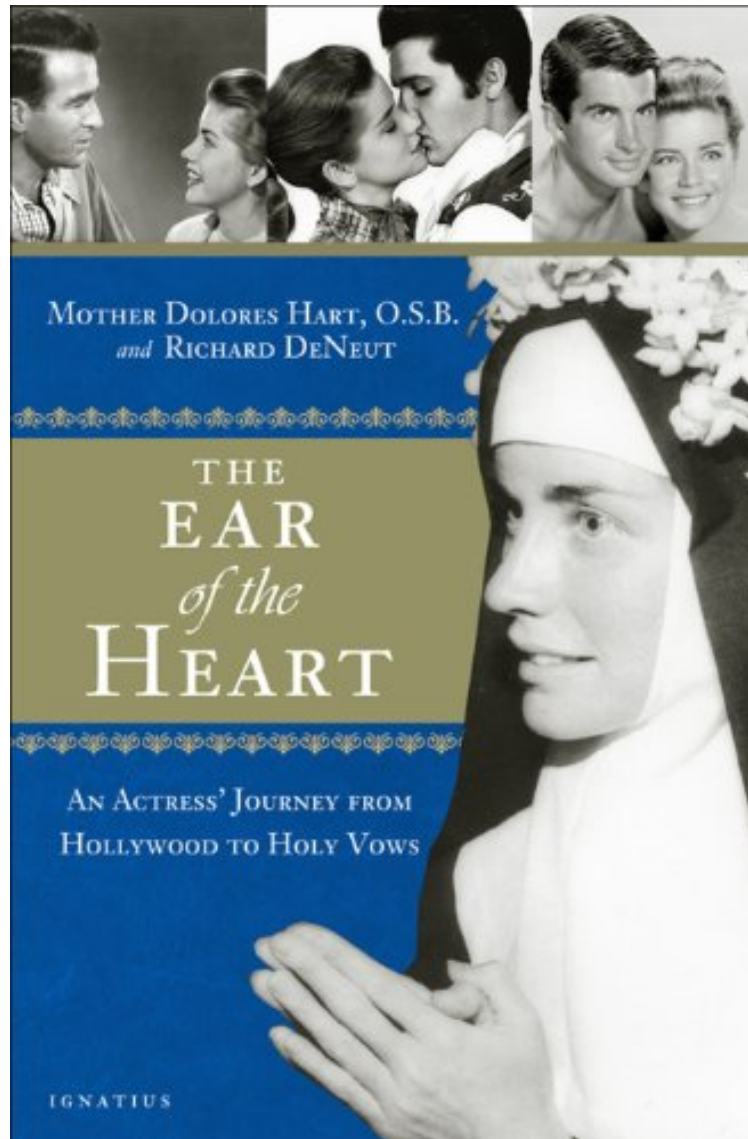


The Ear of the Heart: An Actress' Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows

Mother Dolores Hart, Richard DeNeut

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Mother Dolores Hart, Richard DeNeut : The Ear of the Heart: An Actress' Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ear of the Heart: An Actress' Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows:

88 of 89 people found the following review helpful. The Life Story of a Truly BEAUTIFUL Person!By William K.

