



After All

Mary Tyler Moore

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She was America's darling: actress, producer, star of the golden age of television. Her work on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* garnered multiple Emmys, followed by critical acclaim for her acting on Broadway and in film. Now, in her witty, candid, heartbreaking autobiography, Mary Tyler Moore tells all, about...the Dick Van Dyke nobody knows...Elvis, her sly, seductive co-star in *Change of Habit*...how Carl Reiner taught her to cry while being funny...Robert Redford's confession after casting her in *Ordinary People*...about then-First Lady Betty Ford's inebriated debut on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and years later, her phone call that saved Mary's life.

Mary spares nothing as she recounts her traumatic childhood, two failed marriages, her own alcoholism, the tragic death of her son, and her third, happy marriage to a cardiologist eighteen years her junior. Moving, inspiring, and brutally frank, *After All* will touch every reader's heart and soul.

After All Details

Date : Published October 1st 1996 by Dell (first published 1995)

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Author : Mary Tyler Moore

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Mary Jean says

I wanted to read this after learning of the death of Mary Tyler Moore. I wish she had gone into more detail about some of the more fascinating experiences she divulged in the book. She started out giving lots of detail of her "growing up" years, but then seemed to "race" through her later years.

Cws says

92M

Kesavan Srinivasan says

Fascinating memoir by a talented actress/entertainer with her share of personal demons.

Diana says

I really liked this book. A good insight into a person's life that you would assume to be perfect. This book proves otherwise, though. She is still an amazing person...just not perfect! I think it makes her even more likeable. I enjoyed getting to hear about all of her treks through the show business world. Very entertaining.

Ann Marie says

This the worst book I have ever read. I thought based on her comedic skills that it would be uplifting. The tone was so negative, everyone else was to blame. I stopped reading before Richie's suicide, and then leafed through to the end.

Cindy says

An interesting read, and it's the second time I've read this. There are a lot of jumping around and coming back, it's not so much a biography as little memories in such. Sometimes I felt things weren't explained and we the readers were supposed to know about it, like her being friends with Betty White. It just came out of no where that she was.

Em says

What an incredibly honest and reflective book. It's very well written and penned without a professional ghost writer, which makes it all the more impressive. I've always had a deep admiration for Mary Tyler Moore and loved her as Laura Petrie and would, to this day, prefer to watch Dick Van Dyke rerun to almost any new show. And as with probably every single woman who came of age in the 1970s I wanted to be Mary Richards. The private life and pain of Mary Tyler Moore is sketched here with refreshing clarity without, it seems, any particular regard to her image or to seek sympathy. Her son's and sibling's deaths and the bleakness of her early marriages and her additions are told in such a classy, perceptive and unvarnished way, not a hint of heightened drama. She reveals the less than perfect and earthy side of herself and I didn't believe it possible but I admire her all the more.

JDAZDesigns says

Girl seeking Daddy's approval - check

Molested as a child - check

Alcoholic mother - check

When she writes in the beginning that this book isn't about "Mary," she's right. If you don't have a lot of patience, you'll give up before it gets good.

This book doesn't hit its stride until the middle.

And then it's not much of a stride.

Kathy Porter says

First of all, I very rarely write an actual review to accompany the books I have read--specifically, on this site, I believe I have only done it once--but this autobiography calls for the special occasion to write one.

I first read Mary Tyler Moore's autobiography a few years ago and recently re-read it. I tore through it in two days (it would have been one day had I not had homework assignments to complete). There are very few books, of any genre, that have truly stuck with me, but this is one of them.

I thoroughly enjoy the writing style. Rather than being presented in a straight-and-narrow chronological order, the memories and writings expressed in each chapter read like a journal: that's how connected I, as the reader, felt to Mrs. Moore.

As a major fan of the classic television genre (a trait of my personality that has always set me apart from my peers, as I am only 23, but grew up watching reruns when Nick-At-Nite was all about the carefree, innocent, shows of the '60s), I have always adored Mary Tyler Moore--for her acting skills and for all of her accomplishments (the latter which continues to inspire me to no end). An honest glimpse into the obstacles and challenges she has faced in life, coupled with the heartbreaking choices she made to cope with such trying times have taught me crucial life lessons that I, thankfully, will never have to experience myself after reading about, as well as witnessing, the irreparable damage and regrets that come with the territory (from

this novel, as well as my past experiences with an alcoholic grandmother, grandfather, and uncles).

I could write about several themes I find most inspiring, and hopeful, throughout this book, but you should experience this ride for yourself. Re-reading it now, as a graduate student studying professional counseling, it has added even more value to my life. And, really, isn't that the point of life? To make the path a little easier for those traveling behind you. Regardless of your career--if you happen to be a well-known celebrity or an "average" person--we really are all the same and it is our moral obligation to each other to add value to each, and every life, possible. I like to believe this particular autobiography does that beautifully. Thank God for open, honest, people such as Mary Tyler Moore, who have the courage to be completely open (scars and all) for the benefit of others.

Melanie says

I enjoyed this book. A few months ago I was perusing the DVD selection at the library and ended up bringing home season 1 of the Mary Tyler Moore Show. Having piqued my curiosity of this beautiful, charismatic woman, I sought out her autobiography. Moore took a candid approach in the telling of her life story, choosing to share not only her successes and triumphs, but also her heartaches and regrets as well. It was fascinating to me. For a woman who craved acceptance and approval, particularly from her parents, she was and continues to be well-loved and admired by so many people. I appreciated the accounts of overcoming alcohol and tobacco; that alone is evidence of the strength of her character. I am grateful to know that she has found peace, happiness, and security in her marriage and lifestyle in her later years.

