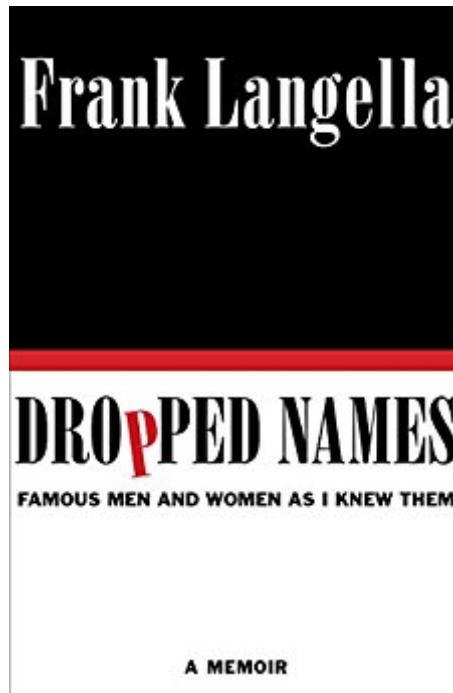




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Dropped Names: Famous Men And Women As I Knew Them



Synopsis

Rita Hayworth dancing by candlelight; Elizabeth Taylor tenderly wrapping him in her Pashmina scarf; streaking for Sir Laurence Olivier in a drafty English castle; terrifying a dozing Jackie Onassis; carrying an unconscious Montgomery Clift to safety on a dark New York street...Captured forever in a unique memoir, Frank Langella's myriad encounters with some of the past century's most famous human beings are profoundly affecting, funny, wicked, sometimes shocking, and utterly irresistible. With sharp wit and a perceptive eye, Mr. Langella takes us with him into the private worlds and privileged lives of movie stars, presidents, royalty, literary lions, the social elite, and the greats of the Broadway stage. We learn something, too, of Mr. Langella's personal journey from the age of fifteen to the present day. *Dropped Names* is, like its subjects, riveting and unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is a lot of pathos here: Rita Hayworth struggling with lines due to early onset dementia, Elizabeth Taylor's social circle so confined that the only guests of her Oscar party are relatives of her staff that she doesn't even talk to, George C. Scott swilling down the alcohol daily while deriding therapy as a crutch; Scott wants to play chess with hospitalized veterans, but doesn't feel worthy. Perhaps the constant travel, frequent absences from family, and temptation of attractive, but likely neurotic, co-stars isn't conducive to lasting marriages. The ravaged by time actors are like Icarus who melted his wings flying too close to the sun: being adored, and adoring yourself, for beauty and youth which is so fleeting, doesn't bring inner peace to many of those discussed here. Some have commented on how cruel and catty the author is, but I thought that he had sympathy and compassion, and an underlying awareness of some of the inherently tragic aspects of the human condition.

Forgot I had this gem on my Kindle until a few days ago. I read it and could hardly bear to put it down. I laughed at his descriptions of many of the stars. He makes them, and himself, seem like normal, vulnerable people with the edge of celebrity and of money. I did not think Langella was in his 70's, but he's old enough to look back and write about the men and women who worked in the industry and entertained us. Very interesting book.

Reading about famous people you may have watched at the movies while growing up is such a treat with this book. Mr. Langella provides most of the time different perspectives than the fantasies feed by publicists. The moments he shares about famous people aka Jackie Kennedy are real love notes and then for those who he has little love for, he writes with a sword.

Gossipy, saucy and thoroughly enjoyable. I've admired Langella's work for years and, having had some of the same experiences -- from summer stock theatre to films on location -- found it to be spot on. Add to the recognition the fact that Langella is a terrific tale-teller with a unique talent for writing you have a great read....

It's always intriguing to read the inside scoop about celebrities for some reason. Mr. Langella has had an unusual amount of access to wealthy and famous people in his life, so describes friendships and encounters with a wide gamut of politicians, movie stars and billionaires. Most of the stories are from earlier decades, from the prime of his life. Interesting windows on John and Jackie Kennedy, the Mellons, Liz Taylor, to name some of the ones that stuck with me.

Enjoyed his perception of the people he has met. Cary Grant was the biggest shock, however. Only a little self aggrandizement but not enough to interfere.

Name dropping drivél. Boring words put on paper to prove Langella "knew" people or knew of people. A book to boost his aging ego?

So difficult to critique one of your all timeFavorite actors,but here goes. What an interesting life thus far. When can I sign up for the next one?

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