



Ghostbuster's Daughter: Life with My Dad, Harold Ramis

Violet Ramis Stiel

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From the daughter of Ghostbusters star Harold Ramis comes a hilarious and heartwarming account of his life, work, and legacy.

Most of us know Harold Ramis as the filmmaker and actor who brought warmth and humor to the big screen in classics like *Caddyshack*, *Ghostbusters*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Groundhog Day*, and *National Lampoon's Animal House*. To Violet Ramis, he was best known as an amazing father, confidant, and friend. In *Ghostbuster's Daughter*, Violet reflects on the life and legacy of her father, providing readers with an extraordinarily candid and insightful look into the man who helped shape modern American comedy.

Funny, endearing, and vulnerable, *Ghostbuster's Daughter* takes readers into the personal life of an American comedy icon, from his humble roots in Chicago and his ascension into Hollywood superstardom to his personal philosophies on life, love, and filmmaking. While the book serves as a comprehensive biography of her father's filmmaking career, *Ghostbuster's Daughter* is also an homage to their special father/daughter relationship. Violet weaves anecdotes about her father's unique and devoted parenting style among stories of her own unconventional upbringing, ultimately allowing readers to see a more vivid portrait of the man behind the camera. An incredibly personal biography as well as a charming family story for the ages, *Ghostbuster's Daughter* is an intimate look at one of America's preeminent comedy filmmakers.

Ghostbuster's Daughter: Life with My Dad, Harold Ramis Details

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Author : Violet Ramis Stiel

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From Reader Review Ghostbuster's Daughter: Life with My Dad, Harold Ramis for online ebook

John says

I will say it is in fact, impossible to put down. Finished it in a single day. Harold Ramis was a big part of my childhood, mainly through GHostbusters 1 and 2 playing repeatedly and overtime Stripes, Caddyshack, Vacation and Animal house. He very well a major part of what my comedy through his writing and occasionally acting. His daughter is equally as cool as him, maybe more so. This book was a joy to read. Violet Ramis Stiel wrote a loving book about her and her dad. It is all not airs and graces, but the telling a wonderful human being warts and all through the eyes of another wonderful human being who loved her dad so much. I cried through it at the emotions, at the love and the loss and if you ever loved something Ramis did, I think you will love this book too. One of my favorite parts were the picture, a set of color and black and white of Ramis who seems to have the most infectious smile looking at them. Also loved the little sections of some of the movies he made and after reading them, would love to recheck them out like bedazzled, multiplicity, year one and the Ice Harvest.

Ramis was a great man and his movies and especially this book proves it.

Kevin says

Violet Ramis Stiel's affectionate memoir of her father, writer-director-producer-actor Harold Ramis (GROUNDHOG DAY, ANIMAL HOUSE, CADDYSHACK, GHOSTBUSTERS), offers an overview of both his successful career and their often chaotic family life. At one point, Ramis tells his daughter, "I think, really, being an adult is about acknowledging ambiguity in all areas of life and finding a way to be okay with that." Stiel embraces the disorder of her childhood and her father's life.

Stiel's parents had a "marital arrangement of low-key nonmonogamy." When Stiel was eight, her parents decided to divorce because Ramis had fallen in love with his personal assistant (and soon-to-be second wife, Erica). That same year, Ramis and his daughter visited director Amy Heckerling (FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH) in the hospital after she'd given birth. Later, Stiel discovered her dad had fathered Heckerling's baby girl. From an early age, Stiel visited the sets of most of her father's films, graduating to bit parts and working behind the scenes. The book ends with heartfelt memories of her father's four-year battle with debilitating vasculitis and a brain hemorrhage--something the family kept hidden. The secret kept his career safe but left the family without emotional support from loved ones.

GHOSTBUSTER'S DAUGHTER is a genuine love letter to Harold Ramis from his adoring but clear-eyed, shrewd and opinionated daughter. Her portrait captures her father from all sides, calling him a "perfectly imperfect person" and "the best father I could have ever imagined." Fans will enjoy Stiel's deeply personal, irreverent and loving valentine to her beloved father.

Harold Ramis's daughter remembers her beloved father and her disorderly childhood in this supremely loving but emotionally candid memoir.

Rachel says

A sweet reminder of how powerful a father/daughter relationship can be. Loved learning more about Harold Ramis! His movies were great, as was he!

Dez Schwartz says

This book verified everything that I love about Harold Ramis and introduced me to a lot of things that I never expected. Violet's story is more than just an homage to the celebrity we all grew up admiring; it's a heartfelt love letter to a father that clearly left his daughter with the message that all parents should pass on to their children - that they are loved unconditionally.

Witty, thoughtful, and many times heartbreaking, "Ghostbuster's Daughter" is a must read for all Ramis fans and anyone who can relate to being a "daddy's girl". Violet is authentic and bravely honest in this intimate book about family, growing pains, and that messy thing we call life.

Anecdotes, photos, and personal letters fill the pages leaving you truly feeling what you knew in your heart going in - that Harold left a lasting impression on all of us and we are all better for it.

