



Cloris: My Autobiography

Cloris Leachman , George Englund

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Film and television darling Leachman tells her life story through the challenges of her stellar career all while raising five children. She also discusses her many famous friends in the entertainment industry as well as in the political arena.

Cloris: My Autobiography Details

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From Reader Review Cloris: My Autobiography for online ebook

Carol Littlejohn says

I love celebrity biographies, but I don't like to waste my time on a book that the author has "phoned" or taped in. I feel like the author (who co-wrote this book with her ex-husband, George Englund) spent about a couple of hours taping her stories and her ex-husband filled in the blank spaces and organized the chapters. Most of the stories can be found in Marlon Brando's autobiography, Songs My Mother Taught Me, or in other books. By the way, her ex-husband was very close friends with Marlon Brando and the two of them philandered their way across the world. I guess it didn't bother Cloris that much because her career and children seemed to be her main priorities. But how honest is this book if her ex-husband is there beside her, making certain that she doesn't give away any important secrets? Don't waste your time with this celebrity biography.

Unclebill says

OMG what a life! I wish I could be a FRACTION as sociable as she is and have a fraction of her lifetime friends! I loved this book from start to finish.

Tina says

Absolutely appalling. What horrible quality of writing. You know you're in deep mud the minute a title of a chapter almost quite literally begins: Here's a chapter listing all the famous men I slept with. Ms. Leachman may be a great actress and a woman of some piss and juice, but this book turns her into nothing more than another bragging psychopathic, Hollywoodian. As in, Here! Have more drek for your greed for the sensational shelf! And what's worst, the bio here commits the ultimate crime of being just plain BORING.

Jennifer says

If you are looking for a linear, chronologically organized book, this is no it. If you are looking for something that is fun and zany, this IS definitely it. From one of the funniest ladies of stage, film, and TV, Cloris Leachman takes her readers from her childhood in Des Moines, Iowa, to her work with Katherine Hepburn, and from her immortal Frau Blucher to her time on Dancing with the Stars. A great book by a funny and fascinating lady.

Michele Brack says

#35 An autobiography

Oh my God. I always knew that I liked Cloris Leachman, but holy shit... I had no idea all the stuff she's done and the people she's hung out with!

Marlon Brando, Katherine Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe... She was Miss Chicago in 1946 and was third runner up for Miss America that same year! She was a model and a radio star... I mean, wow...

Not to mention she's hilarious and plays the piano and dances and sings...

I want to be her when I grow up.

Kdevoli says

I read this one in between several "heavy" books because I thought it would be light-hearted and entertaining, and for the most part it was, but I was struck by the brief mention of one of Cloris' children, a young man who died from his drug addiction. Once again I was taken back to *Beautiful Boy*, and fearing for Nic's ongoing safety. A parent never gets over that loss. This book was another reminder of that. Besides that, it was full of random antecdotes, and Cloris has an engaging way of frittering about and trying hard to stay on topic.

David Jay says

The book comes across much the same way that Cloris Leachman comes across--fun, scattered, wacky, enjoyable to spend some time with. I think she is an amazing actress but I was surprised at what a rich career she has had--Shakespeare on Broadway with Katharine Hepburn, more Emmys than any other actor in history, an Oscar. And her Hollywood status is equally impressive--neighbors with Judy Garland, friends with the Kennedys and Marlon Brando. The book is never less than interesting.

Neil Schleifer says

Cloris is a character, and she's certainly had an interesting life. But the book? Meh!

She alternates between anecdotes and advice to young actors. At times she seems to be aiming for the deliberately outrageous. The advice, however, seems pedantic; and the anecdotes aren't quite outrageous enough. I WANTED to like this book much more than I did. I mean the woman has won Oscars, Emmys, been featured in some of the funniest Mel Brooks films, starred on the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Phyllis*, *The Facts of Life* and *Malcolm in the Middle*. Her mother-in-law was the great character actress Mabel Albertson (Darren Stephens mother on *BEWITCHED*), and Cloris was even in the Miss America pageant. I don't know why, with a life so chock-full of amazing incidents, this book felt flat.

