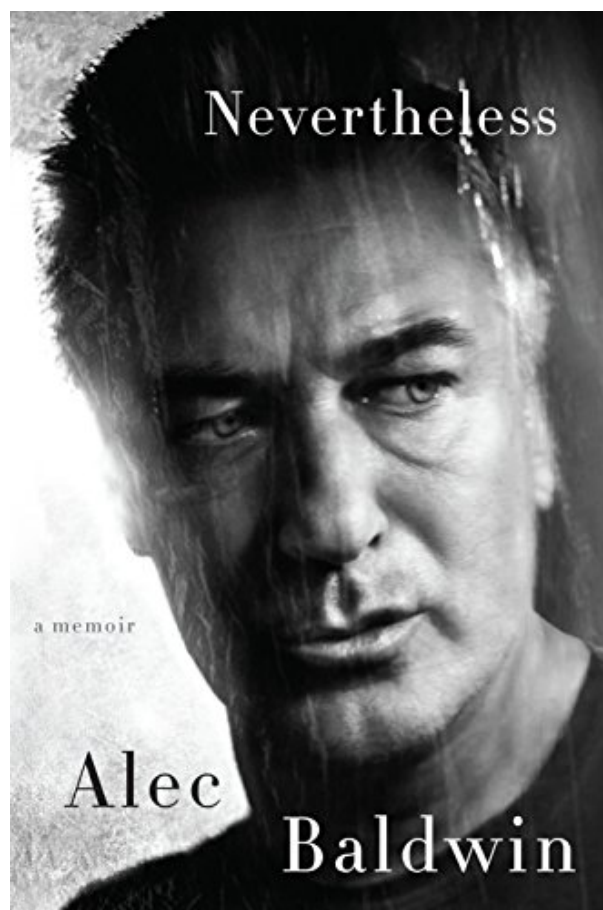
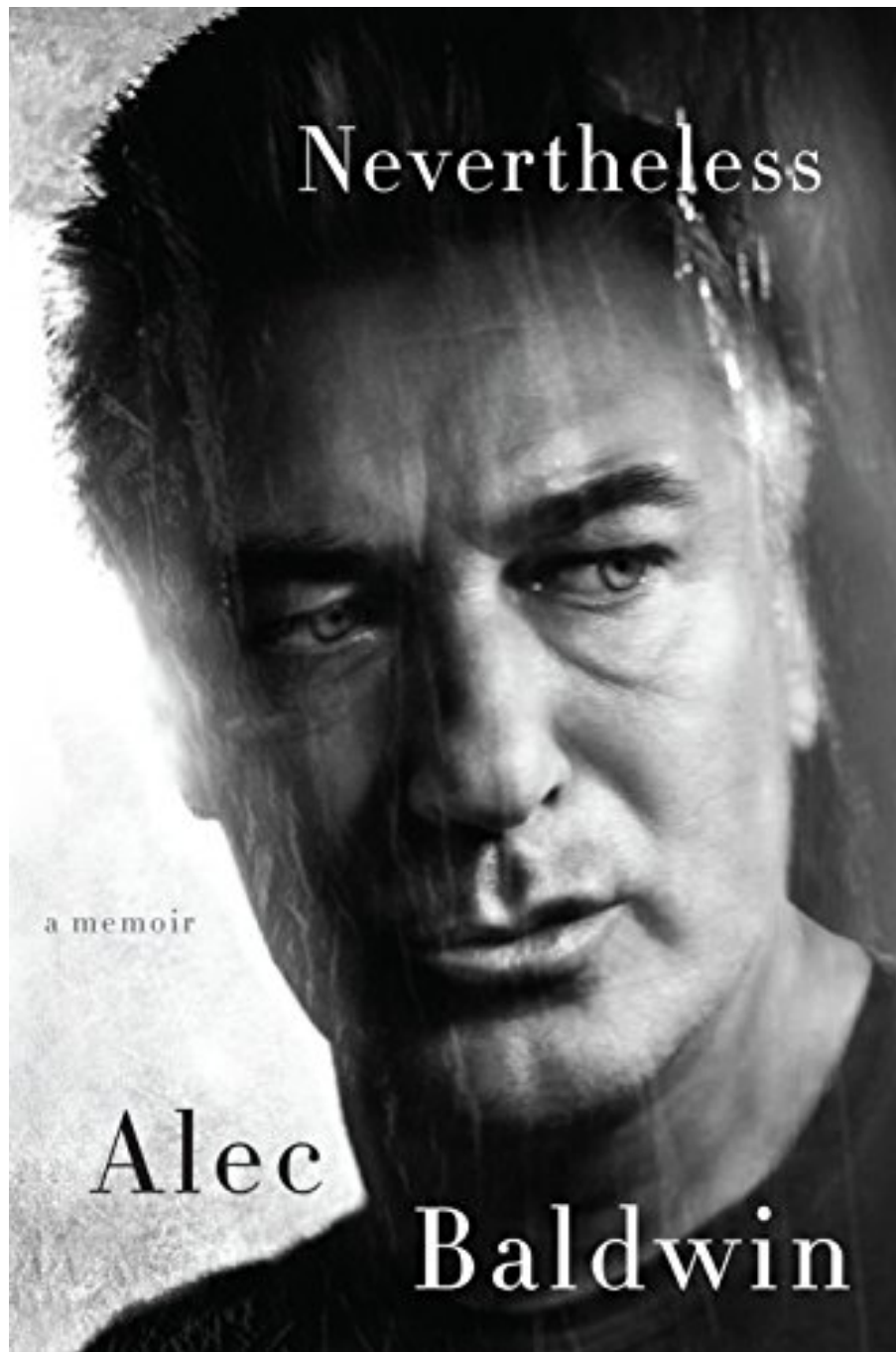


