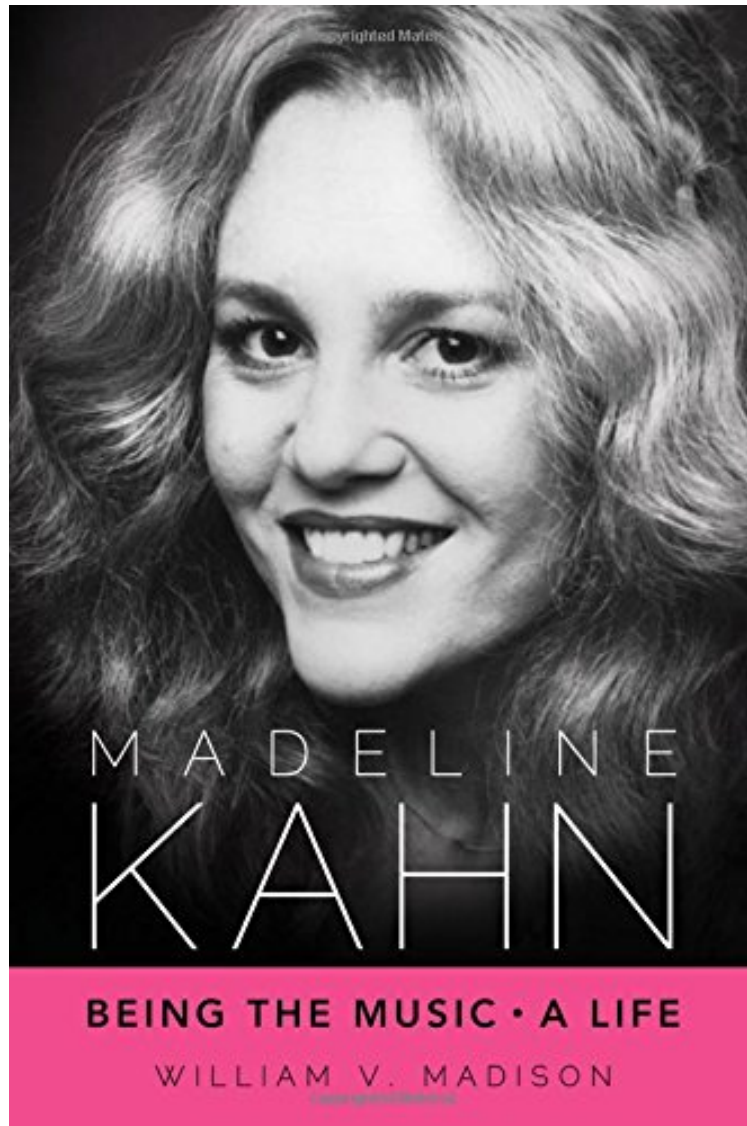


(Free read ebook) Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life (Hollywood Legends Series)

Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life (Hollywood Legends Series)

William V. Madison

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William V. Madison : Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life (Hollywood Legends Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life (Hollywood Legends Series):

31 of 32 people found the following review helpful. It's Twue! It's Twue! This is a superb biography.By Charles GrippoTalented. Beautiful. Funny. Superb actress. Gifted singer with a coloratura voice that impressed no less than

