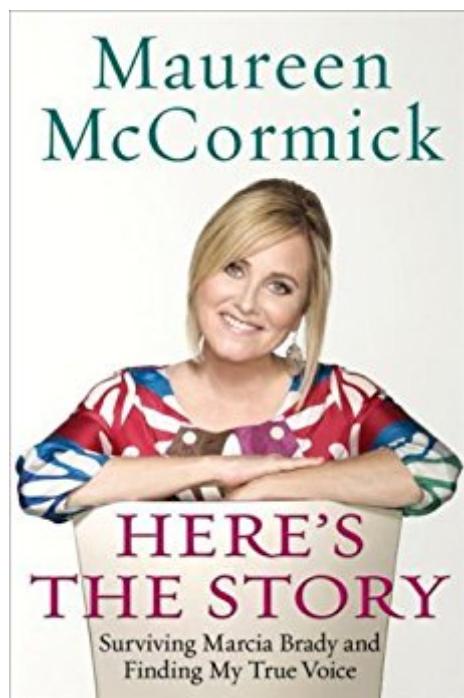


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# Here's The Story: Surviving Marcia Brady And Finding My True Voice



## Synopsis

Marcia! Marcia! Marcia! Marcia Brady, eldest daughter on television's *The Brady Bunch*, had it all—style, looks, boys, brains, and talent. No wonder her younger sister Jan was jealous! For countless adolescents across America who came of age in the early 1970s, Marcia was the ideal American teenager. Girls wanted to be her. Boys wanted to date her. But what viewers didn't know about the always-sunny, perfect Marcia was that offscreen, her real-life counterpart, Maureen McCormick, the young actress who portrayed her, was living a very different—and not-so-wonderful—life. Now, for the very first time, Maureen tells the shocking and inspirational true story of the beloved teen generations have invited into their living rooms—and the woman she became. In *Here's the Story*, Maureen takes us behind the scenes of America's favorite television family, the Bradys. With poignancy and candor, she reveals the lifelong friendships, the hurtful jealousies, the offscreen romance, the loving support her television family provided during a life-or-death moment, and the inconsolable loss of a man who had been a second father. But *The Brady Bunch* was only the beginning. Haunted by the perfection of her television alter ego, Maureen landed on the dark side, caught up in a fast-paced, drug-fueled, star-studded Hollywood existence that ultimately led to the biggest battle of her life. Moving from drug dens on Wonderland Avenue to wild parties at the Playboy mansion and exotic escapades on the beaches of Hawaii, this candid, hard-hitting memoir exposes a side of a beloved pop-culture icon the paparazzi missed. Yet it is also a story of remarkable success. After kicking her drug habit, Maureen battled depression, reconnected with her mother, whom she nursed through the end of her life, and then found herself in a pitched battle for her family in which she ultimately triumphed. There is no question: Maureen McCormick is a survivor. After fifty years, she has finally learned what it means to love the person you are, insight that has brought her peace in a happy marriage and as a mother. *Here's the Story* is the empowering, engaging, shocking, and emotional tale of Maureen McCormick's courageous struggle over adversity and her lifelong battle to come to terms with the idea of perfection—and herself.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Maureen's story is poignant, honest and courageous and I'm sure it was cathartic for her as well. I also survived tinsel town from behind the camera but for one year working as a tutor for a movie star's child. The superficiality, the sycophants foisted upon "stars" are overwhelming (even more so for a child/adolescent) And sadly, most child actors are typecast for eternity and sadly end up never finding work in the "industry" after the lights fade after their "agents" and parents often leave them penniless. These are normal people folks; (who put their pants on one leg at a time) and have all the problems the rest of us do if not more. Kudos to you Maureen for sharing your life and providing insight to people that you weren't just the "eldest Brady girl" on the screen every Friday night. I take away from this great autobiography a beautiful woman, a survivor who has stumbled(As we all have and anyone who denies it is deluding themselves), yet found herself and is at peace with her life and family now. God bless you Maureen and your family!

I did not like The Brady Bunch Show at all. I didn't think it was funny. Ever. I didn't fantasize about having a family like that because it was so unrealistic not to mention syrupy sometimes. (Family Affair was more appealing. A New York penthouse!!! Plus, Uncle whatsisname seemed kind of depressed a lot and, with my childhood, that seemed more like the real world.) Back then, there were only three stations to choose from so sometimes, desperate, I'd watch The Brady Bunch. That said, I did know unconsciously that all the actors gave 110% to their roles. I had nothing against the

actors and was well aware of Marcia/Maureen. We were the same age in 1969 (and still today!) Man, did she have a rough life!!!! I'm so glad her cast members were like family to her. They all liked each other and supported each other and remained friends for life. I loved that. After the show ended and Maureen really got into drugs and increasing troubles of one kind or another, my blood pressure started going up. I wanted peace for her so badly, well-being within, and it took so long for something close to that to happen. She is so honest in this book, so likeable, and to me -- someone who had her own troubles with drugs -- so relatable. I hope she has released the trauma energy because in my opinion there was a lot of family trauma that messed up her survival brain and she only knew how to shut it down with "recreational" drugs. I would not be surprised if life is still difficult for her, if she gets overwhelmed sometimes and over-reacts to trivial things, if she has trouble sleeping and/or relaxing and has other symptoms of PTSD. My opinion only. I'm such an expert on her life from reading one book, right? Ha! God bless her, Maureen is one strong sister. I recommend this well-written book to memoir lovers, fans of Brady Bunch, ex-addicts, and those who had trauma in their childhood.

It's hard to imagine that the Brady Bunch TV show only ran for three seasons. (There were special features and movies featuring the cast after the show concluded.) Maureen's story speaks to how she felt pressure that she needed to present herself to the level of perfection that her character, Marcia, was perceived. And she was forthcoming about how she responded to that impossible situation; her drug issues and some chemical imbalances that led to impossible-to-predict mood swings. I appreciate that she just told the story in a candid manner and allowed the 'moral of the story' be revealed naturally and easily. (I picked-up some celebrity autobiographies that are preachy and jam-packed with how they think a life should be lived, by giving the readers directives. I prefer to consume a well told story and then draw my own 'aha' moment or conclusion or to be lightly led to it. Maureen's book does just that, so that is why I liked it.)

As a 'survivor' of hoarding parents (like Maureen), I was touched by her honesty about her shame whenever there might be visitors coming to an overly-messy house. Been there, done that. I was not clear on her reasons for youthful drug abuse, other than the fact that 'everyone was doing it' and 'I don't want to be uncool with my friends.' I grew up watching the show (was closer in age to Jan) and always felt that child stars must have it soooooo easy. For one thing, in my mind, they did not have to go to school and deal with constant teasing/taunts from peers, and they got to work with professionals all day. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, as they say. I was

also impressed with her honesty about dealing with sick/aging parents. I have also been down that road a few times. I stay on a guilt trip about what I did wrong, what I could have done better; I think that is another thing that many of us beat ourselves up about, over and over. I encourage others to read the book, as well.

For those of us who grew up with the Brady Bunch - we knew the kids weren't as perfect as they appeared to be on the show. But Maureen McCormick has certainly let us see all of her flaws here. I think the story would've been just as effective without including the names of every celebrity she's met over her life but that's just my take on it. I still believe that everyone has a right to tell their own story or not. Being featured in someone else's tell all book kind of robs them of that choice. I'm glad Ms. McCormick has found a measure of peace in her life.

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