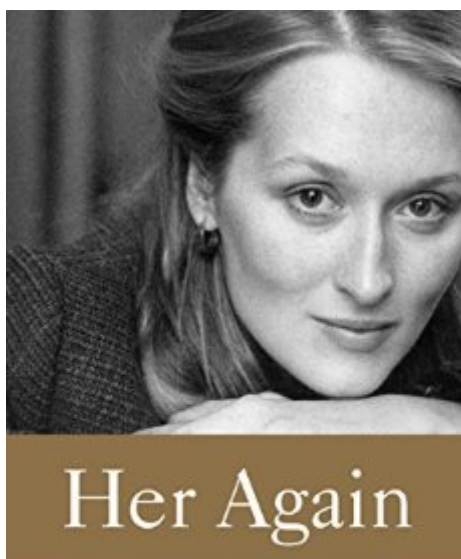


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# Her Again: Becoming Meryl Streep



Becoming Meryl Streep

MICHAEL SCHULMAN



## Synopsis

A portrait of a woman, an era, and a profession: the first thoroughly researched biography of Meryl Streep "the ælron Lady" of acting, nominated for nineteen Oscars and winner of three "that explores her beginnings as a young woman of the 1970s grappling with love, feminism, and her astonishing talent. In 1975 Meryl Streep, a promising young graduate of the Yale School of Drama, was finding her place in the New York theater scene. Burning with talent and ambition, she was like dozens of aspiring actors of the time "a twenty-something beauty who rode her bike everywhere, kept a diary, napped before performances, and stayed out late ætalking about acting with actors in actors"™ bars. Yet Meryl stood apart from her peers. In her first season in New York, she won attention-getting parts in back-to-back Broadway plays, a Tony Award nomination, and two roles in Shakespeare in the Park productions. Even then, people said, æHer. Again. Her Again is an intimate look at the artistic coming-of-age of the greatest actress of her generation, from the homecoming float at her suburban New Jersey high school, through her early days on the stage at Vassar College and the Yale School of Drama during its golden years, to her star-making roles in The Deer Hunter, Manhattan, and Kramer vs. Kramer. New Yorker contributor Michael Schulman brings into focus Meryl's heady rise to stardom on the New York stage; her passionate, tragically short-lived love affair with fellow actor John Cazale; her marriage to sculptor Don Gummer; and her evolution as a young woman of the 1970s wrestling with changing ideas of feminism, marriage, love, and sacrifice. Featuring eight pages of black-and-white photos, this captivating story of the making of one of the most revered artistic careers of our time reveals a gifted young woman coming into her extraordinary talents at a time of immense transformation, offering a rare glimpse into the life of the actress long before she became an icon.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have to say, this book was FAR more engaging than I had ever hoped for. I can easily say I loved every page and found myself thinking about it often during the day when I'd put it down. I'm a long-time fan of Ms. Streep, but the book is not just a great account of her life and development, it does a terrific job of bringing to life an entire era of AMERICAN social, political and dramatic revolution. The details are both funny and yet often intimate; you gain insight into the actress yes, but as well all of the "cast" of people who have been around her. So fans of recent history will be as rewarded as fans of Meryl Streep. What stands out the most to me is just how much Ms. Streep worked to bring her amazing gifts to life, never taking anything for granted, never settling. The review that claims the book is shallow seems crazy to me, and if in reality a lot of the material is technically "out there" already, well so what? So is almost every historic personage too. It's how it's woven together and what is chosen that is what counts. AND to think even the most determined fan could ever track it all down on their own, let alone put it together in such a coherent narrative is borderline insulting the book's author.

I'm not a die hard Streep fan. I haven't seen all her movies, but the ones I have seen have convinced me that she can do just about anything. Anyway, I do love reading biographies, so I thought I would give this a whirl. Schulman's writing engages you from the beginning. I found myself looking for quiet moments so I could squeeze in a few more pages. It's a wonderful portrait of a talented actor by a talented author.

I returned this book after the 3rd chapter. So far, there is so little that is actually about Meryl Streep that I feel tricked by the title. The book thus far has discussed the CONTEXT of cultural life in the late 60's and early 70's when Meryl Streep began her career. The author writes for the New Yorker and this book reads like a New Yorker article, giving lots of factual information of the details

SURROUNDING a famous person's life while not offering information specifically about that famous person. I recommend that potential readers be aware of what you are purchasing.

It seemed that at least 1/3 of the book was devoted to the detailed backgrounds of directors, colleagues and friends - people most readers likely never have heard of and did not buy the book to read about. The book would have been better focusing more attention to Ms. Steep's personal thoughts about her career and relationships. The information about Don Gummer was minimal, which is odd considering how quickly their relationship developed after the death of John. You can get more interesting information about Ms. Streep and her career for free on Wikipedia.

One of the many things I enjoyed about this book was its narrow focus on the beginning of Meryl Streep's career - this book stays true to its title and tells you the story of how one of our most beloved cultural icons started out on that path. I have always been fascinated by origin stories - that is what drew me to the book, and it was focused on exactly that. This is not a tabloid piece and it doesn't cover Streep at the height of her celebrity (haven't we had enough of that? isn't that the point?) - it is a well-researched, nuanced look at the critical early points in Meryl Streep's development as an actress and woman. Well done, a fun and enjoyable read - a perfect summer book!

The book does not hold my attention. The writing is not interesting to me. I'm sure Meryl has an interesting life but this book is not. Unfortunately I give this book 1 star because I would feel bad leaving a zero star.

Revealing information about this rather spectacular actor, what she experienced as a young girl in high school, how she was both an academic success as well as being a cheer leader. She graduated from Yale, where she studied theater, and appeared in local shows. and was given an opportunity to appear on Broadway. She was in love with the actor in "The Godfather" who was Fredo, but sadly Fredo died, and she was heartbroken. She met another man, not involved with show business, fell in love, married, and two beautiful daughters who are trying to make their bonafides in show business, using a different name than Steep.

This is the first book I ever read about Meryl Streep. I was pleased to read that her talent was recognized early on. Sometimes when you read a biography about a celebrity you end up being

disappointed in them as a person. Not so with this book. I liked the fact that despite her great talent, she remained faithful to her first love even throughout his final illness. The book carefully describes her step by step path to stardom from all the productions she was in at Yale drama school to her first big breakout role in the movies. It was an interesting read.

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