



Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art

By Gene Wilder



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Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art By Gene Wilder

In this personal book from the star of many beloved and classic film comedies -- from *The Producers* to *Young Frankenstein*, *Blazing Saddles* to *Willy Wonka* and the *Chocolate Factory* -- Gene Wilder writes about a side of his life the public hasn't seen on the screen. *Kiss Me Like a Stranger* is not an autobiography in the usual sense of the word, and it's certainly not another celebrity "tell-all." Instead, Wilder has chosen to write about resonant moments in his life, events that led him to an understanding of the art of acting, and -- more important -- to an understanding of how to give love to and receive love from a woman.

Wilder writes compellingly about the creative process on stage and screen, and divulges moments from life on the sets of some of the most iconic movies of our time.

In this book, he talks about everything from his experiences in psychoanalysis to why he got into acting and later comedy (his first goal was to be a Shakespearean actor), and how a Midwestern childhood with a sick mother changed him. Wilder explains why he became an actor and writer, and about the funny, wonderful movies he made with Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Richard Pryor, and Harrison Ford, among many others. He candidly reveals his failures in love, and writes about the overwhelming experience of marrying comedienne Gilda Radner, as well as what finally had to happen for him to make a true and lasting commitment to another woman.

A thoughtful, revealing, and winsome book about life, love, and the creative process, *Kiss Me Like A Stranger* is one actor's life in his own words.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The man who created some of the funniest moments in film history talks about acting, adultery, neuroses and death in this intimate, unusual memoir. Wilder began acting as a teenager at summer camp and eventually earned some acclaim on Broadway but not much money - he says he was still collecting unemployment checks when he began shooting his breakout film role in Mel Brooks's original film version of *The Producers* (1968). The movie flopped commercially, but Wilder's comedic chops were established. A string of successes followed: *Blazing Saddles*; *Young Frankenstein*; *Willy Wonka*; *Stir Crazy*. Off camera, things were more complicated. After two troubled marriages, Wilder married *Saturday Night Live*'s Gilda Radner - a brilliant, erratic woman who battled bulimia and wild mood swings. Wilder is unusually frank in documenting both Radner's faults and her long struggle with cancer. Honesty is a prevailing quality of this book, as Wilder freely discusses topics ranging from his own neuroses to the drug-fueled misbehavior of his great comedic partner, Richard Pryor. He also doesn't avoid telling the details of his own bout with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Wilder's fans may be disappointed to find relatively scant coverage of some of his triumphs, but Wilder clearly isn't interested in writing a conventional Hollywood memoir. His book candidly explores his own faults and feelings, as well as those of the people he's loved and lost. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Readers looking for a little comic relief will be disappointed by this thoughtfully serious memoir. Like that of many comics, Wilder's private life does not reflect his zany stage and screen persona. Introspective by nature, he provides a series of vignettes that he hopes will add clarity to his personal search for the truth about his family, his loves, the choices he has made, and his quest for artistic fulfillment. Unflinching in their honesty, these snippets constitute a revealing overview of an intriguing life. Wilder's formative relationship with his sick mother, his personal and professional associations with Richard Pryor and Mel Brooks, his complex marriage to the late Gilda Radner, and his attempts to make sense of it all through intense psychotherapy make fascinating reading. Framed like individual scenes from a movie, these recollections add up to a compelling portrait of a multifaceted man. *Margaret Flanagan*
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Review

"Pure Gene Wilder! Uproarishly funny and at times very moving. It made me want to go out and see every Gene Wilder movie again." -- Mel Brooks

"I always knew Gene Wilder was a remarkable person, but I didn't know how remarkable until I read this brave, riveting book." -- Charles Grodin

"Gene Wilder is not just a uniquely talented and lovable performer, he's a gifted memoirist with a great story to tell and a writerly commitment to emotional truth. The real delight lies in the prose -- tight, funny, fast as the breeze -- and insights about accident and fate that lodge in your mind long after the smile has left your lips." -- Letty Cottin Pogrebin, author of *Three Daughters*

"A book to cherish. Here is the real Gene...irrepressibly funny, wise, warmhearted, and honest. In sharing with us the most intimate details of his extraordinary life on screen and off, Gene shows all if us how to

embrace the unexpected, pursue our passion, and seize joy every day. Give this book to someone you want to kiss." -- Pat Collins, film critic

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Veronica McFadden:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a e-book you will get new information simply because book is one of a number of ways to share the information or their idea. Second, reading a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art, it is possible to tells your family, friends and soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a e-book.

Arthur Poulsen:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Sharon Grace:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written within good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still skepticism Kiss Me Like A Stranger: My Search for Love and Art as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't evaluate book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Debra Riggs:

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