

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my grandmother and mother, without whose love and encouragement I would have never been able to enjoy the most “Wonderful Life” that I have.

Special Note

“This novel is also dedicated to Steven Soderbergh, who should give serious consideration in making a motion picture based on this novel using the filming techniques of each era represented, in order to consummate his ultimate cinematic vision.”

PREFACE

As I approach my 98th year on this earth, I find myself continually blessed with relatively good health: a blood pressure of 70 /120 and the clearness of mind to continue to be able to express my thoughts, hopes and dreams. Of course I am always reminded that my body is still in its declining stages, with a macular degeneration that will not allow me to see well, read or write directly, arthritis and other aches and pains of old age that try to knock me down. But I have always been a battler throughout my life and have no intentions of slowing my pace now. Thanks to my loving family, I am able to continue my journalistic career as I can still dictate to them while they transcribe all on the computer.

I have also been blessed by a life some would describe as fascinating and unique in that first of all, I have survived for so long and also by what I have accomplished. At one time or another, I have been a painter, a playwright, a songwriter, a poet, a journalist, a stage, screen and TV actress, a motion picture dubber, a radio broadcaster, a screen writer and now a weblogger and novelist. I’ve travelled the world and met the leaders of yesterday and today, ranging from Pope John Paul II, to Muhammed Ali, Humphrey Bogart, Carey Grant, Madonna, Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg & Stevie Wonder, just to mention a few. The inventor of the telegraph, Guelmero Marconi, kissed my hand and told me I was a great actress. Enrico Caruso sang for me and the Republic of Italy made me a Cavalier for my efforts in enhancing Italian - American relations..

But the real stars of this story are my mother and grandmother. They were the actresses that great novels are written about: creating historical theatrical companies, touring the world with command performances for an emperor and queens, presidents and kings, surviving the ravages of World Wars and revolutions in South America while winning the adoration of countless thousands of fans all over the world. And through all this, teaching me perseverance in the face of adversity and the importance of a positive attitude, always with a smile. It could do wonders, and still does.

This book is not a true biography nor is it all a fictional novel, It is really a recollection of facts and stories told to me by my family at various times in my life, added to the research I could do to verify the accuracy of the episodes recounted . It is also an effort to help persons facing old age to better cope through my special diets exercises and my thoughts on life.

This first draft edition is proposed to you on line for two reasons: to obtain as many email inputs as possible that will assist me in bettering this book by persons who were close to the events that are portrayed and secondly, that I will be in a position to use the proceeds from this on line project to give money to charities that I am certain will help children all over the world improve their lives so that they too can grow up and say “It’s a Wonderful Life” and sing “That’s Amore!” like Dean Martin first sang to me on film.

Now please sit back and enjoy that last 150 years of our lives. And don't forget. Your comments and constructive criticisms are most welcome.