



Above the Line: My Wild Oats Adventure

Shirley MacLaine

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A funny, fierce, imaginative memoir chronicling "New York Times" bestselling author and Academy Award winner Shirley MacLaine's remarkable experiences filming "Wild Oats" in the Canary Islands and the extraordinary memories her time there brought forth of a past life on the lost continent of Atlantis.

Her agent told her not to get on the plane. The male leads weren't even cast. The financing was shaky at best. The script had been re-written countless times. And yet something about "Wild Oats" lured Shirley MacLaine to the film's location shoot in the far-off Canary Islands--and straight to the center of one of the most thrilling and paradigm-shifting adventures of her life.

The making of the film reads like a screwball comedy, as the cast and crew face unpredictable daily obstacles with ingenuity, grit, and personal sacrifice. Yet the chaos leads Shirley to a revelatory new understanding of the demise of one of history's most elusive yet endlessly intriguing places. Scholars have long theorized that Spain's Canary Islands are the remnants of the mighty lost continent of Atlantis. As the movie set descends into pandemonium, Shirley finds fascinating corollaries between the island's cataclysmic fate and our own dangerous trajectory. Can we learn the lessons the citizens of Atlantis failed to comprehend?

The answer is borne out of recovered memories from Shirley's past life on Atlantis and through a series of meditations that reveal the necessity of unfettered imagination when looking for bold new truths, rendering this evocative memoir essential reading for anyone seeking a broader understanding of what it means to be human--both where we came from and where we are going.

Above the Line: My Wild Oats Adventure Details

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Author : Shirley MacLaine

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From Reader Review Above the Line: My Wild Oats Adventure for online ebook

Debra says

not my favorite Shirley book.
Too much movie set gossip, less spiritual insight

Joan says

I so enjoyed this experience: Shirley Maclaine telling me great stories. I don't know how the book is written but in her reading I loved the "Oh sures." after a remark about the producer's promise and the like. Over and over, in the descriptions of the movie making, I could hear her eyes roll.

In the sections, on past lives and all, I might have skimmed over if I were reading the book, I found her to be interesting, well read - a talk about Atlantis and stars, lead to remarks about the Dogon people of Mali, and not at all Evangelical.

Her remarks about herself, including aging, were frank and fresh.

I listened to this in my car, good in 10 or 30 minute clips alike. I was sorry to have it end.

Hey, Shirley, what are you doing now?

Gaby says

audible

Yollette says

I really wanted to like this book. Having read most of her previous works, I was thrilled to see that she was coming out with another one. Unlike some of her earlier writing, this one is neither entertaining nor a page-turner. The "voice" in her writing has changed and, to me, it is not nearly as coherent and engaging.

The sections regarding the goings-on behind the scene on a movie production I found mildly interesting and I believe the book would have benefited more had she stuck to the point. Rather, the last third of this "book" she drifts off to crusade for a rehash of prior other worlds traveled and past lives lived that were mentioned in previous works. Perhaps providing a few new details, but a rehash, none the less. In essence, the book has a beginning, a slog towards a middle that never really gets there, and then it has another "beginning" as we slip off into neck pain, water therapy, stem-cell research, TMJ and a revisit to past lives of her previous books. I suppose in her estimation even books can reincarnate if one keeps referring to them.

Sally Ember says

This wasn't the worst book I've ever read, but it was close. The only reason I'm giving even two stars is that some of it was interesting.

However, this book either had no editor or some editor who couldn't do his/her job, because the number of writing mistakes, repetitions, pacing and fact-checking issues this book had should have put straight into the REVISE pile, not to-be-published.

I know Shirley Maclaine from her other books and they are all "out there" in some way or another: why else would anyone read her books? But, this book wasn't even a book: there wasn't much of a plot, the characters (such as they were, since this was supposedly non-fiction) were thinly drawn (at best), she has almost nothing to say except unload the contents of her ruminations and dreams and there was NO PURPOSE to this book that I could discern.

I have never been to the Canary Islands, however, and I have an interest in Atlantis, so there were a few tidbits I enjoyed. Otherwise, not worth anyone's time. Ever.

Lily Nikolova says

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Allison says

This is my first Shirley MacLaine book. I decided to read it after seeing her interviewed on Stephen Colbert's show a few weeks ago. It won't be the last of her books I read. It was very entertaining and interesting to read about what goes on behind the scenes of making a movie. Her style of writing also made her easy to identify with as she described the challenges she faced both personally and professionally during her time working on "Wild Oats". I'm hoping I'll get to see the film before long too.

I am also interested in finding out more about Atlantis and reincarnation as well as investigating the other books and sources that were referenced in the book regarding these topics.

There was one glaring problem with the book that bugged me throughout the book and detracted from her believability, for me. What makes it even more annoying and troublesome is that the glaring error in the book SHOULD have been caught by an editor somewhere along the way from Ms. MacLaine's handwritten pages to the final printing.

She refers to humans as being "98% water" and using this incorrect information as being the basis for why we are connected to the water and why our consciousness is changing - because water changes, etc.

We are categorically NOT 98% water. Depending upon our age, we may not even be 60% water.

