usual Suspects*, he shares never-before-heard stories of film legends like De Niro, Hanks, Howard, Lemon, Loren, Lucas, Martin, Mathau, Reiner, Scorsese, Singer, Willis, and more. He turned down his first invitation to do stand-up on *The Tonight Show* because he knew that he'd have a bigger impact if he sat next to Johnny instead of performing onstage. When he gambled for a spot on the most coveted couch in showbiz, he had no agent, no auditions, no prospects. But his gut was right: A year later, his first sit with the king of late night led to three visits a year, every year, until Carson retired. Now a new media entrepreneur, Pollak is laughing proof that you can do anything you want—except have a rational conversation with Rip Torn, who's an evil, paranoid \$#!%.

How I Slept My Way to the Middle: Secrets and Stories from Stage, Screen, and Interwebs Details


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Author : Kevin Pollak

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From Reader Review How I Slept My Way to the Middle: Secrets and Stories from Stage, Screen, and Interwebs for online ebook

Michael says

See my review at <http://www.jesterjournal.com/PollakBo...>

Chris says

Kevin Pollak's book is amazing. He is a master storyteller who imbues each tale with genuineness and humor. The stories he tells are from his point of view but he never gets in the way of the reader seeing what he saw. Amazing talent. Great book.

Tony Tower says

Very entertaining. Just the right amount of pre-fame life, lots of great anecdotes and chops-busting. Well worth a read if you're in the mood for some pleasant showbiz fluff.

Briana Alzola says

Kevin Pollak is delightful and this is just confirmation of that. This is full of funny anecdotes from his career, as well as quotes from some of the hilarious people he's worked with. I definitely recommend this book for celebrity/movie buffs like myself.

Kelli Lynn Dwyer says

I am seriously so excited to have won this giveaway as I'm a huge fan of Kevin Pollak. Thank you for giving me the opportunity and as soon as I receive the book in the mail and read it I will be sure to edit this into one proper review. Thanks again.

Rob says

Kevin Pollak's Kevin Pollak's Chat Show podcast is a treat as Kevin Pollak interviews celebrities in a freewheeling 2 or 3 hour chat about show business and their career. What makes Pollak's show so appealing is his enthusiasm for the business, his love of both the comedy and acting craft, and his seemingly endless enthusiasm to know more about others. What shines through behind Pollak's smart ass exterior is a genuinely nice guy who seems to be in awe of the fact that he gets to do something he loves among people more famous than he.

Kevin's goofiness and ease with a story transfers well to *How I Slept My Way to the Middle*, a mostly good natured celebrity tell-some about his Zelig-like (his comparison) journey through Hollywood. Pollak has worked with some of the best in the business and tells loving stories of working with the likes of Nicholson, DeNiro, Cruise, and Sam Levine. Like the best of these types of books, it's light, breezy, funny, and a little bitchy at times. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

David Herman says

I love books by comedians, even more, books by comedians that can do voices and even more ones in which the comedians read the book in audio format and do the celebrity voices of all the people they write about. This is one of those books.

LotsToRead says

The book reads like his comedy act...pure fun!

Emily says

After reading the advance reader copy, I wanted to encourage others who enjoy memoirs or who are flat out fans of Kevin's, to get this book when it releases later this year. He has recycled some of his best bits from televised comedy specials but there are many more stories from his stand-up & film career that is new. He also recounts his emerging online chat show. The book has a quick pace and he writes **EXACTLY** like he performs.

thomas says

Very funny

Nicole McBride says

Normally I would not pick up an autobiography/memoir, but I love Kevin Pollak and could not resist. This book did not disappoint and I found myself laughing out loud at several passages. I think what I liked most about this book is that it was written in a way that mirrored normal conversation. What I mean by that, is that one story leads to a different story that leads to a different story, but somehow everything goes back full circle to what was being talked about in the first story. Did you follow that? If you ever have a conversation with me and my friends, that is exactly what happens.

The other thing I loved about this book was that it showed a personal side to some of the actors that Pollak had a chance to work with. Yes, some other reviewers along with Pollak himself calls it "name dropping",

but it is a book about working within the acting community. How would you write a book about that subject if you didn't dish a little on the stars you got to work with.

There are several stories that I loved in this book. The first one is when Pollak talks about working with Walter Matthau. He has always reminded me of my grandfather in the way that he looks. However, having read the memoir, I now know that he did not TALK like my grandfather in any way! There is a passage about what he said to Sophia Loren during the table script read that had me in stitches along with another incidence involving Matthau and Fred Astaire. The second one has to deal with one of my favorite movies of all time "The Usual Suspects". I was waiting for the passage on that and especially loved when he Pollak talked about the line-up scene. It is my favorite scene in the movie, one of which that I can watch over and over again and still laugh so hard that I am crying.

I don't want to give away any spoilers, so I am going to keep this vague in case anyone else would like to read it. However, I will say that there is a great deal of language in it for those of you who would like to keep it clean and sometimes the style of writing may irritate those of you who do not like talking in circles. For me, I thoroughly enjoyed the book just like I enjoy Pollak's stand-up specials. If I knew how to talk like Christopher Walken I would, but since I don't I will leave it to Pollak to dazzle me with.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

I got this copy of the book from my local library; I was not asked to do a review on it.

www.thepensivechronicler.blogspot.com

Tiffany says

I saw Kevin Pollak plugging his book on the Craig Ferguson show. So, I thought I'd give it a try. It's actually really good. Turns out he grew up in San Jose. I grew up in the Silicon Valley too. So I was instantly hooked since I could understand local references.

But his stories go one better. He talks about working with Robert De Niro, Johnny Carson, Steve Martin, and Jack Nicholson, just to name a few. The book is filled with hilarious stories of what silly things actors do in their trailers to how to really piss off Bruce Willis. If you don't like his humor or stand-up, you may want to pass. The book is full of his humorous voice. But if you are a fan or just want a good read, this is a great book.

I'm not a big Pollak fan. So I was surprised I enjoyed as much as I did. I kept wanting more. Which brings me to sequel talk. I hope there is one. Somehow I figure, Mr. Pollak has a lot more in store. I look forward to more.

Gretchen says

This was fun to listen to. I loved hearing about Kevin's experience on The Usual Suspect. His impressions both that he actually does (excellent) and the ones he perceives of some the people he has worked with over the years went along with my own perceptions of these bigger than life actors.

However, he had me when he recalled listening to a Nixon impressionist when he was young on his parents "hi fi" the enormous piece of furniture they were back in the old days. I recall the exact same thing when I was young. Yes I listened to a Nixon impressionist when I was like 5. For the life of me though I can't recall who the album was by. Yes I just said the word album.

TheSaint says

This book should absolutely not be read in print! Hearing Kevin read the audiobook himself gives you all those great impressions he's famous for.

Rich Baker says

Fan-freakin-tastic! I read a lot of autobiographies - the overwhelming majority I love. And this one was the most entertaining of the bunch.

If you have the option, definitely listen to the audio book. Kevin's voice is like jazz. He's great when he's being himself, but he also does all the impressions on the audiobook. And if you haven't heard his impressions, they're master craftsmen level.

The thru line of the book is that his best moments have come directly from the times where he took the reigns on his own career. The book is funny, entertaining and even sometimes heart warming. Can't recommend it enough.