NEVERTHELESS: A MEMOIR BY ALEC BALDWIN



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“A thorough and sophisticated effort to answer an interesting question: How did an indifferently raised, self-flagellating kid from a just-making-ends-meet, desultorily functioning Long Island family, in Massapequa, turn into Alec Baldwin, gifted actor, familiar public figure, impressively thoughtful person, notorious pugilist? . . . Beautifully written and unexpectedly moving . . . Baldwin writes with great knowledge about old films, the art of acting, what he has learned from other actors, and about the differences among television, film and theater. . . . He’s a highly literate and fluent writer.”—New York Times

One of the most accomplished and outspoken actors today chronicles the highs and lows of his life in this beautifully written, candid memoir.

Over the past three decades, Alec Baldwin has established himself as one of Hollywood’s most gifted, hilarious, and controversial leading men. From his work in popular movies, including *Beetlejuice*, *Working Girl*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Cooler*, and Martin Scorsese’s *The Departed* to his role as Jack Donaghy on Tina Fey’s irreverent series *30 Rock*—for which he won two Emmys, three Golden Globes, and seven Screen Actors Guild Awards—and as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on *Saturday Night Live*, he’s both a household name and a deeply respected actor.

In *Nevertheless*, Baldwin transcends his public persona, making public facets of his life he has long kept private. In this honest, affecting memoir, he introduces us to the Long Island child who felt burdened by his family’s financial strains and his parents’ unhappy marriage; the Washington, DC, college student gearing up for a career in politics; the self-named "Love Taxi" who helped friends solve their romantic problems while neglecting his own; the young soap actor learning from giants of the theatre; the addict drawn to drugs and alcohol who struggles with sobriety; the husband and father who acknowledges his failings and battles to overcome them; and the consummate professional for whom the work is everything. Throughout *Nevertheless*, one constant emerges: the fearlessness that defines and drives Baldwin’s life.

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Most helpful customer reviews

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

All About Acting; No Tell-All Here

By a reader

Perhaps the title "memoir" is misleading. The book is about Baldwin's love of acting in all of its many forms and his sponge-like ability to absorb something from virtually every person in the business (cinematography, production assistant, writer, even a driver) as well as other actors and comedians. His intelligence is apparent in his writing. The portion of the book that I always skip in celebrity bios - the childhood - is riveting. He had an unconventional conventional upbringing that must have been bewildering to everyone in the household yet all 6 kids made it out and into something productive. He credits both parents bringing acting into his life. Interestingly, both parents slept while Baldwin sat in the same room with them and watched their soaps and movies.

Baldwin is specific about the two passions in his life - acting and politics. As a child, his father drove to DC for JFK's funeral and a few years later, his father took a 10-year-old Baldwin along with 2 of his siblings to RFK's funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral in a snaking line to file past the casket. As a poly sci major at George Washington University, he interned for his congressman in DC. Baldwin chronicles how he moved toward acting, how he trained inside and outside the classroom, became a hot commodity for a moment and then fell away. He writes an ode to his mentors. He doesn't blame others too much. The word "luck" is used often. He cops to but doesn't describe in detail bad decisions. He justifies his actions against paparazzi who cross the line. He chronicles the seismic shift in acting from theatre to blockbusters to indies to TV and shows made to stream because he lived it and had to adjust his career accordingly.

