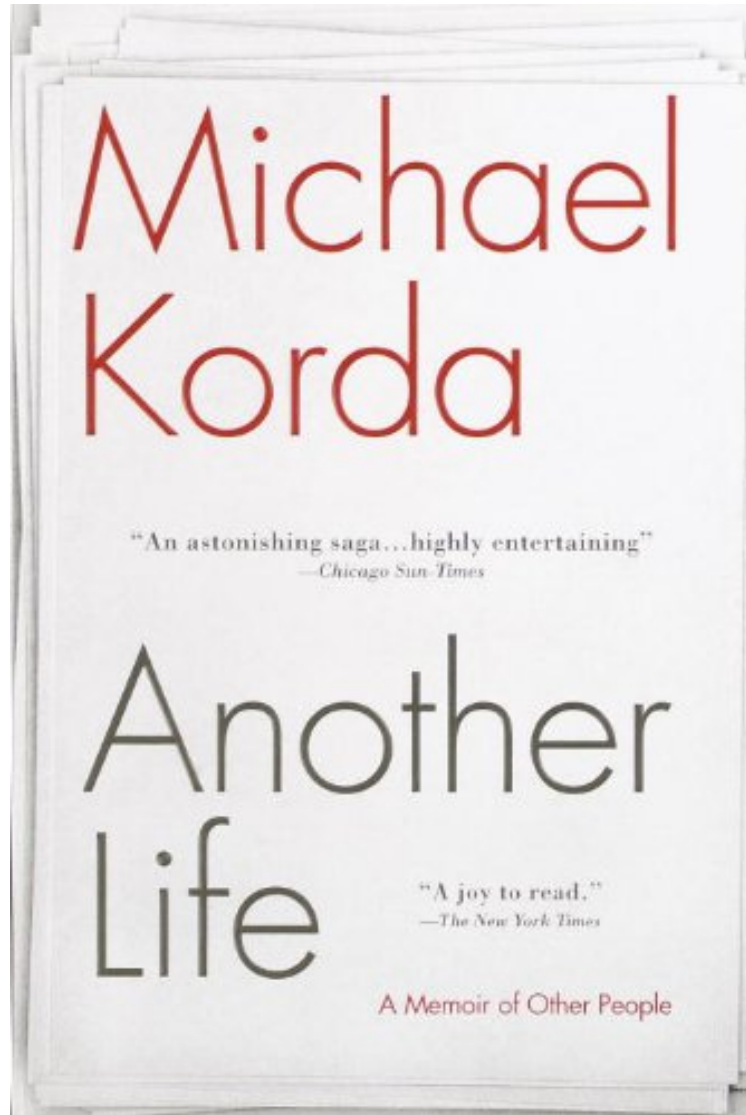


[Download] Another Life: A Memoir of Other People

## Another Life: A Memoir of Other People

Von Michael Korda

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1265644 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2011-12-21Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-12-21File Name: B006F2GXP8 | File size: 23.Mb

**Von Michael Korda : Another Life: A Memoir of Other People** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Another Life: A Memoir of Other People:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Michael Korda, Editor ExtraordinaireVon James SchiavoneThe editors of Publishers Weekly were right on target in choosing "Another Life" for inclusion in their "100 Best Books for 1999." In a series of vignettes Korda gives readers a rare glimpse into the vicissitudes of the publishing industry. While the stories will undoubtedly grab the interests of publihers, editors, agents, and writers, their universal appeal will capture book lovers everywhere. Given the never

ending game of musical chairs played by editors jumping from house to house, Korda is unique in that he began his career at Simon Schuster, and like a cork bobbing on a turbulent sea, has remained there for an entire career to become corporate V.P. and editor in chief! Reading the story of Korda's career is enriching because his life touched the lives of so many creative, productive people. His encounters with such personalities as "Swifty" Lazar, Jaqueline Susann, Carlos Castaneda, and Tennessee Williams, to name a few, are described sometimes poignantly, sometimes comically, but always with insight, compassion and a joie de vivre that all add up to a scintillating read. This work is a must for anyone who loves books and is passionate about biography, autobiography, and memoirs.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dull

Von Ein Kunde

As a writer who has published short stories in national magazines and been paid well for some of them, but who in the process of attaining these successes has experienced many rejection slips from arrogant editors who knocked my abilities as a fiction writer, it's sweet revenge to see a notable and often arrogant editor, who has certainly rejected many capable writers' manuscripts, write badly. I was appalled at how mediocre the writing was in this book, with no life to it at all. One of the most successful literary agents ever once said that he found that charismatic people tend to WRITE with charisma. Well, to judge from Korda's writing, he must have had a charsimadectomy, and had all his charisma removed as a child. And what's worse, the substance of what he writes about is uninteresting. You can write well about something interesting, the best thing to do. You can write very well about something boring, and make it interesting. You can write boringly about something very interesting (and make it interesting THAT way). Or you can write boringly about something boring, and be boring, which is what Korda does in this book. I'm amazed how few unique experiences he has had. I haven't been this disappointed since reading Kenneth Tynan's (the legendary English Theater critic) collected letters. There were, astonishingly, no letters in that book worth collecting (save for the one he wrote to Paul McCartney). Same with this book: there were no memories worthy of a memoir.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Do,you,like,commas? You,do? Then,you'll,love,Another,Life.

Von Ein Kunde

I read this book for a graduate-level course in publishing. I learned many things about the publishing industry's history and publishing's changing role in American and international economy through 1998. The parts of the book that dealt directly with the publishing process were the most interesting to me. The last few chapters are the best. The gossipy bits about the author's colleagues did not interest me.

