



Hello Darlin'!: Tall (and Absolutely True) Tales About My Life

Larry Hagman, Todd Gold

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On November 21, 1980, over 350 million people worldwide tuned in to find out: *Who shot J.R.?*

In portraying the scheming, ruthless J.R. in *Dallas* during its entire run, from 1978 to 1991, Larry Hagman reached a level of fame and recognition that is rare, if not unique. Now the man behind J.R. tells his own story in an autobiography that is at once rowdy and moving, self-searching and scandalous, juicy and a "recovery story" -- and often outrageously funny.

Though Larry Hagman is best known for his starring roles in two hugely successful -- and very different -- television series, *I Dream of Jeannie* and *Dallas*, his life has been a star act from birth.

Born to the theatrical purple as the son of the legendary Mary Martin, Larry Hagman received his first exposure to the heady world of show business through her -- as well as experiencing a childhood that was lavish and glamorous and full of problems. His father was a tough, smart, wealthy Texas lawyer (sound familiar?), his mother Broadway's most beloved leading lady, and the young Larry Hagman was torn between their two very different worlds. After his parents' marriage ended, he was shunted from one boarding school to another, trying to satisfy his father's expectations by working as a cowboy, hunting, and raising hell and still to live up to his mother's expectations in the world of the theater.

In the end, theater won out, and, following his mother's example, he began to pursue a career as an actor. Following a stint in a soap opera, he got his big break with *I Dream of Jeannie*, and from that came instant fame and celebrity, from which he never looked back. Weaving hilarious (and often scandalous) stories about his early years in show business into a personal story that is breathlessly engaging, Larry Hagman shares his behind-the-scenes life with the reader, his star-studded cast of characters including Linda Gray, Victoria Principal, Barbara Eden, Jean Arthur, and Joan Collins, not to mention George C. Scott, Burgess Meredith, Joshua Logan, Jack Nicholson, Sidney Lumet, and Valerie Perrine, to name only a few.

But with the success came many temptations, a few of which Larry Hagman succumbed to, and about which he writes candidly and unsparingly in this memoir, including his battle with drugs and alcohol and his subsequent recovery.

It was as J.R., however, in the phenomenally successful series *Dallas* (the second longest-running TV drama in history), that Hagman earned his greatest fame. Taking the reader behind the scenes, he shares many stories of ego clashes, offscreen relationships, and flamboyant behavior during his work on that series -- and the pain he experienced as drugs and alcohol began to take their toll. In fact the greatest drama in Larry Hagman's life -- after his long, loving, and successful marriage to his wife, Maj -- came when he was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and entered into a race against time to find a liver donor.

The "recovery" side of his story is not something he takes for granted, having overcome two addictions as well as undergoing a liver transplant in 1995 and a subsequent near-fatal motorcycle accident. His account of these difficulties is at once unflinchingly courageous and matter-of-fact and will be a source of inspiration to many readers. Despite problems that would have stopped most people, Larry Hagman continues to work on television and in film (he made a brilliant appearance in Mike Nichols's film about presidential ambition, *Primary Colors*) and enjoys life hugely.

Dishy, witty, frank, and unsparing of Larry Hagman himself and of others, *Hello Darlin'* is, like its author, destined for international fame -- a rare memoir by a show-business celebrity that not only makes us laugh, applaud, and cry, but also leaves us with respect and admiration for a man who can not only tell a good story about others, but reveal something of himself.



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Lewis Labelle:

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Mary Young:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Hello Darlin'!: Tall (and Absolutely True) Tales About My Life can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Louis Patrick:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Hello Darlin'!: Tall (and Absolutely True) Tales About My Life, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Helen Jackson:

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