



Kate Remembered

A. Scott Berg

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For seven decades Katharine Hepburn played a leading role in the popular culture of the twentieth century - reigning as an admired actress, a beloved movie star, and a treasured icon of the modern American woman. She also remained one of the most private of all the public figures of her time.

In 1983 - at the age of seventy-five, her career cresting - the four-time Academy Award winner opened the door to biographer A. Scott Berg - then thirty-three - and began a special friendship, one that endured to the end of her illustrious life.

From the start, Scott Berg felt that Katharine Hepburn intended his role to be not just that of a friend but also of a chronicler, a confidant who might record for posterity her thoughts and feelings. Over the next twenty years, Kate used their many hours together to reveal all that came to mind, often reflecting on the people and episodes of her past, occasionally on the meaning of life.

Here are the stories from those countless intimate conversations, and much more. In addition to recording heretofore untold biographical details of her entire phenomenal career and her famous relationships with such men as Spencer Tracy and Howard Hughes, **Kate Remembered** also tells the amusing, often emotional story of one of the most touching friendships in her final years. Scott Berg provides his own memories of Katharine Hepburn offstage - quiet dinners in her town house in New York City, winter swims (she swam, he watched) in the Long Island Sound at Fenwick, her home in Connecticut, weekend visits with family members and dear friends...even some unusual appearances by the likes of Michael Jackson and Warren Beatty. Finally, *Kate Remembered* discusses the legendary actress's moving farewell, during which her mighty personality surrendered at last to her failing body - all the while remaining true to her courageous character.

Kate Remembered is a book about love and friendship, family and career, Hollywood and Broadway - all punctuated by unforgettable lessons from an extraordinary life.

Kate Remembered Details

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Author : A. Scott Berg

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From Reader Review Kate Remembered for online ebook

Linda says

Audio read by Tony Goldman. What a delightful audio book! I laughed out loud several times and Mr. Goldman does an excellent job with Ms. Hepburn's voice. I don't know if I realized what a wicked sense of humor she had. She was very family oriented, was known to fall in love with some of her leading men and enjoyed the simple things in life. Spencer Tracy was the love of her life but they never married. If you are a Kate fan you will enjoy this book!!

Barb says

This is not an objective book about Katherine Hepburn and the author makes this clear up front. This is an homage to a friend by a friend who happens to be a writer. In a way, this makes it more enjoyable and fun to read for a Kate Hepburn fan. There are no new revelations, but then Hepburn revealed all while she was alive. So this is just a fun read that feels like you were invited to sit in while friends talked.

Tony says

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I have read this biography twice, or actually read it once and listened to it once. It might very well be the best biography I have ever read.

Having first read the book from the library (and then purchasing it) I was to leave on a business trip and saw the audio book at the library. During my long drive I listened to the audio book.

Either version is highly, HIGHLY, recommended by me. The twists and turns, names and dates, understanding of the film industry, and the communion with Katharine Hepburn are all amazing. Mostly, when I was done I felt I had known her myself and come to understand each syntaxed-filled epitaph she uttered.

If you haven't time to read the book, during your drive times listen to it. The book cannot be extolled highly enough by me. The audio version reader speaks as Katharine Hepburn and is so uncanny, I had to wonder how Mr. Berg got the sound bites from Kate herself.

There may be biographies that are better (and I have read many), but none have been as engrossing and endearing as this one. Mr. Berg definitely has placed his other books into my rotation.

Joy H. says

Added 5/29/14. (audio version)

Hear a sample here:

http://www.audible.com/search/ref=a_p...

3/12/17 - I've been listening to an audio CD of this book. I loved it. I had forgotten that I had listened to it once before (although I knew I had read something similar about Hepburn, probably *Me: Stories of My Life* by Katharine Hepburn). I'm changing my rating from 4 stars to 5 because I think the author has done a terrific job! I'm going to search for more biographies by him.

PS-The narrator of this audio book is Tony Goldwyn who did an excellent job. He imitates Hepburn's voice and accent in quotes throughout the book. This brought a feeling of reality to the biography.

