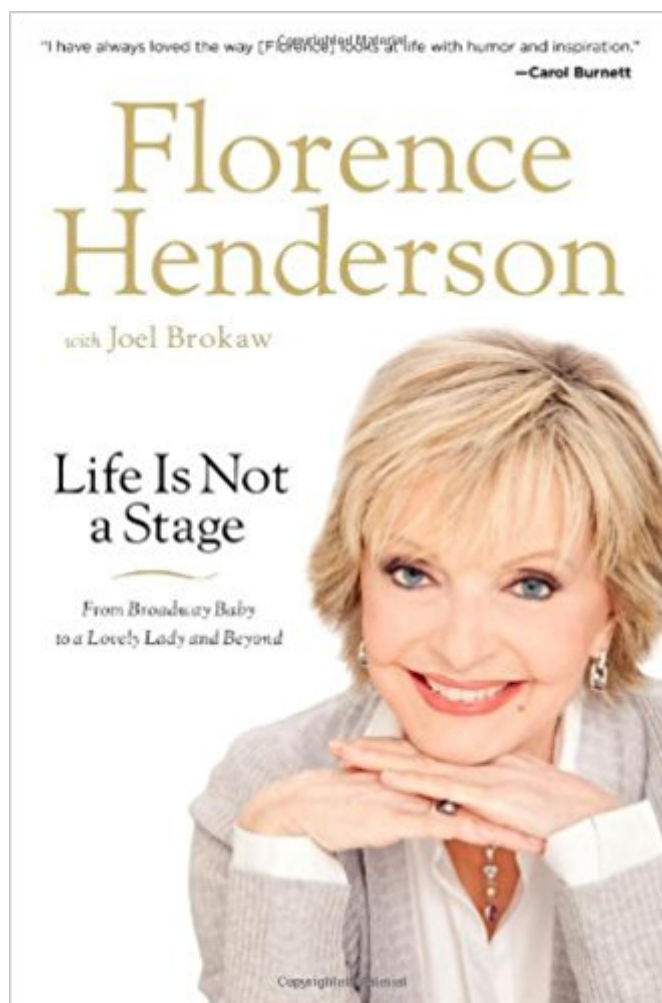


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# Life Is Not A Stage: From Broadway Baby To A Lovely Lady And Beyond



## Synopsis

For millions of people around the world, Carol Brady is synonymous with motherhood, but growing up as the youngest of ten children in rural Indiana in the aftermath of the Great Depression, Florence Henderson lived a life quite different from that of the quintessential TV mom she later played on television. Florence's father was a dirt-poor tobacco tenant farmer who was nearly fifty years old when he married Florence's twenty-five-year-old mother, and was nearly seventy when Florence was born. Florence's childhood was full of deprivation and abandonment. Her father was an alcoholic at a time when there was no rehab or help for the disease. Their home rarely had electricity or running water. When she was twelve, Florence's mother left the family to work in Cleveland and never returned. Florence opens up about her childhood, as well as the challenges she's faced as an adult, including stage fright, postpartum depression, her extramarital affairs, divorce, her hearing loss, and heart problems. She writes with honesty and wisdom of how her faith and ability to survive has brought her through rough times to a life of profound joy and purpose.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If you think you know Florence Henderson-think again. Her journey is both inspirational and jaw dropping. She is one gutsy lady." ["Judge Judy" Sheindlin](#) "I count Florence as one of my dearest friends. Now I count her as one of my favorite story tellers. I have always loved the way she looks at life with humor and inspiration. This book proves that-in spades!" [Carol Burnett](#)

Florence Henderson is most well-known for her role as Carol Brady on TV's *The Brady Bunch*, but she started her career on the stage, in musicals such as *Oklahoma!* and *South Pacific*. She starred on Broadway in the long-running musical *Fanny*, and in 1962, she became the first woman to guest host *The Tonight Show*. Her talent for skit comedy also allowed her to make frequent appearances on Dean Martin's variety show. In 1968, she was cast as Carol Brady on the popular TV sitcom, which ran from 1968 to 1974, and is still on air today. Joel Brokaw coauthored Tyler Perry's #1 New York Times bestseller *Don't Make a Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings*.

