



I Blame Dennis Hopper: And Other Stories from a Life Lived in and Out of the Movies

Illeana Douglas

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From award-winning actress Illeana Douglas comes a memoir about learning to survive in Hollywood while staying true to her quirky vision of the world.

In 1969 Illeana Douglas' parents saw the film *Easy Rider* and were transformed. Taking Dennis Hopper's words, "That's what it's all about man" to heart, they abandoned their comfortable upper middle class life and gave Illeana a childhood filled with hippies, goats, free spirits, and free love. Illeana writes, "Since it was all out of my control, I began to think of my life as a movie, with a Dennis Hopper-like father at the center of it."

I Blame Dennis Hopper is a testament to the power of art and the tenacity of passion. It is a rollicking, funny, at times tender exploration of the way movies can change our lives. With crackling humor and a full heart, Douglas describes how a good Liza Minnelli impression helped her land her first gig and how Rudy Valley taught her the meaning of being a show biz trouper. From her first experience being on set with her grandfather and mentor-two-time Academy Award-winning actor Melvyn Douglas-to the moment she was discovered by Martin Scorsese for her blood-curdling scream and cast in her first film, to starring in movies alongside Robert DeNiro, Nicole Kidman, and Ethan Hawke, to becoming an award winning writer, director and producer in her own right, *I Blame Dennis Hopper* is an irresistible love letter to movies and filmmaking. Writing from the perspective of the ultimate show business fan, Douglas packs each page with hilarious anecdotes, bizarre coincidences, and fateful meetings that seem, well, right out of a plot of a movie.

I Blame Dennis Hopper is the story of one woman's experience in show business, but it is also a genuine reminder of why we all love the movies: for the glitz, the glamor, the sweat, passion, humor, and escape they offer us all.

I Blame Dennis Hopper: And Other Stories from a Life Lived in and Out of the Movies Details

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From Reader Review I Blame Dennis Hopper: And Other Stories from a Life Lived in and Out of the Movies for online ebook

Lydia says

This book is one of the best gifts I have ever received. I wasn't sure I was going to like it, at first, because Miss Douglas moves lyrically through her experiences at a dizzying pace, but as I read I realized this is how she thinks and speaks and I was thoroughly mesmerized and enchanted thereafter.

I had the pleasure of shooting red carpet interviews for a film critic friend in 2015 at the TCM Film Festival. Fans of the festival are special people, and their love for cinema is infectious and inspired. Imagine my joy to be given this book as a gift by my dear friend, and signed by Illeana, herself!

Illeana's stories are so beautifully written from a gleeful, wide-eyed perspective that you feel you are experiencing them, too. A special friend/fly on the wall reliving every experience in simple-yet-exciting detail. I especially love the part where she confesses her fear of not getting the part she auditioned for in *To Die For* to Roddy McDowell--whom she is meeting for the first time--and he explains that she must find and harness her joy in her work lest it be stolen from her. It was so poignant and I feel that applies to all of life. We must find and harness our joy and not let go of it no matter what obstacles we face. Thank you, Miss Douglas, for a touching and memorable journey. This book is fearless and fragile and some of the best reading fun I have had in a very long time!

Rick says

I have the incredible honor to call Illeana Douglas my friend. I've missed her over the past year or so. She was always busy. "I've got to finish writing my book!" she'd say.

Well the book is out. And I'm learning so much about my amazing, talented, funny and tender friend Illeana. Such great stories and such an appreciation for cinema and acting as the art forms that they are, but especially, the magic that they bring.

If you love movies, you'll love Illeana and this book.

Jean Farrell says

I have to admit that I enjoyed this book a lot more than I expected to. I have a friend who knew her before she made it big, and I have always been kind of interested in her, although I had not really kept up with what she's been doing lately.

The description of the book in the title is pretty accurate. It is not a memoir, per se, but a collection of stories related to acting and making movies. She is really a fangirl at heart, and her enthusiasm is infectious. I liked that she is never bitter, even when she obviously could be. She speaks of Martin Scorsese with a lot of affection, but does not talk in detail about their romantic relationship or the end of it. There is no dirt in this book, if that is what you are looking for. It was a fun read.

Libby says

That was a great Audible read! She has such a positive attitude and a love for the movies that is refreshing!

Pamster says

Super fun, will make you want to rewatch every movie she mentions because her film love is totally contagious. She is so unabashedly a huge spazzing fan of movies and actors. The stories about the making of Bella Mafia were awesome. Nastassja Kinski only whispers, instead of talking. Illeana would turn to Jennifer Tilly during their scenes and be like "Is she talking??"

There is a whole part about her love of Richard Dreyfuss, how much he influenced her as an actor in the 70s. I was texting my friend Lisa about it and saying how weird it is because he is so corny and she was like "God dude. You know he is obsessed with CIVICS. He thinks that is the problem with the educational system today, not focused on civics." She was not lying, he has a whole foundation about it. GOD. RIDIC.

Def need to rewatch a bunch of Illeana movies, espesh Grace of My Heart and To Die For.

Tiffany says

This was really good. Her passion for all things movies, stars, Hollywood comes across the pages as if she is telling you stories in your living room. Her humbleness and fan girl attitude is so refreshing. Fun, lighthearted read.

Kate says

I've always loved Illeana Douglas as an actress and now I love her as a writer. This book is so totally refreshing. She's funny and insightful, but not self-deprecating. Too many times I've read an autobiography of a person I admire only to read page after page of them beating themselves up or putting themselves down. Illeana tells it like it is, and lets you behind the Hollywood curtain into her relationship with Martin Scorsese, a wacky lunch and dinner with Marlon Brando, her tender friendship with "Uncle" Roddy McDowell, and her kinship with director Allison Anders. Full disclosure, her movie Grace of My Heart is one of my all-time, absolute favorites so I'm totally biased. Let her entertain you -- read this book!