Melissa says

Such a great book! It's very personal, and not unbiased--which is the main part of the fun. I love Katharine Hepburn anyway, and it's good that I didn't read this with my netflix queue in the same room. If you're at all interested in Hollywood history, this is a must read!

Shannon says

This book is really good and it's got really interesting facts. The relationship b/t Scott and Kate is fun and quirky. And the insight on Kate's life and her relationships was so interesting. You can't help but like her even more.

Blythe says

I thought this book had some really great moments and was perfect in that it was written by a close friend of kh's(not some random biographer), but also a person renowned for writing biographies. A little too much about the writer at the beginning, but all and all very fun to read about the amazing personality that was katharine hepburn. I made a list of must-see old movies to rent while reading.

Hilary Knause says

this is the best biography on katherine hepburn out there. she became friends with the author before he became her biographer so there is a much more personal feel to the book than most biographies. i enjoyed every minute of this book.

Winter Sophia Rose says

Fascinating & Funny! The Essence Of Life Captured!

Bruce says

Not the type of book I would normally read, initially I thought that it was not too bad. It is indeed as the author states a personal biography that is heavily influenced by his personal acquaintance and interactions with Katharine Hepburn. It is very readable but it does not concentrate enough on the subject of the biography. A. Scott Berg tends to weave in his own personal acquaintances with other Hollywood celebrities and indeed devotes a significant number of words to the life and opinions of Irene Mayer Selznick (one of a few people in the book) with only tenuous links to the subject of the biography. It is acceptable that Katharine Hepburn be permitted to "name drop" in recollection of her career, but the author too seems to be fairly adept in promoting the fact that he also has close links with the "Hollywood Royalty". This in my opinion detracts from the intention of the book.

The book is a bit slow in parts and assumes that the reader knows the personalities of Hollywood history already as, in many instances, no explanation of who they are is given other than their names.

In my opinion, 5 out of 10.

Angie says

I am a huge fan of Katharine Hepburn and found this book excellent at sharing her compelling life story. She meets and befriends so many odd famous people from the 1930s into the 2000s. I was simply mesmerized. The author's eloquent words appeared truthful and graceful, as Miss Hepburn.

Jessica Morse says

Everything I could want to know about Katherine Hepburn. Berg captured the essence of who she was throughout her life on and off the screen. I received the hard over the day after it came out, when she died in 2003.

Bethany says

I enjoy biographies. I knew little of Kate before reading this book, so I learned a lot. great words of Hepburn wisdom about the meaning of life: "to work hard and to love someone. and to have a little fun along the way". it's not rocket science but it works for me!

Natalie says

Recommended for: Katharine Hepburn fans and Golden Age film buffs

Buddy Read with Samantha Glasser

Wow! This was a well-written and informative book. I enjoyed all the background information. I also thought that the reader gave a good performance. It was so refreshing to learn more about one of the Old Hollywood stars that I consider my favorite. In my opinion, the sheer length of almost 400 pages of the hard copy of the book makes it more ideal to listen to it than to read it. I also think that it is more conducive to a buddy Read for this reason.

Donna Davis says

A. Scott Berg started out to write a magazine article for Esquire, and he wanted to include Hepburn. Knowing she seldom saw people, he got in touch with mutual friends in the hope it would open the gate for him.

It took a long time, but once the gate was open, it was open wide. Hepburn introduced him to her housemate and assistant as "my biographer", and his chin fell on the floor. The relationship began in the 1980's, and she made it clear that he was not to publish it until after her death.

I started to give the book four stars, since that is about as good a rating I ever give to a biography; Hepburn's "Me" is the go-to book if you want to see what she has to say for herself. But because he used a tape recorder and quoted some of what she had to say verbatim, I include this title on my "primary sources" shelf, because though the book as a whole is secondary material, there are plenty of direct quotes from Hepburn within. And ultimately I went back and tacked on the fifth star, because Hepburn wrote about herself and carefully stepped around things she did not want to discuss while she was still alive and working (which she considered to be synonymous with one another). Because this volume was to be published posthumously, and because of her bond with the author, who was called along with family members to her bedside as she lay dying, and who sat beside her when her brother Dick died, this is actually the more in-depth book about her life.