Richard Rodgers. Independent career woman. Insecure, especially about her looks and her weight. A loving, yet conflicted daughter. A caring sister and nurturing aunt. Frequently frustrated at the trajectory of her career. Nobody's fool. As William V. Madison makes abundantly clear in his terrific book "Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life," all of these descriptions - and more -- fit Madeline Kahn, who, sadly, left us at a young age. Madison, a former producer at CBS News, has dug deeply into Madeline's personal and professional life, receiving the cooperation of the one male who was probably closest to her --- her half brother, Jeffrey Kahn, though she would have bristled at the description of Jeffrey as her "half" brother, even though it is legally accurate. Madeline always simply considered him her "brother." Madison personally interviewed dozens of family members, friends, and co-workers. Just a few names show how thoroughly he researched her life and career: her niece Eliza, Mel Brooks, Gene Wilder, Peter Bogdanovich, Martin Charnin, Lily Tomlin, Carol Burnett, Harold Prince, Kevin Kline. He even interviewed Madeline's mother shortly before her own death. He has compiled probably the most complete list possible of Madeline's work on television, film, and the stage, even including her early roles as a student at Hofstra University. Rounding out the book, Jeffrey has provided rare family photographs. Knowing she was near death, Madeline finally took a step she had scrupulously avoided: she got married. There have been numerous rumors - some of them quite wild - of why she previously never married any of the boyfriends she had had in adulthood. Madison puts all of these speculations to rest. Madeline's actual reasons for ducking matrimony until the last weeks of her life are both understandable and plausible. He chronicles her painful childhood, as the daughter of a broken home. Her relationship with her mother was loving at times, while, at other times, it was fraught with tension and hostility, even going so far as a lawsuit between mother and daughter. Of course the real meat of Madison's book is his astonishingly detailed look at her career, which brought her fame, fortune, and, more often than not, disappointment. Like most performers of her time period, she had little control over her career. Sometimes she took on projects she loathed, because those were all she was offered and she needed the money. She was fired more than once. Many of her roles were at odds with her own personality. I first encountered Madeline Kahn, when I saw her appearances on Merv Griffin's talk show, in the middle 1960's. I thought: My God, this woman is funny and beautiful and smart. Where did she come from? Later, when I saw "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein," "Paper Moon," and her other movies, I again wondered: Who is Madeline Kahn? How did she get all this talent and craftsmanship? Well, after reading William Madison's book, I understand this complex woman much more than I ever expected. From now on, when I look at her films again, I will appreciate her work all the more. And, damn, it makes me all the more sorrowful, that she is not with us today, entertaining us with her genius.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended
By herofix
As a life-long fan of Madeline Kahn, Madison has finally written the book that I've ALWAYS wanted to read. With material collected from Madeline's interviews and interviews with Madeline's co-stars, family, and others who knew and worked with her, *Being the Music, A Life* is the quintessential work on Madeline Kahn. In these pages I discovered the answers to many questions I had about Kahn's life, including her rumored drug problem and professional choices. Madison is unafraid to tackle these and other controversial topics head-on to weave a dense and accurate portrayal of this gifted actresses' personal and professional ups and downs. Madison writes objectively, yet is also a fan himself, and goes to lengths to use care and tenderness to bring his portrait to life, revealing the facts and providing context for the reader to come to their own conclusions about this talented lady and her work. I admire Mr. Madison, and am grateful to him for crafting this groundbreaking work that means so much to Madeline's fans across the world.

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Madeline Fans Rejoice! She's back!
By txquis
Get it! It is the book we Madeline fans have longed for and it does not disappoint. The key to a great biography for me is, does it ask the correct and sometimes difficult questions, and does it find any answers? The answer here is a resounding and entertaining yes. All the "whys" of this brilliantly talented but somewhat enigmatic star are covered in detail. This is no dull summation of facts. It is well researched (the author seems to have interviewed anyone and everyone still alive who was a vital part of Kahn's story), and fully illuminates it's subject. Lifelong fans will probably be as stunned as I to discover Madeline Kahn's intense scrutiny of herself, both as a performer and a person. The book reveals her "from the inside out", which was her own method of working and being. A flesh and blood person has been captured here. It is rare to find a biography so willing to explore the contradictions that made her offstage life as interesting as her work. This is a fabulous read. It has brought her back to life, in perhaps her most intriguing role, as herself.

Best known for her Oscar-nominated roles in the smash hits *Paper Moon* and *Blazing Saddles*, Madeline Kahn (1942-1999) was one of the most popular comedians of her time and one of the least understood. In private, she was as reserved and refined as her characters were bold and bawdy. Almost a Method actor in her approach, she took her work seriously. When crew members and audiences laughed, she asked why as if they were laughing at her and all her life she remained unsure of her gifts. William V. Madison examines Kahn's film career, including not only her triumphs with Mel Brooks and Peter Bogdanovich, but also her overlooked performances in *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother* and *Judy Berlin*, her final film. Her work in television notably her sitcoms also comes into focus. New York theater showered her with accolades, but also with remarkably bad luck, culminating in a disastrous outing in *On the Twentieth Century* that wrecked her reputation on Broadway. Only with her Tony-winning performance in *The*

Sisters Rosensweig, fifteen years later, did Kahn regain her standing. Drawing on new interviews with family, friends, and such colleagues as Lily Tomlin, Carol Burnett, Gene Wilder, Harold Prince, and Eileen Brennan, as well as archival press and private writings, Madison uncovers Kahns lonely childhood and her struggles as a single woman working to provide for her erratic mother. Above all, Madison reveals the paramount importance of music in Kahns life. A talented singer, she entertained offers for operatic engagements long after she was an established Hollywood star, and she treated each script as a score. As Kahn told one friend, her ambition was to be the music.

