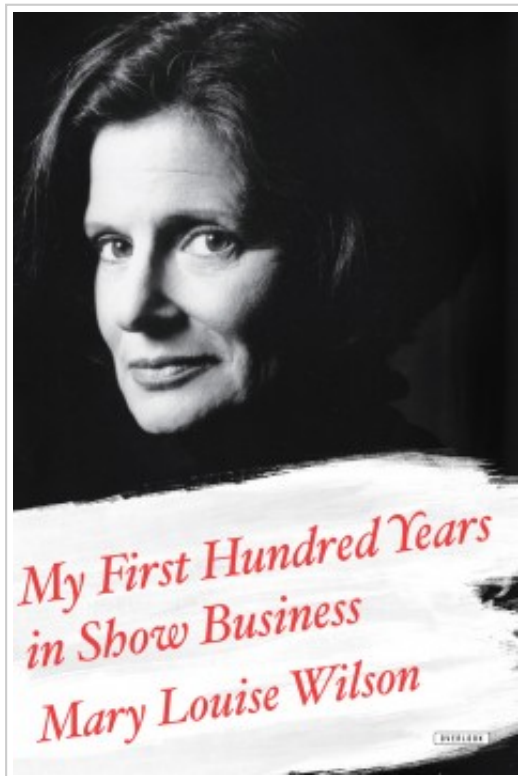


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## My First Hundred Years in Show Business

A Memoir

by Mary Louise Wilson

**Price: \$28.95**(Hardcover)

Published: July 13, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** Mary Louise Wilson became a star at age sixty with her smash one-woman play Full Gallop portraying legendary Vogue editor Diana Vreeland. But before and since, her life and her career—including the Tony Award for her portrayal of Big Edie in Grey Gardens—have been enviably celebrated and varied. Raised in New Orleans with a social climbing, alcoholic mother, Mary Louise moved to New York City in the late 1950s; lived with her gay brother in the Village; entered the nightclub scene in a legendary review; and rubbed shoulders with every famous person of that era and since. My First Hundred Years in Show Business gets it all down. Yet as delicious as the anecdotes are, the heart of this book is in its unblinkingly honest depiction of the life of a working actor. In her inimitable voice—wry, admirably unsentimental, mordantly funny—Mary Louise Wilson has crafted...

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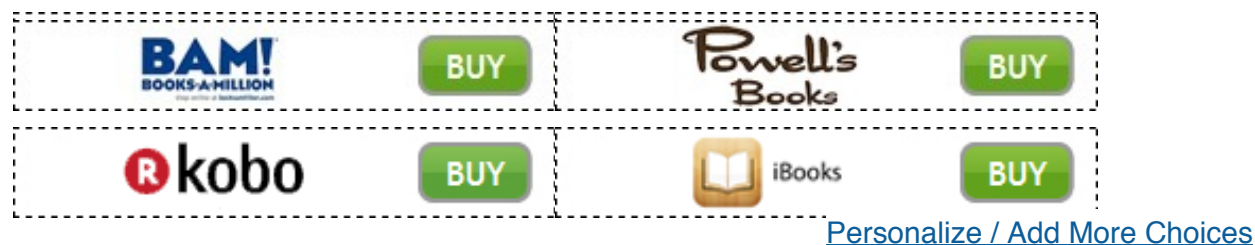
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## What We Say

Here it is, the dishiest, funniest, chattiest, and most soul-baring theater book of the year. Tony winner Mary Louise Wilson -- forever dubbed "the best thing in it" in review after review -- captures her life and career in this delightful memoir. Pick it up and its slim nature (less than 200 pages) might disappoint. But then you start to read it and soon realize, "Oh, she only put in the good stuff!" Wilson tells her story in a charmingly scattershot style, but the through line is the eight year journey of turning a memoir of Vogue editor Diana Vreeland into the career-peak triumph "Full Gallop." Otherwise, she'll jump from her crazy family to sharing horror stories about auditions to life on the set of the hit sitcom "One Day At A Time" enduring the glassy stare of Bonnie Franklin to winning the Tony for "Grey Gardens." It's impressionistic, jumps all around, has no discernible structure and pretty much charms the hell out of you. Wilson is happy to be pointedly sharp on contemporaries but she's hardest on herself, revealing her fear of success, her poor self-image and the hard-earned peace that has finally come to her. The names come fast and furious -- Marvin Hamlisch was an accompanist for Wilson, Tony-winner George Furth was her friend and neighbor, Barbara Cook's pianist Wally Harper gave her her singing voice -- but the name you'll remember, finally, is Mary Louise Wilson. She could have written an entire book about the making of "Full Gallop" or an entire book about her family or an entire book about the nightmare of being in that all-female version of "The Odd Couple" or an entire book about the Julius Monk revues that were so important to her and cabaret at the time. Instead, she boiled it all down and just gave us the good stuff. -- Michael Giltz

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## What Others Say

Mary Louise Wilson's My First Hundred Years in Show Business should be a required read for all actors, no matter what stage of their career they are in. It's a masterpiece of hilarity and deadpan honesty, and a master class in acting. There is much to learn from her bible of theatrical experiences, from Macbeth to writing her passion piece Full Gallop. Mary Louise Wilson equals GENIUS. - **Kristin Chenoweth, Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor**

Thank you MLW for writing this book, if only to confirm for me hi diddly de de the actor's life for me—a life as full of heartache, waiting, and disappointment as it is, for us all, an absolute delight. Learning that it would be the same for the great Mary Louise Wilson is a relief. And for those not in show biz...get ready to read some truth! - **Melissa Leo, Academy Award-winning actor**

Mary Louise Wilson's writing is like her acting—deft, droll, and full of surprises. Her book is a riot of characters met and characters played, of dreams dashed and dreams fulfilled—a funny, frank, and savvy chronicle of a wonderful life, in the theatre and beyond. - **David Hyde Pierce, Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor**

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## What You Say