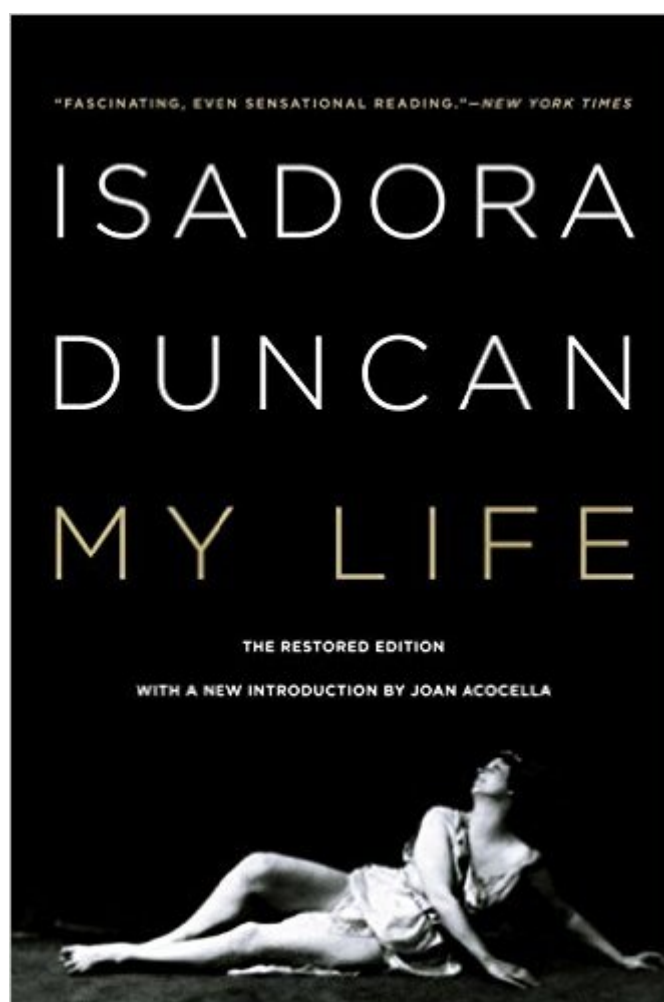


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My Life (Revised And Updated)



Synopsis

A remarkable account of a wildly artistic life, finally restored to its unexpurgated form, with a revealing new introduction by Joan Acocella. The visionary choreographer and dancer Isadora Duncan (1877–1927) not only revolutionized dance in the twentieth century but blazed a path for other visionaries who would follow in her wake. While many biographies have explored Duncan's crucial role as one of the founders of modern dance, no other book has proved as critical—as both historical record and vivid evocation of a riveting life—as her autobiography. From her early enchantment with classical music and poetry to her great successes abroad, to her sensational love affairs and headline-grabbing personal tragedies, Duncan's story is a dramatic one. *My Life* still stands alone as a great document, revealing the truth of her life as she understood it, without reticence or apology or compromise (New York Herald Tribune). Now, in this fully restored edition, with its *risqué* recollections and fervent idealism, *My Life* can be appreciated by a new generation.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I know that I am probably going to commit Isadora Duncan sacrilege with this review, so before I begin, and for the record, I would like to state that the world is indebted and grateful for what Isadora Duncan achieved in her lifetime and what she stands for as an artist in the dance world. However, my critique is directed towards her writing (and perhaps her eccentric career claims) not her dance and career achievements. Although her fame is undoubtedly recognized throughout the world, my inner voice tells me that she was a serial confabulist from what I have just read. I feel

absolutely terrible for admitting this about her memoir. Perhaps it was the peculiar writing style that made the work seem so categorically unrealistic. The opening of the book was, I admit, entertaining and even a touch humorous. About her birth she says: "Before I was born my mother was in a great agony of spirit and in a tragic situation. She could take no food except iced oysters and iced champagne." Then she goes on to say that this is why she began to dance. "It was the result of oysters and champagne" the food of Aphrodite." This is basically the tone of her memoir. She shared some interesting and abstruse philosophies with unique and idiosyncratic thoughts on artistic and life related issues, like only Isadora Duncan could. About art she said: "It is not the thing itself, but a symbol" a conception of the ideal of life. This is something I agreed with, wholeheartedly. But as the book progressed the author ventured briskly into a mythical, chimerical land full of fantastical allegories and symbolism that rendered me speechless until I wrote this review that is.

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