Knott I have waited many years for this autobiography of Reverend Mother Dolores Hart and knew it would be one of those marvelous tomes that, once you picked it up, you would have a difficult time putting it down, and re-reading certain passages over and over again. The life story of this extraordinary woman, who gave up so much for so little, yet so much more, is not told as a remarkable tale of a person who was struck by lightning and immediately converted to religion, but it is a warm, at times funny, at times heartbreaking, life story of a young girl who came from a broken home but achieved fame and fortune in her late teens and early twenties as a film and stage actress of renown who eventually found that certain something that had been missing in her life, and decided to attempt a career switch that still has people scratching their heads and asking that all-important question, WHY? Reverend Mother Dolores, along with longtime friend Richard DeNeut, details her decision that was anything but overnight, and draws us into her search, meeting some truly marvelous people along the way. Her struggles with life as a young actress and later, her life as a young novice are poured out for us as she bares her soul for all to see. She talks of the tears she shed at night wondering if she did indeed make the right decision to enter the religious life, or if she made a terrible mistake, and how, after many years, realized that she's in the right place. After 39 years of correspondence with this special lady, I was anxious to find the answers to questions I never asked her in my many letters to her. My letters were written to a young nun who was a former actress, and I dwelt on her current career, not the one from which she retreated, although I wanted to know, "What was it like working with this person or that person?" Nor have I ever once, in all those years, sent her an item to sign, although I had several as I began collecting memorabilia from her movie career in the mid 1970's. I was rewarded with that discretion by having my name published in the Acknowledgments section of her book, MUCH to my surprise! I am now forever linked with a friend I have never met face to face but have shared most of my life with, bonded by that priceless gift of prayer. I have purchased the hard copy of this book, I have it on my Kindle, and I've purchased additional copies and Kindle versions for friends and family members. I am forever thankful for Reverend Mother Dolores' decision to take us on her incredible journey with this well-written book. I encourage anyone to read it. You, too, will meet a friend for life.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A long, loving look at the reality of life in a monastery
By Ann Yeong
This was twice the book I thought it would be. I had expected to read the story of how Hollywood starlet Dolores Hart came to become a cloistered Benedictine nun, and this was indeed told compellingly. What I had not expected was that there would be so much about her life after she entered the monastery, and how vivid and honest a portrayal of cloistered contemplative life it would be. How is it that a beautiful, young and successful actress would leave the career and the people she loved (including a fiance) to enter a life and a world she had next to no knowledge about? What strange grace was it that sustained her in the hardships that greeted her choice? The story of Dolores Hart's life is one of mystery, courage, beauty, strength and divine grace. From her conversion to the Catholic faith (which came about because of a happy misunderstanding in her childhood), broken family life, early career success, romances, to the central love story of how God led this free-spirited young woman into relationship with the Benedictine sisters of Regina Laudis, *The Ear of the Heart* is an engaging read. What moved me most, however, was the depiction of her struggle to adapt to monastic life and her often challenging relationships with the other 40 nuns. Mother Dolores Hart doesn't sugar coat over the formidable obstacles she faced, but neither does she sensationalise anything. In true contemplative fashion, this autobiography provides a "long, loving look at the real." I was struck and touched by the way these women - many of whom were accomplished professionals before they entered the monastery - grew in holiness together through the rigours of solitude, prayer, community life and work. It reminded me also that even though I am not in a cloistered community, that I too am invited by Christ to be as surrendered and open to being refined in the Holy Spirit's fire to become pure gold. I would highly recommend this book, especially to those who are interested in finding out more about religious life or those who are themselves struggling to adapt to life in a new community (especially religious community). It is written in a conversational style and very easy to read in spite of its length. There is much in this autobiography to inspire and encourage!

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An Enlightening Read
By Jeanne
This wonderful story of an actress finding her true vocation as a Benedictine nun is both inspirational and enlightening. I was amazed at what the life is like, both its hardships and its rewards. Mother Dolores is a wonder, so human and yet such an angel to all who know her. She reveals her very human side and never loses her own identity while at the same time being true to the Rule.

Dolores Hart stunned Hollywood in 1963, when after ten highly successful feature films, she chose to enter a contemplative monastery. Now, fifty years later, Mother Dolores gives this fascinating account of her life, with co-author and life-long friend, Richard DeNeut. Dolores was a bright and beautiful college student when she made her film debut with Elvis Presley in Paramount's 1957 *Loving You*. She acted in nine more movies with other big stars such as Montgomery Clift, Anthony Quinn and Myrna Loy. She also gave a Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway play *The Pleasure of His Company* and appeared in two television shows, including *The Virginian*. A new chapter in her life occurred while playing Saint Clare in the movie *Francis of Assisi*, which was filmed on location in Italy. Born Dolores Hicks to a complicated and colorful Chicago family, Mother Hart has traveled a charmed yet challenging road in her journey toward God, serenity and, yes, love. She entered the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn., at the peak of her career, not in order to leave the glamorous world of acting she had dreamed of