Kim says

As auto-biographies go, this one is alright. Leachman does not write in a progression of a time-line as most do, and had trouble staying on a topic. She did touch on the death of her son Bryan to an overdose, and did it

very well.

Kate says

Welp, I was sadly disappointed in this book. Cloris would have been well-served to work with an actual biographer, rather than winging it with some help from her ex-husband. The book comes off scattered and self-indulgent, and it's a damn shame, because you KNOW this woman is an amazing talent who's lived a fascinating life! The right biographer could have asked her all the right questions and structured her story better. I guess this book is better than not having ANY of Cloris' story documented, but ultimately, it's a missed opportunity.

Sean says

Ms. Leachman has long been a favorite actress, most notably for her amazing work in "Young Frankenstein", as well as her Oscar winning role as Ruth Popper in "The Last Picture Show".

Her autobiography is exactly as I imagined having a conversation with her; breezy, fun, loving, generous, and witty. She speaks to all aspects of her life, leaving nothing to chance. The amazing part of being let into her world, is realising the great variety of people she has known; the Kennedys, Brando, the Chaplins - just to name a few.

"Cloris" was co-written by George Englund, to who Ms. Leachman was married for many years.

Mia Salazar says

A Smooth Ride

I gave it a 5 star rating because it was open, honest a smooth ride to the end. She didn't go overboard on details, but shared enough to get an idea of her life. I finished it in a few hours and read right thru it. It was enjoyable and I recommend it to anyone who's a Cloris Leachman fan.

Carla Peele says

Despite the fact that Cloris seemed to be completely nonlinear in the telling of her life-story, so that you jumped around from time to place "Oh, I'm seven"/"Oh, my granddaughter is seven", it wasn't hard to follow. She "spoke" in a conversational style, rather like your grandmother remembering stories, and then one memory giving tangent to another...

George Englund, who co-authored the book with her, was not just her ex-husband, but the true love of her life, and she of his. Despite separations and eventual divorce, they remained best friends, like Lucy and Desi, which is wonderful, especially since they had five lovely children together, Adam, Bryan, Georgie Jr., Morgan and Dinah. Though, the two things that seemed to have pulled them apart, she mentions, were

different and incompatible parenting styles and his close, brotherly kinship with Marlon Brando, a relationship which he seemed to put high above his own marriage, and Marlon his. (No, it wasn't anything BUT brotherly, though, Marlon told him shortly before dying, "George, I love you, man-- if you had a ****, I would've married you years ago!")

The saddest part of the book was not when she mentioned about her son, Bryan, dying-- but the time she had to spend away from her first three when they were little, following a miscarriage. When the small boys asked, "Where's Mama? Who's that?" when she came to the room, I was so choked up... But, clearly, they didn't get separated like that again, and she was able to regain a close relationship with them, and now she and George Sr. not only have several children, but grandchildren and one great grandson.

Her take on life is funny and soft, and a little bawdy at times, and I'm glad I read, and completely enjoyed.

Rebecca Aguilar says

Cloris Leachman and her husband did a wonderful telling her story. Ok it wasn't in any kind of order. It was more like a conversation between Leachman and her readers.

I liked that every chapter was a nice surprise and a different slice of Leachman's life. That's what made this book unique. She was funny, entertaining and the little nuggets that she shared about other celebrities were "aha" moments.

Although I found it interesting that Leachman didn't write much about Mary Tyler Moore.

Craig Leimkuehler says

This was a light and frothy story of the rise of Cloris Leachman. Who is she? She's the little girl vieing for her father's attention. She is a woman who never had any doubts. She went to Northwestern and ran the theater dept, went to New York and immediately got a starring role. I had the opportunity to see her recently to speak and promote her book. At 81 she was a handful for the poor man trying unsuccessfully to conduct an interview.
