

Ingrid Bergman My Story

*by Ingrid Bergman
and Alan Burgess*

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My Story Ingrid Bergman

Ingrid Bergman - winner of three Academy Awards - tells her own story both onstage and off. The book describes her relationships with the characters she knew and worked with, including Selznick, Garbo, Bogart, Gary Cooper and Ingmar Bergman. Above all, she reveals the story of her personal life - her childhood in Sweden, her marriages (including her dramatic and controversial elopement with Roberto Rossellini), and, in more recent years, her battle against cancer. She died in 1982.

My Story Details

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Kathy says

This is the story of my favorite actress. A wonderful woman! I really loved it!

Lori says

I loved this book. It moves seamlessly between Bergman's own words and correspondence and 3rd person narrative that ties the story together. Very compassionate, humble and real.

Francene Carroll says

This is the story of a remarkable woman told in her own words and those of people close to her. It also makes extensive use of letters by Ingrid and the important people in her life, which gives it a very intimate and authentic feel. The shifts between Ingrid's voice and others is almost seamless, and the book provides great insights not just into Ingrid's life but a whole chapter in 20th century history. I loved the references to other famous people that she mixed with, and the descriptions of the high-flying and glamorous life she led.

It wasn't all sunshine and roses for Ingrid, though, and the book doesn't shy away from the difficult and heartbreaking times she went through. Her relationship with Roberto Rossellini was very stormy, but the story of how they got together, which opens the book, is so romantic it's like something straight out of a movie.

Ingrid comes across as a very down-to-earth and likeable person with a strong moral compass. I think this is the reason she survived for so long in the acting game, because she never let her ego get the better of her. She tried hard to do the best by everyone in her life, but at the same time she is completely dedicated to her art, and this sometimes meant she neglected people. I felt a bit sorry for her children because she did not seem to spend much time with them as they were growing up.

Her biggest flaw, in my opinion, was her weakness when it came to men. She let her first husband dominate her, and then flew straight into the arms of another man who was even worse. Rossellini refused to let her work with any other directors when they were married and for a long time she went along with this, even though they produced only box-office disasters together.

Reading between the lines I sense that the reason she ended up with Rossellini was because she was desperate to leave her first husband and he provided a way out. Little did she know what she was letting herself in for! Despite his extreme egotism, Ingrid and Rossellini genuinely loved each other and remained close till the day he died. Ingrid was the type of person who seemed to have inspired long lasting and loyal relationships because she was a class-act till the very end.

I probably shouldn't admit this, but the whole time I was reading this book I had Ingrid Bergman mixed up with Katherine Hepburn, and when I got to the end I wondered why *On Golden Pond* was never mentioned. Duh! Obviously I knew very little about her before reading the book, and I was especially surprised to discover how much of her career was spent on the stage. I'm very inspired now to see some of her films and also Rossellini's. I might even give *On Golden Pond* a go, too, and I should probably brush up on my

knowledge of Katherin Hepburn while I'm at it!

Katharine says

Love this book and read it many times. It is really interesting and a well written book for Bergman fans.

Katrin says

This book was a chance find on the fleamarket, but it turned out to be very interesting. I've always been an Ingrid Bergman fan, but I didn't know very much about her life. Now I do - and in a sense, the perception I always had of her has been confirmed: She was a very strong woman who didn't let anything get her down, who was very straightforward, had lots of humour and a great, eventful life and wasn't your typical Hollywood star. There was a lot of Sweden in her still, which I love. And I hadn't known that her affair/later marriage with Roberto Rossellini was such a scandal, and that the pressure of the public & the media seems to have been just as bad as it is today, paparazzi and all. A very inspiring life story. I think in my next life I want to be Ingrid Bergman.

Spiderorchid says

An interesting (auto)biography. Most of the text is by Ingrid Bergmann (I suppose edited by her co-author, Alan Burgess), with some explanatory paragraphs by Burgess and numerous quotes from her daughters Pia and Isabella, her husbands, actors and directors she worked with etc.

I would have liked to get to know more about her movies, especially the filming process, and her co-stars. There are some passages about this, but only about some of her movies. The focus is definitely more on her private life, especially her three marriages and the "scandal" when she met Roberto Rossellini. Actually, a good third of the book covers her relationship with Rossellini, the problems with her divorce from her first husband, the break-up with Rossellini after seven years, custody-battles and the behaviour of the press.

The view represented in this book is - not surprisingly so in an autobiography - very subjective. There are some things that are obviously very important to Ingrid Bergmann and that therefore are talked about a lot and other themes that would have been interesting to know for the reader but are told only in passing.

All in all a well-written, enjoyable book, that isn't so much about her most famous Hollywood movies and co-stars but focusses more on her private life, the early Swedish films and her work at the theater.

Carolyn says

If you're too young to remember the scandal, Ingrid Bergman, the #1 box office star at the time, left her husband and had a child with her director of the movie Stromboli. They later married and divorced and she married and divorced again. It seems utterly quaint in 2016 that this was a big enough deal that the public, the press, and even a U.S. Senator were horrified, and she stayed out of the U.S. for 20 years.

Anyway, it's a fine biography, which includes the author's narrative of events, Ingrid's own impressions and