Another Life reveals an elitism that prevents me from enjoying the book as much as I want to. There is a persistent focus on accents, class, status, physical appearance, ethnic identity which alienates me slightly. Stereotypes such as the shoe-shining Black man, the inscrutable Chinese man, the Hispanic maid, the beer-drinking Irish man, the overbearing Jewish woman, the Mafia Italians, etc. are just too much. In this way, the reader could correctly assume that the publishing industry and the Hollywood entertainment industry have much in common.

One of publishing's latest trends is ignored - Oprah Winfrey. Oprah's Book Club has consistently influenced book sales since her book club began in 1996. In this way, several gems (Song of Solomon, A Lesson Before Dying, etc.) that were overlooked in the past came to the notice of the general public. On p.448 there is fleeting mention of the fact that her show is in Chicago.

I would have rated this book five stars except that Korda's editor should have cut the length by eliminating useless information and repetition of facts.

**Kurzbeschreibung**

In his remarkable memoir, at once frank, audacious, canny, and revealing, Michael Korda, the author of *Charmed Lives* and *Queenie*, does for the world of books what Moss Hart did for the theater in *Act One*, and succeeds triumphantly in making publishing seem as exciting (and as full of great characters) as the stage.

Another Life is not just an adventure--the engaging and often hilarious story of a young man making his career--but the insider's story of how a cottage industry metamorphosed into a big business, with sometimes alarming results for all concerned.

Korda writes with grace, humor, and a shrewd eye, not only about himself and his rise from a lowly (but not humble) assistant editor reading the "slush pile" of manuscripts to a famous editor in chief of a major publishing house, but also about the celebrities and writers with whom he worked over four decades.

Here are portraits--rare, intimate, always keenly observed--of such larger-than-life figures as Ronald Reagan, affable and good-natured but the most reluctant of authors, struggling with his "ghosted" presidential autobiography; Richard Nixon, seen here as a genial, if bizarrely detached, host; superagent Irving Lazar, pursuing his endless deals and dreams of "class"; retired Mafia boss Joseph Bonanno, the last of the old-time dons, laboring over his own version of his life in his desert retreat; Joan Crawford, giving Korda her rules for successful living; and countless other greats, near greats, and would-be greats.

Here too are famous writers, sometimes eccentric, sometimes infuriating, sometimes lost souls, captured memorably by someone who was close to them for years: Graham Greene, in pursuit of his FBI file and a Nobel Prize; Tennessee Williams, wrestling unsuccessfully with his demons; Jacqueline Susann, facing and conquering the dreaded "second-novel syndrome" after the stunning success of *Valley of the Dolls*; Harold Robbins (who had to be guarded under lock and key and made to finish his novels), struggling to keep the IRS at bay from the deck of his yacht; Carlos Castaneda, at his most sorcerously charming, described--at last--in detail, as he really was, by one of the few people who knew him well; not to mention Richard Adams, Will and Ariel Durant, Susan Howatch, S. J. Perelman, Fannie

Hurst, Larry McMurtry, and many, many more. Parts of this book that have appeared in *The New Yorker* over the years have brought Korda great acclaim--the chapter about Jacqueline Susann has been made into a major motion picture. Here at last, entertaining and provocative and always hugely readable, is the whole story--a book as engaging and full of life as Korda's highly acclaimed memoir of his family, *Charmed Lives*, about which Irwin Shaw wrote: "I don't know when I have enjoyed a book more."

Michael Korda has spent 41 years at Simon Schuster--most of them as editor in chief--and it proves to be a front-row seat for observing book publishing's transition from a gentlemanly trade to a hard-nosed business. He chronicles that evolution with impressive perceptiveness and tearing good spirits in this juicy memoir. Korda has a novelist's gift for capturing people's personalities in a few paragraphs, and he nails everyone from bestselling fantasy mongers Jacqueline Susann and Harold Robbins to his boss and good friend, SS's notoriously dictatorial publisher, Richard Snyder. But he also seems to be incapable of bearing a grudge or truly disliking anyone, so his smart, razor-sharp portraits never appear nasty, just good fun. The key to Korda's appeal is his zest for all manner of books and people, from the highest to the lowest brow, so long as they sincerely believe in what they're doing. (He's amused rather than outraged, for example, by Ronald Reagan's ability to recount with total conviction events that never occurred.) Korda gives a brief, frank account of his personal life, including a failed first marriage, but--luckily for his readers--it's clear that he spent most of his time at the office. --Wendy Smith

Michael Korda has spent 41 years at Simon Schuster--most of them as editor in chief--and it proves to be a front-row seat for observing book publishing's transition from a gentlemanly trade to a hard-nosed business. He chronicles that evolution with impressive perceptiveness and tearing good spirits in this juicy memoir. Korda has a novelist's gift for capturing people's personalities in a few paragraphs, and he nails everyone from bestselling fantasy mongers Jacqueline Susann and Harold Robbins to his boss and good friend, SS's notoriously dictatorial publisher, Richard Snyder. But he also seems to be incapable of bearing a grudge or truly disliking anyone, so his smart, razor-sharp portraits never appear nasty, just good fun. The key to Korda's appeal is his zest for all manner of books and people, from the highest to the lowest brow, so long as they sincerely believe in what they're doing. (He's amused rather than outraged, for example, by Ronald Reagan's ability to recount with total conviction events that never occurred.) Korda gives a brief, frank account of his personal life, including a failed first marriage, but--luckily for his readers--it's clear that he spent most of his time at the office. --Wendy Smith