I particularly found the following quote quite meaningful:

"In those days I was, like most working mothers, eager to join the movement and proclaim our right and our need to express ourselves, to be fulfilled and happy knowing that every ounce of our creativity was being used. And that it was possible also to raise children at the same time.

"I no longer believe that. I think there is something in nature that says women should work if they can, but once they commit to bringing life into the world that should be the first priority. When a child is raised in a day-care center, it is not the same thing. Many mothers have to work and there is no choice. But it's not the best beginning for children. I am surprised to find myself writing this. In my own case, it wasn't just a matter of not enough hours in the day to work and also to be with my child, it was complicated by an inability to enjoy my child, to understand what a child wants and needs."

Karen says

I am enjoying reading about the "other" side of Mary Tyler Moore and the issues she struggled with as she approached adulthood.

Interesting and a little different than what I usually read.

Jim Cullison says

An astonishingly well-written memoir (sans ghostwriter) that is sharply witty and scorchingly candid. Perhaps the best Hollywood memoir that I have ever read.

Lisa says

This book kept my attention, but I confess I was disappointed sometimes. No, I didn't expect Mary to be perfect, but I also didn't expect her to acknowledge that she never had time for her son while he was growing up. She indicated that she wouldn't have an affair with Dick Cavett because he was too short, never appearing to consider that maybe he didn't want to have an affair with her. She seemed to always need a man in her life, and she threw a lot of tantrums.

On facing pages, she talked about spending \$72,500 on a bed and not having the money to make a "generous" contribution to the Pope. I found the juxtaposition amusing.

And surely there must have been some proofreader or editor who knows how to spell Gene Kelly's last name. :(

Laura says

Written by Moore back in 1995 when she was 59, this is her life story, touching on her many professional accomplishments and highlights and lowlights on her personal life. A good read for fans--I learned lots of interesting factoids:

- In her book, she outs herself as brooding, paranoid, perfectionistic, and pessimistic. Say it ain't so, Mair! A sample quote about a childhood dance recital: "I remember thinking that my job was to take a group of people who really didn't like me, and show them if I couldn't win them over at least I'd remain upright and smiling when the music ended. There was no pleasure in it—just the challenge.... I've brought that trait with me throughout life."
- I admit I raced through her Catholic upbringing with her cold/alcoholic parents (luckily she had a loving aunt and grandmother), eager to get to her big break being cast as Laura Petrie at age 25 in 1961. She'd already been a wife and mother for 5 years at that point!
- For their show about a young New Rochelle couple with a comedy writer husband, the producers first considered Eileen Brennan for the role of Laura, with Rob Reiner to play Rob Petrie. (I think of sultry Brennan in "The Sting," and can't imagine her as perky Laura!)
- Quote: "It's hard to get close to Dick Van Dyke. He will give you his opinions and articulate them with candor and charm but only a few people have been able to penetrate the facade.... I don't know the man much better than I did that first year."
- Elvis was quoted as saying he slept with all his leading ladies "but one." MTM writes, "I don't want to bust anyone's cover, but I know who the 'one' is."
- For The MTM Show, Gavin McLeod was seriously considered for the Lou Grant part.
- Valerie Harper was deemed too beautiful to be Rhoda (but they couldn't deny her that iconic role).
- Due to negative test results on The MTM Show pilot in 1970, CBS tried to cancel the show before ever broadcasting it.
- A miscarried baby with second husband Grant Tinker (who already had 4 children from a previous

marriage) in her mid-thirties triggered MTM's Type 1 diabetes. Insulin injections ever since, and she's become a diabetes spokesperson.

- During the 1970s, she became an "acute alcoholic," arguing every night during the cocktail hour(s) before dinner with her "distant" husband, Tinker.
 - She didn't want to end the MTM Show but all the staff writers were getting offers for their own series, and Tinker wanted to move on, too. The word went out it was her decision, but she says closing that show was a "crippling moment for me."
 - One late 1970s variety show she tried to launch after The MTM Show had the following amazing young cast: Michael Keaton, David Letterman, Swoosie Kurtz, and Dick Shawn. It only lasted 8 episodes.
 - She had an on-set affair while making "Ordinary People," but doesn't name the high-profile man. She's a bit bitter she lost the Oscar to Sissy Spacek.
 - In 1978 her 20-year-younger sister died in her early 20s of a drug overdose.
 - Two years later, her troubled son (same age as her sister), Richie Meeker, killed himself while handling a shotgun. She refuses to call it as suicide. She and Tinker split a year or two later.
 - After her divorce, she tried to start life over by moving to New York (her home town) from L.A., and had to learn things like banking and doing her laundry, since things like that had always been done for her as a pampered Hollywood star and wife.
 - Various affairs with unnamed guys. Considered initiating an affair with her friend Dick Cavett, but he was too short.
 - The love of her life (at the writing of the book) is her very kind-sounding husband Robert Levine, an 18-year-younger NY cardiologist she met when she took her mother to the ER for a bronchial problem.
 - At some point in her 50s, she hit bottom with her alcohol addiction and ended up at the Betty Ford Clinic for 5 weeks (one of the more interesting sections of the book). She says that was hard, but it was far more stressful to subsequently give up her lifelong cigarette habit.
 - She admits to having plastic surgery (in her 50s), and here writes funnily about her button nose: "My mother said that when I was presented to her at birth she was concerned about what appeared to be the absence of a nose on my face—just a small bump with two holes in it, no bridge. So every time she held me, she gently pinched and shaped that area until it became a nose. To those who've always suspected I didn't come by my nose naturally, it is true. I had a nose job and at a very early age!"
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Phyllis says

Laura Petrie and Mary Richards were very likable characters. Mary Tyler Moore--not so much. This book was depressing.