since childhood, but in order to answer a mysterious summons she heard with the "ear of the heart". While contracted for another film and engaged to be married, she gave up everything to become a bride of Christ. Lavishly illustrated with 64 pages of photos."Listen and attend with the ear of your heart." Saint Benedict"Mother Dolores Hart is a remarkable woman with a remarkable story-one of love, devotion and faith."--Maria Shriver, bestselling author of *Just Who Will You Be?*"Read now for some lively insights from the girl who kissed Elvis in the movies to the Mother Superior who gets the last laugh in real life."--Paula Prentiss, actress"I have been privileged to be in the presence of this extraordinary woman, Mother Dolores. And now with her book, *The Ear of the Heart*, those of us who wondered why she chose such a path in life will discover the answer lies in the journey. This is a courageous adventure. It is a thriller."--Richard Benjamin, actor and director"Read this fascinating story to learn how what seems like running away', is in reality running to 'Love.'"--Maria Cooper Janis, daughter of Gary Cooper"Mother Dolores Hart's life story is one of the most amazing I've ever read. It's as if she has taken you by the hand and invited you to join her on the most incredible ride. Pulling back the curtains on both Hollywood and the Cloister with no holds barred, she tells it like it is.' This is a real page-turner of an adventure filled with unexpected twists and turns, laughs and tears, highs and lows. And in the end, truly uplifting.--Dan Goggin, Creator of the "Nonsense" Musicals"Mother Dolores Hart's prose is a reflection of the inner beauty she has always possessed. A fascinating read... and read again!"--Robert Evans, Film Producer "The Ear of the Heart, like Dolores Hart herself, is Hollywood on the surface, but tough and deeply spiritual on the inside. It is the story of a remarkable woman, Dolores Hart, who guided by her inner goodness, sense of community, mission, and faith, rose to become a star of the silver screen, transformational prioress of the cloistered Benedictine abbey of Regina Laudis, and national spokesperson for the neuropathy association. It is an American biblical story for the modern age, and a good read to boot."--Dr. Norman Latov Director, Peripheral Neuropathy Center, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York

"What a joy to be in the company of Mother Dolores Hart. She is a compassionate narrator, from her childhood days, darkened by parental alcoholism, to her Hollywood career and her calling as a Catholic nun. Mother Dolores talks candidly about the difficulty of becoming a cloistered, Benedictine nun. The struggle with years of discipline and the rigorous farm work at the Abbey of Regina Laudis. We learn there was something in her deepest heart she sought." -- -- Pia Lindstrom, television journalist, daughter of Ingrid Bergman"The Ear of the Heart is a story of courage, sacrifice, dedication, and fulfillment. With grace and good humor in a voice as clear as the mountain spring, Mother Dolores Hart illuminates her lifelong quest for a state of tranquility and the joy of living in the presence of God.The book will lift your heart and mind in admiration. A call to a religious life is filled with mystery and wonder and at long last understanding and acceptance. Mother Dolores Hart shows us with her energy, word, and deed that her journey has led her to a life she could not have lived any other way. The truths she has found for herself resonate like the bells of the morning." -- --James Drury,*The Virginian*"A beautiful movie star gives up a successful Hollywood career to enter a traditional cloistered monastery. Can't happen? It did. In this heartfelt and moving memoir, Mother Dolores Hart explains how by listening with the 'ear of the heart' she heard God's call and dared to respond. Her journey powerfully demonstrates that we must be willing to lose our lives and forfeit our plans to discover our true purpose. The fascinating story of Dolores Hart also teaches us to be seek God regardless of where we are-in a summer storm, in prayer, or even in front of a camera." -- --Raymond Arroyo, New York Times Bestselling Author, Host of *The World Over Live* and EWTN News DirectorAbout the AuthorFor many years Richard DeNeut was a publicist for the Hollywood firm Globe Photos. He co-authored actress Patricia Neal's autobiography *As I Am* (Simon and Schuster, 1988) and wrote the text for *Inside Hollywood: 60 Years of Globe Photos* (Konemann, 2001).