Throughout, he was in leadership positions in political education organizations mentored by the late Ron Silver and the late Christopher Reeve, registered voters in Massachusetts for Ted Kennedy with Michael Kennedy, and worked for candidates. He has political cred; he's not the mouthy no-nothing he's sometimes portrayed.

This is a great book for anyone interested in acting, how the business works, or wants to become an actor. It's tough. This is not a tell-all. You won't get the goods on other actors other than their special acting chops or names and details of sex partners.

35 of 38 people found the following review helpful.

Could Not Put It Down

By rain cloud

I'm five years older than Baldwin.

I remember when I used to see him in the nineties, I always thought, "Now, there's a guy who's got it all going on. He's in the movies making gobs of money, he's married to a goddess." When I'd hear him talk about his marriage to Kim Bassinger, he was always funny. He reminded me of my brother.

I was genuinely shocked when he and Bassinger split up. Then his first book came out.

In those days I would go lie on the floor of my kid's bedroom and read him a story. Then while he fell asleep,

I would lie there and read something for myself. It was there on the bedroom floor that I read Baldwin's first book.

I could not believe what I was reading.

It was so different from my imaginings about his life that it reminded me of the old TS Elliot poem that says, "Between the idea and the reality, falls the shadow."

In that book, I read about his agonizing love for his child, then I looked over at my kid quietly sleeping, and bonded with Baldwin. When I finished the book, I actually went back and read it again, like driving by a gut wrenching wreck then going around the block and cruising it again to see if it was as horrendous as you'd thought. (it was.)

This book is very different from that one. This is the Big View of his life from the beginning till now.

But the real hero of this book isn't Baldwin. The real hero of this book is Baldwin's father.

Baldwin's father was a guy with six kids who basically worked himself to death trying to propel them all to something better than he had, which is what every parent who's worth a damn wants. But he was an idealistic, self-sacrificing person who was a real bedrock of civilization sort of guy. He was so idealistic that in June of 1968 he rounded up his six kids and drove them to Robert Kennedy's funeral.

While they were standing in line at the funeral a wandering radio announcer shoved a microphone in a young Alec Baldwin's face and asked him if he would pray for Senator Kennedy.

Baldwin then recited the "Hail Mary" prayer on the radio for Robert Kennedy. Millions of New Yorkers must have heard it.

The weird thing is earlier tonight I was talking to my son, now twenty, who is taking an American History class in college. He looked up at me out of the blue and asked, "Is 1968 the year you're always going on about?"

I said yes.

He said, "It says here 1968 was a year when crises came so quickly that it seemed as if the fabric of society itself was dissolving."

I then told him, "The day Robert Kennedy died I remember thinking that the whole idea of America, a place where all these different kinds of people are trying to live together, might not work out. It just might not be possible. I was a Junior High kid thinking that on my own!"

Then I went in and opened Baldwin's book and read the story about Alec Baldwin saying Hail Mary for Robert Kennedy on the radio.

These are the publicly shared moments that make us a community.

This is an extremely American book and a story shaped by its time. Baldwin's father was a tragic, heroic man it would be as hard to forget as Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman." He never managed to lift his family completely out of poverty but he died trying. Even more poignant, he didn't live to see any of the success of

Baldwin or his siblings.

All I can tell you is this is a book I'm glad I read..

In a way I think it's stupid to write a review of a book by a huge celebrity, but my understanding is that so many of these bad reviews were written by people who dislike Baldwin because of his politics that I decided to do it anyway. I live in the South but I'm blue to the bone. True Blue.

About fifteen years ago, I told a friend I intend to go to my grave a Bobby Kennedy democrat and I meant it. Baldwin's dad was a Bobby Kennedy democrat too, and it's for him I really wrote this review. It seems like the least I can do..

Thanks for reading this.

116 of 128 people found the following review helpful.

Witty, interesting

By Ingrid Newkirk

I notice vindictive trolls have taken over the reviews. It's clear they didn't read the book, but I actually did. I like Alec, but even the most arch Conservative who is honest, unlike the trolls, would have to concede that Alec is a fine writer, an astute observer, and has an extremely sharp wit. There's no pussyfooting around with him. If you want a good read about a real person with an interesting life, this book provides it.

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