



In the Frame

Helen Mirren

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A pictorial autobiography of Helen Mironov, featuring family photographs, publicity shots from her early career, and some stunning images by the world's leading photographers, all linked together with her memories of the time. Large hardback, pp272.

In the Frame Details

Date : Published September 20th 2007 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9780297851974

Author : Helen Mirren

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography Memoir

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From Reader Review In the Frame for online ebook

Jessica says

a heroine of mine: queen, star, foxy lady & all that...

Lindsay says

This was fun, especially the parts about Liam Neeson. Now I only hope she makes a second book taking her life up to the present day. Fun side note, my mother picked the book up for me and while talking to the librarian about it, randomly opened the book up to a naked picture of Miss Mirren while my ten year old son walked up to them. Good times!

NB says

Enjoyed this book. I liked how there were so many pictures and the words are there to describe. She does not over dramatize or under dramatize her life. You can tell she just really loves her life and the people around her.

Jenny says

Though there is not much text, this is a finely balanced autobiography which combines a fascinating array of photographs alongside her prose. It is a very engaging book that documents what many would now see as a golden age of acting but in a visceral way that shows the hard work involved in such an industry. At no point does she come across as egotistical or arrogant, but there is a real honesty and admiration for her fellow industry workers. I loved it from start to finish.

Lisa Marie says

I tried several times but I really couldn't get into this - I'm so used to the "so-called" typical biographies/memoirs that feature pictures between chapters; for me all the pages and pages of pictures were more of a distraction and many of the pictures had no description included as to who the people featured in the pictures were. This had the feeling of someone handing me their photo albums and as I was looking through, I ask about this or that picture and, the person would tell me a little back story or the situation surrounding the picture. After picking this up and putting it down several times, I just took an evening to look through the pictures. I do have to say some of these pictures are really interesting and amazing. I wish I had looked through this at the library or at a book store and hadn't bought this.

Susan says

Excellent! Helen Mirren gives us snippets of her professional and personal life experiences, along with a bunch of photos, some from her personal collection.

I enjoyed reading about the unusual and exciting life she has lead so far, and her jobs on the stage and screen.

One little complaint - I am being greedy and would have loved to have read more about the behind-the-scene stuff while filming *Excalibur*. I know that John Boorman did a commentary track on the dvd, but it would have been nice to get her perspective as well. As I said, this is just a minor thing because this is one of my favorite movies and too much isn't enough! :)

Mark Desrosiers says

I found this book in my neighbor's apartment while catsitting, and between brushing fur and wet-wiping an adorably overweight cat's butt (her tongue can't reach), my lust for Helen was rekindled. What an odd career: she's starred in the worst movie of all time (*The Fiendish Plot of Dr. Fu Manchu* [oh c'mon, *Caligula* wasn't that bad!]) and the greatest political film ever (*The Cook, the Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*). She was Liam Neeson's sackmate for four-odd years. (Now she's married to Taylor Hackford, the only man alive who can get away with a neatly trimmed white beardy thing on his face.) She's the hottest fiftysomething (er, sorry *sixtysomething*) actress around, and still has no problem taking her kit off. So, her memoir is more like a coffee-table book – glossy pages and lots of pictures, the sort of thing to flip through and pass around a party rather than read from cover to cover. Which isn't to say her words don't matter – there's a lot of great insight, wit, and gossip to be found here too.

Touring Africa with Peter Brook's experimental theater: "Each of us had to make our own decision about going on the carpet and engaging in the performance, which was often an audience of three women, two kids human and three kids goat" (later, they were paid for a performance with a goat, which prompted the usual vegetarian-hippie debates among the touring cast).

On making *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*: "The dog turds used in that horrific first scene were also made by our chef. He prepared them out of the very best chocolate, like beautiful chocolate truffles. The minute the dogs were let out, they ran around and ate them all up. Once again, the actors missed out!"

While filming *2010* in her first Hollywood stint: "I had to learn that Americans did not go in for the kind of theatrical swearing I was used to. There is one word in particular which begins with a C and ends with a T and has an N and a U in it. This word is absolutely the pits in America. No word is worse. [...] ... the director called 'Cut!' As an amused throwaway I turned to Roy [Scheider] and said, 'Oh, Roy, you c***.' The whole studio froze in horror. Roy looked utterly shocked, whereupon I dug myself deeper and deeper. 'Oh no! I didn't mean you c***, I just meant, you know, you C***.!'"

A most excellent memoir. The nude photos are after page 153.

GraceAnne says

This is enormously satisfying. This brilliant and sensual actress addresses her family and career, friendships and lovers, with disarming directness. It is also absolutely chock-full of photographs by famous photographers and not; family snapshots, some historical;, art and design shots; and of course, many of

Mirren in her many roles on stage (and screen).

I did not read every word of every essay, but Mirren is particularly kind to every man she's ever loved. Some of us will be particularly enthralled by her writing about Liam Neeson, who was hers for about four years before he was quite famous.

Purlewe says

A very interesting read. I also loved the photographs.

Julie Christine says

I have long admired actress Helen Mirren, so this was a treat to discover. This isn't an autobiography nor does Mirren explore her past in great depth. It's a lovely portrait of memories in text and photos of her development and experiences as an actress. There is more energy devoted to her years on the stage, rather than her more recent work in film. Mirren's voice comes through as down-to-earth and earthy, a creative soul devoted to friends from adolescence and her early years in the theatre, respectful of her many colleagues, both those with bold-face names and those more obscure. She seems like an incredibly healthy, rounded, possessed and intelligent woman who remains humble and gracious in work and with loved ones. Brava, bella!

Patti says

Such a talented, exceptional, beautiful woman.

Jan says

Very interesting autobiography. Lots of fascinating photographs.

John Neil says

I don't read a lot of biography and was given this as a gift. I dipped in and out of it over an extended period and found it mostly interesting and entertaining. Well worth a look if you also find Ms Mirren interesting and attractive.

Terri Dixon says

Helen Mirren is one of my favorite actresses, ever since I saw her as Morgana in Excalibur; along with my favorite actor, Charley Boorman. I have seen every movie and TV show she ever did, and I was thrilled when this autobiography came out. It tells amazing details from her life and it is a great read. The pictures

are also amazing. Must read.

Sammy says

I started this book a couple of years ago, but misplaced it when I was about half-way through. After re-arranging things recently I stumbled across it again, so took the opportunity to finally finish it.

What can I say..? Helen Mirren is simply a delight. The book is less of a proper auto biography, and more of a photo album with commentary. But this is what makes it charming, I think.

It was a fun enough read, and I enjoyed reading about the life of this incredible actress - some real surprises there! - I will probably pick up a proper (auto)biography in the future, but this was a lovely read in its own right.