My admiration of Hepburn was deeper and broader by the time I finished reading her story. A woman who could advocate for herself before such a thing was heard of; a star who mopped up her own kitchen messes and made her own bed; one who was nobody's victim, and though I wish Tracy had given her more than he did, it was gratifying to know that she preferred not to be married lest her independence be compromised.

She stood up in favor of women's political rights, and she championed Planned Parenthood. She stood up to McCarthy and spoke out against the witch hunts of the 1950s, and said that while she did not blame anyone in the industry for testifying before the committee in order to save the careers, they had no business implicating others in their field in a manner that would prevent them from working.

And she was never afraid to laugh at herself.

Included are some really wonderful photographs of her. Probably you will finish reading and immediately

feel the need to rent some Hepburn movies. How could I have not seen The Philadelphia Story?

A wonderful read, and until she becomes very old and very sick, the book remains, to use one of her pet phrases, "great fun".

Morgan Wiley says

I loved every bit of this book. Every page. Every word. Mr. Berg made me laugh the whole way through his journey of his friendship with Ms. Hepburn. It's not a thousand pages about her youth or a troubled personal life, etc. It's a poignant, well-pieced together story of a woman who knew exactly what she wanted out of life. Mr. Berg's description of Kate made me want to be her best friend, to be like her, to know her through and through. I often find myself reading biographies but having no opinion either way because the author doesn't draw me into the story. That is not the case with this book. If you read no other book about Katharine Hepburn, this one is most definitely worth your time. XOXO

Sydney says

I don't generally enjoy Biography, but this was different. Katharine Hepburn has always been one of my favorite actresses. She was such a strong, modern woman. She wasn't without flaws, but she was such a presence both on and off screen. Author Berg became part of her inner circle after convincing her to do an interview for Esquire magazine. He painted such an intimate portrait of her life. On the jacket of the book, he says he can't call this a biography, because he got too close to Hepburn to remain objective. He became a close friend of hers and this book is really an homage to his friend. Interesting insight on old Hollywood.

Chris Gager says

Another "rescued" book. Reasonably entertaining hybrid of biography and memoir. The author became a pretty good friend of KH after approaching her for an interview about Sam Goldwyn. KH and my father were both kids growing up in Hartford, she about 5 years older, and their paths crossed some(according to him). She outlived him by about 25 years though. That's what smoking and too much booze will do. KH an example of a person whose life is fascinating and full of achievement but who's not that interesting as a person due to narcissism(in her case relatively benign and enlightened). Her relationship with Spencer Tracy was a classic example of co-dependant and addict and an indication of her own emotional dysfunction. She liked to be in control. My mother had a similar relationship with her second husband. Different addiction though. The pictures are excellent. She was definitely interesting to look at. Reminds me of an old girlfriend and of my mother.

Olivia says

Although this book is not bad it does seem a little pointless since about 95% of information in it was already available in Katharine's autobiography 'Me'. The other part is about the author and is self serving. He goes on about the other famous people he knew, how great his other books are, and how great Kate thought he was.

He's not unlikeable but does seem a little into himself. The strange part is he helped Kate put together her book so he knew exactly what was in it. Why did he feel the need to put all of that into another book? I think he should have just wrote about his memories of her and their time together but then the book would only be about 50 pages long. Also it's a little jumpy. Not only does it go back and forth between the 30s and 80s but it will be talking about Kate in the early 80s then the 90s, then the late 80s. Not sure why he didn't just put it in order. That made some stories a little confusing. I highly suggest reading Katharine's autobiography over this.

Minnie says

Good book. She was such a brilliant and beautiful actor..always spoke her mind and never minced wovrds. My favorite movie of hers was "The African Queen", and she talks a lot about the time spent on this movie.