Kevin says

Actress, writer and director Illeana Douglas possesses an unbridled love and enthusiasm for motion pictures, and her chatty, endearing and upbeat memoir, I BLAME DENNIS HOPPER, collects decades' worth of

anecdotes from in front of and behind the camera. As a teenager, her grandfather Melvyn Douglas invited her to the set of the movie that would win him his second Academy Award. "BEING THERE permanently shifted my view of movies from outsider to insider," she writes. "Now I was going behind the curtain, inside the movie looking out. I would never be the same."

"I have always loved film history, and I thought it was important to try to get stories from all of the greats of Hollywood so that those stories remain alive," Douglas continues. There is no bitterness or cynicism in the tales she spins. While working as a secretary, she slips her resume to Martin Scorsese, who's editing THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST in the same building and is intrigued that she lists "Special skills: Great legs, blood-curdling screams." Soon, she's recording background voices for the film and beginning a decade-long romance with the director.

Among Douglas's best recollections: being seduced (on camera) by Robert DeNiro in CAPE FEAR; starving and freezing while filming ALIVE in the Canadian Rockies; and her 12-hour lunch with Marlon Brando. Hopefully, this is the first of many volumes from Douglas, who promises in her next book she'll tell how Elizabeth Taylor's nose got broken while visiting her. Illeana Douglas's I BLAME DENNIS HOPPER is a delightful, endearing and star-studded memoir no film buff will want to miss.

Toni says

I knew just a little bit about the author before I read this book but obviously remember more now. Some think she's just blowing her own horn, so to speak, but her recollections of her life in film are her way of preserving movie history. Other than reading various genres of books, I adore films especially of that great era of 1930-40s. To know more about the actual production and direction of filmmaking just adds to my curiosity. I'm not talking about the glamour or the Tinseltown part of Hollywood; I'm talking about the work that's required. Illeana's chapter on making the film "Alive" and the real arctic conditions they lived and worked under is the perfect example. The book is also well written with pleasant humor. Film buffs will enjoy.

John Spiller says

I bought this book awhile back, but it kept slipping to the bottom of the "To read" pile. For whatever reason, I started reading it on a flight out of town and was hooked. "I Blame Dennis Hopper" is a series of essays regarding Douglas's rather eventful life. They range from her unconventional upbringing to her creation of a comedy series set at Ikea. Douglas is an engaging writer with a fine comedic touch. In fact, I found this book funnier than anything David Sedaris has put out in the last 10 years.

Lynx says

I'm totally in love with this book and Illeana herself. I've always enjoyed her work and it was wonderful reading about all her film experience but where this book really shines is when she discusses her own love of film. No doubt about it, Illeana is a FAN who has been lucky enough to meet, interact and work with some of the most fascinating characters in film. Her passion is infectious, and the way she writes about her

experiences make you feel a part of them, as if you are sitting down with her at home, all cozy, sharing personal stories as you do with your closest friends. I devoured this one and was completely heartbroken having reached the end. New life goal? Have dinner with Douglas and fangirl over all things film!

I highly recommend you run as fast as you can to your nearest bookstore and pick this one up!

SUSAN *Nevertheless,she persisted* says

DNF at 49%. Bored me to tears.

Lori says

I was a goodreads first reads winner of this book. I actually have the MP3 cd version. Illeana Douglas was the narrator of her own book. This is a sort of memoir. It is more like stories of her life as the title says. I liked that Illeana narrated the book herself. I could really see this woman has quite a sense of humor. The Title "I Blame Dennis Hopper:And Other Stories from a Life Lived in and Out of the Movies. describes what her memoir is really about. One of her first memories is when her dad took the family to see the movie "Easy Rider" with Dennis Hopper. This movie made a huge difference in their lives. Her dad bucked the establishment and became a hippie like the character Dennis Hopper played. They went from upper middle Class to poor within a couple years. Soon the dad left the family and she was raised by her mother. This was one "Story" from Illeana's life. there are many more in this fun and interesting book. I can really see her sense of humor and wit.

In the following chapters Illeana talks about her famous grandfather, Melvyn Douglas who she was very close to. She even got to go with him on the set of the movie "Being There" with Peter Sellers.

She also writes about directors she has worked with especially Martin Scorsese who she also dated for awhile. In more chapters she write of the movies she has been in such as Cape Fear, Alive. There is a lot of name dropping with the famous people she has worked with such as Robert DeNiro. Ethan Hawke. and Vanessa Redgrave to name a few. I really liked the chapter where she talked about Roddy McDowall. who she said was a very kind and nice man.

This was a nice book to read. Illeana Douglas has a good sense of humor about the stories from her life. If you are a fan of hers, you may enjoy reading or listening to this book. I did.

Terri Naughton says

I really can only recall seeing Illeana Douglas in one film (Grace of My Heart) which I liked. Her memoir is funny and interesting, but she sort of lost me in the last couple of chapters talking about her Ikea ventures.

Andrea says

3.5. I always liked Ileana Douglas when I saw her in things so I thought I'd give her book a try. I was a little overwhelmed by her "presence" after awhile but she had some good stories to tell. I wasn't thrilled with the first chapter which is also the title of the book, and she seemed to give a lot of focus to some of her work as

opposed to a comprehensive overview. All in all, though, I was entertained.