I really liked this book. I grew up watching *brady brunch*. You find out her life before she became famous. She had a really hard life. She grew up poor in a really big family. She started off on Broadway before doing film and tv. It is a quick read. She doesn't talk about being on *brady bunch*. This is okay because there is plenty of good information in this book.

I enjoyed reading this. Ms. Henderson is really honest and I look for that in memoirs. I'd heard she had a tough childhood and she surely did. I was thrilled she had a spirit that just wouldn't quit. It might have gone under a few times, like with post-partum depression, but it always came bobbing up again. Her father was an alcoholic and, as would be expected, Ms. Henderson displayed characteristics of an adult child of an alcoholic in her engagement with people and life. When she used the term *hypervigilant*, I wondered if she might have had PTSD, too. Unpredictable violence, terror and insanity in a parent can do that to you. But she was borne of a time when terms like PTSD and adult child of an alcoholic and codependent weren't even invented so those issues are not particularly addressed. I didn't care for *The Brady Bunch* myself. It was so phony, I couldn't even fantasize such a life existed back then nor did I think it was funny. But there wasn't much on in the sixties. Just three networks and a local so I watched it. I certainly appreciate what it meant to people, as an ideal or as camp. I'm glad it still makes people happy. (I loved the movie, though, and loved her cameo in it.) Entertaining celebrity memoir that reads quickly. Recommended.

This book is hysterical! I had no idea that Florence Henderson was so funny. Her brand of humor is right up my alley; and though I enjoyed Shirley Jones' book, her's didn't tickle me nearly as much. Well done.

I enjoyed this book. Seems like I am one of the "oldsters" now writing reviews. I knew of Florence Henderson from seeing her on game shows in the '60s. I also saw her nightclub act in the '60s: she

has a beautiful voice. And I have seen a few of the Brady Bunch shows, but because I was a bit older than the kids on that show, I was not in the age group that the show was designed for. I bought this book because I'm a reader of biographies and memoirs. I'm curious about people, and what they've been through in their lives. She certainly went through a LOT more than I would have guessed from her cheery persona. I was surprised at the kind of home life and parents she had. She told the truth in a very gentle or muted way. She just seemed to accept what she couldn't change when she was young. She really had a bad "deal" with her parents. I guess that I wish she had been able to slow down a bit in her life, when she could have. She loves performing, and audiences no doubt love her singing, yet I couldn't help but feel that I wished she would stop "running" in her career, and try to just "be" for awhile, as a person. This is a book that female readers of biography/autobiography should find interest in, as I did.

Ms Henderson treats us to an uplifting and charming autobiography. She writes about her flaws and personal failings while maintaining her dignity, unlike many similar works. Throughout the book, we see Ms Henderson using her unique brand of humor to cope with difficult situations. Her spirituality is also evident without being too heavy-handed. There is relatively little here about the Brady Bunch that fans have not read elsewhere. Nevertheless, a well-written tale of a life well-lived.

I loved this book. Not only will Brady fans love the book (which actually doesn't dwell too much in Bradyland), but those who love an uplifting and inspiring true story will love it. I read a lot of memoirs, and this is one of the most interesting and well written ones I have read. My only disappointment is that there was pretty much no mention of the Brady made for TV movie sequels like The Brady Girls Get Married, and I would have loved to hear her behind-the-scenes stories of those because I love them so much. Maybe in her next book, which I hope she writes, because this one is fabulous!

Book came in timely fashion and just as described. I happen to be reading at the moment because of Florence's recent passing. I am about half way through the book when I discovered a lovely handwritten note from Marion, the owner of the bookstore. It really touched me that she went to that length to thank me for supporting her store. It was an awesome experience!

Loved the Brady Bunch and Florence Henderson. Great read

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