The average adult male is about 60% water. The average adult woman is about 55% water...*

The problem with the lack of a fact check here is that because this is such a simple fact to check and it wasn't and it is inaccurate, that inaccuracy casts doubt upon the validity of other "truths" and/or "facts" in the book. It's just a shame that it wasn't spotted and corrected before publication. At least I didn't come across any blatant typos. Those really bug me to no end.

Other than this water percentage error, which was a shining one for me, I really enjoyed her story-telling. I enjoyed how she alternated between talking about the external experiences she was having working on the film and the experiences she was having internally with her consciousness and memories. I genuinely look forward to reading more of her books soon. I truly believe she has a deep insight to share with us all and that the sooner we can progress intellectually and spiritually and embrace our connectedness to the Earth, each other and our collective future, the better off we will all be.

*Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D. "How Much Of The Human Body Is Water?". About.com Education. N.p., 2015. Web. 21 Apr. 2016.

🌀Amy🌛🌝🌜 says

Being my first book by her I give it 3 stars. Bums me out. I read the reviews, but like to judge a book myself. It was just ok!

Jennifer Nanek says

This book is about Shirley McClaine's experiences while filming the movie "Wild Oats". I had not seen the movie before I read the book..but because I did read the book I have now seen the movie. The movie is nothing to write home about. The book was enjoyable. I listened to the audio version. It's just fun listening to her tell stories about life on the movie set. Her theories about Atlantis are strange and fantastic and interesting to listen to. It wasn't a great book but it was ok. I enjoyed listening to it.

Robert says

Two different themes awkwardly combined into one book. Reads like it was written off the top of her head. Wild Oats was an independent film with funding problems, a revolving door cast, inexperienced crew, and ever changing script. Shirley Maclaine accepts a starring role anyway because a connection to Atlantis allows her to explore her spirituality. The narrative alternates between her negative experience making the movie and her nonstandard spiritual beliefs. And some passages about whatever pops into her head. "I'm as down-to-earth as a human can be."

Catherine says

Not her best. I wanted to read more about Atlantis, less about show business.

Judith Gollihar says

Reread because this is about making Wild Oats which is currently on Netflix. Too much new age for me but full of nuggets about making the movie.

G.G. says

Not What We've Come to Expect

If you're expecting a real spiritual journey like MacLaine's exceptional books *Out on a Limb* or *The Camino*; *Above the Line: My Wild Oats Adventure* will be a disappointment. But if you're interested in the behind the scenes on a film set, it might be appealing. Sadly, the back-biting, broken promises and how special actors are wasn't what I was interested in.

I bought it with the promise of insight into Atlantis and an exploration of the Canary Islands. Neither really happened. In fairness, MacLaine is in her 80s and probably isn't the fearless explorer she once was. No shame in that. We're all lucky if we make it to the Third Age. Had this book been represented honestly by the publisher as a memoir from a movie set—I would have passed.

What I really wanted was more connection to Atlantis on the Canary Islands. Some believe that Atlantis existed where the Greek island of Santorini is now, so perhaps it was just the wrong location for the wisdom I was looking for.

If only the last portion about her injury and subsequent treatment had been left out: Thud! What did it have to do with the movie shoot? It's a whole other story. And memories of life on Atlantis are suddenly pouring forth? I would have enjoyed reading these intermixed with revelations on the Canary Islands.

MacLaine has a lot to offer and I hope her next book is more astute and less aggrandizing.

Lori says

I would give this a 3.5. I had seen the movie "Wild Oats" recently and wanted to read Shirley MacLaine's book. "Above The Line: My Wild Oats Adventure" This book is partly about her filming the movie "Wild Oats" and her beliefs in the world of Atlantis and reincarnation. If anyone knows much about Shirley MacLaine, she has written many books about reincarnation and Earth millions of years ago. So this book is a bit about both filming the movie and her beliefs.

I learned how frustrating it is to film a movie. I would have thought when a movie starts filming all money was in place to film. Not so. There was a lot of drama waiting for more money to come in, getting supporters to help pay etc. So filming this movie was a major headache. From money to casting, to frayed nerves. Since some of the movie was filmed in the Canary Islands and it was rumored that this location was around

where Atlantis could have been so long ago Ms. MacLaine took an interest in learning more about Atlantis and sharing with the readers. A pretty interesting read for the most part.

Shannon Breen says

I preface this by saying I LOVE Shirley MacLaine's books and while I don't necessarily accept all her spiritual beliefs, I at least find her search interesting. This book has her usual witty style. She's a talented writer. And the parts about the making of the movie I loved. 4.5 stars. It was the other stuff that brought down my rating. While I have liked reading in the past about her study of reincarnation, chakras, channeling, etc., she lost me a bit in THE CAMINO when she talked about Atlantis. Unfortunately, 90% of the non-movie stuff in this book is about Atlantic and much her own "visions" that she has seen of what occurred there. I usually find her interesting whether I subscribe to her beliefs or not, but I found the Atlantic materially incredibly boring. I still recommend the book if you like her style. Just not one of her books that I will read twice.