Glenda Nelms says

Heartfelt, sincere, funny and insightful perspective of writer, director and actor Harold Ramis through the eyes of his daughter Violet Ramis Stiel. Harold Ramis was more than a entertainer, he was a husband, father, Grandfather, friend and philanthropist. This book has life lessons that we should learn from him. The saddest part of the book was how health problems left her father unable to speak and walk. Thank you Violet for sharing this deep,inspiring and beautiful tribute of your father to all of us.

Diana Brown says

Violet Stiel loves her Daddy. She knows many of us love him too. And now that he has died, she'd like two things:

1. To keep him as alive as she can through memories and affectionate tribute
2. For you to know the man she knew, and love him as she did.

This book is not a biography of Ramis or his daughter. Rather, it's a memoir - a glimpse into each of their lives, following the thread of where those two lives intersected. It is the story of Violet's rare relationship with an uncommon man, and how he shaped her world and her heart.

This is not the dramatic Biography of a Famous Man. It's not the Heartbreaking Memoir of a Dysfunctional Family. It's a love letter to Harold Ramis, from the person whose life he touched more deeply than any other, and invitation for you to see the man she saw. An invitation worth accepting.

#EgonButNotForgotten

Sean Gibson says

Reviewed for Kirkus: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

More like 3.5 stars.

Full disclosure: Harold Ramis is, in my humble opinion, a comedy god, Ghostbusters is the greatest movie ever made, and one of the greatest tragedies in the history of the arts is that Ghostbusters 3 never actually became a thing. That might have influenced my star rating.

If you love Ramis, this will be interesting (and I mean the full Ramis oeuvre--not just one or two movies, as there's not that much detail about any particular film).

Patricia says

Honest, heartwarming and humorous. I wouldn't want to have know Violet in high school, but I'd love to meet her now!

Kathy (Bermudaonion) says

3.75 stars

Ellen says

"Ghostbusters" is one of my most favorite movies of all time, so I was curious about Harold Ramis. I hadn't realized how many movies he directed, and his personal life was "complicated," but his love for his daughter stayed constant through all of it. RIP Dr. Spengler.

Elizabeth Stolar says

A low 4/high 3 stars. As a Washington University alumni, Harold Ramis is our most famous alum. So when people would claim that presidents or huge movie stars went to their alma maters, we would counter with Harold Ramis. So, when I read that there was a new memoir about him, I figured I should read it, since I didn't really know all that much about his personal life.

This was an interesting and quick read, and it certainly goes through all of his major movies. There was a lot that I didn't know about him, and he was sick for longer than I had realized. This isn't really a memoir about him - more his daughter's memoir of her relationship with him, so it isn't quite the same as reading a biography, but it is interesting to read about him from his daughter's perspective. (Although some of the perspective is a bit cringe-inducing, such as when she decides she is going to have a second baby, so she

contacts her dad to ask if this is okay, given that she would need him to give her money so she could take time off of work and pay for the expenses of a second child. I can't quite imagine making life choices this way, but, this is her experience, so good to read about it to realize these sorts of situations exist.)

Adam Sockel says

Coming from a large, unique family full of laughter, sadness, joy and jewish heritage, this memoir quite simply hit me right in the feels. At times it may seem like Violet takes advantage of having her father as a safety net but she does so fully acknowledging that she's lucky to have it. Her honesty about how she and her father saw (and see) the world is refreshing and she blends in stories about Harold's movies that any comedy fan like myself will adore. My heart aches for Violet and anyone who has lost a loved one. It's a fact of life that this will happen but it doesn't make it any less bittersweet. This principal sits at the essence of this memoir. Please read it (with tissues)

Daniel says

Occasionally interesting look at Harold Ramis but I think you have to be a super fan to truly appreciate this book. (Admittedly, I loved his work in the 80s but kind of let go post-Groundhog's Day.) Also, I guess I was expecting a more straightforward biography and exploration of his films and/or how he worked. I guess this just wasn't the book I was looking for.

Instead, it's really the story of his daughter, her relationship with Ramis, and - well - her life. If you'd like to learn more about Harold Ramis' daughter - her love for her father, adolescent years in Los Angeles - give it a go.

*Also no mention of his work in Baby Boomer as Diane Keaton's go-go yuppie boyfriend, a small role but one of his best. A shame. Would love to know more about his experience working on this film.

Abigail Kezele says

Reading this book made me love Harold Ramis even more! The man was a genius and an inspiration. Violet's relationship with her dad is that type of relationship every daughter should have with their father. I absolutely loved this book.

J.A. McNeil says

Couldn't put it down and read the entire book in one day. Here was my adolescence through adulthood juxtaposed with one of my favorite actors and screenwriters life story. The brave memoir of Harold Ramis' daughter is honest, eye-opening, and beautifully told with candid photos and countless interesting anecdotes. Ramis is someone I would love to have as a girlfriend, next door neighbor or fellow colleague. Who would have had such a rare glimpse into a Hollywood success story? Not only did she live the Hollywood dream

life, she survived it while somehow remaining in touch with her true self. By the end of the book, we feel the depth her grief losing such a creative genius as a father and a loving role model. Sure, this father and daughter relationship is unusual, and there is a fair amount of co-dependency. What makes their story delightful in an all too imperfect world is the constant love and humor that made somehow makes it all better.