A searching and compassionate study. Michael Feingold, Theater Mania Well-researched and insightful. Associated Press William V. Madisons detailed new biography . . . is a sad book; Kahns career had more disappointments than triumphs, and her personal life was dominated by her parasite of a mother. But it reads well. Madison is adept at describing Kahns performances, and he adores his subject and evinces great compassion for her. . . . Madison chronicles her life so lovingly that readers get a real fix on who she was and what made her so hilarious. Ed Sikov, Film Quarterly Madison, a former CBS News producer, gives comedian Madeline Kahn (1942-1999) the star treatment and provides fans with an in-depth, heartfelt look into her too-brief life. . . . [He] offers a warm portrait of Kahn and ends on an upbeat note, observing that Kahn experienced overdue romantic and professional fulfillment in her last years, including winning a Tony Award and acting in the award-winning Judy Berlin for her final film. Publishers Weekly A stunning achievement to rank alongside the very few really terrific theatrical bios. David Noh, Gay City News By 1974, Kahn was by any measure a star. . . . But then, according to William V. Madison in Madeline Kahn: Being the Music, A Life, it all disappeared. The talent didnt disappear, mind you; but it seems that Kahns faith in herself, which was never strong, deserted her altogether. . . . The book, mind you, is not depressing; it is illuminating. . . . Madison has followed her career step-by-step; every job seems to be discussed, including guest shots on television series. Steven Suskin, Huffington Post A superior portrait of a talented star. Library Journal When I started out in New York, in the late 60s, one of my earliest friends and fellow performers at Upstairs at the Downstairs was the inimitable Madeline Kahn. As young and struggling artists, we bonded as great friends, and remained friends for thirty years. Even back then, I knew her talent would take her far. She was so gifted in so many ways, its difficult to summarize her genius. Im delighted that William V. Madisons book has perfectly captured her irreverent humor as well as all the challenges she faced as a single working woman. Madeline continues to influence younger artists today, and her performances are a treasure for all of us. Lily Tomlin, Below the Belt revue, Upstairs at the Downstairs For everyone who found her an enigmatic delight on stages and screens, the book is a resonant must-read, evoking its subject and the golden age of theater and film in which she lived. Tom Shales, Pulitzer Prize-winning television critic Actresses and female singers must read this book to get an idea of the kind of adversity that Madeline Kahn faced in her career and that they may face too. Its perfectly, absolutely normal to sing and dance and play whats abnormal is trying to make a living from it. Michael Karm, director and teacher (Actors Studio West), Kahns co-star (Two by Two), and acting coach A riveting and unforgettable portrait. Christina Haag, actress and New York Times bestselling author of Come to the Edge: A Love Story A fine biography, worthy of Madelines unique talent and contribution. Robert Klein Bids to become the surprise biography of the year. A great untold story intriguingly revealed. Superbly researched, digs deep into the life and times of its subject and captures her essence. Dan Rather A genuine and engrossing tribute. . . . I think it would even make Madeline Kahn smile. Rex Reed Madeline Kahn is the best comic or dramatic actress, the best singer serious or comic and the best Ive worked with, or known in my life. Gene Wilder Madeline was bright, committed, thoughtful, and one of the most remarkable actresses I have ever worked with. William V. Madisons biography captures Madelines complexity and finely documents her career and personal life. Jane Alexander, actress, author, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and wildlife conservationist About the Author William V. Madison, New York, New York, is a former producer at CBS News and a former associate editor of Opera News; he was the lone production assistant on the Broadway musical Rags in 1986. A graduate of Brown University and of Columbias School of Creative Writing, he is a native Texan.