

Shirley, I Jest!



A
STORIED
LIFE

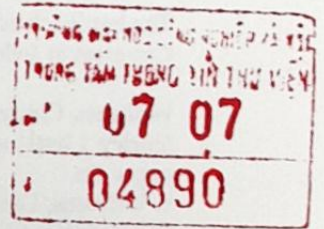
CINDY WILLIAMS
WITH DAVE SMITHERMAN
Foreword by Ed Begley Jr.

Shirley, I Jest!

A STORIED LIFE

CINDY WILLIAMS

with Dave Smitherman



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Foreword

Ed Begley Jr.

America fell in love with Cindy Williams in 1977, when she began her hit show *Laverne & Shirley*. But, I fell in love with her seven years prior to that, at the wrap party for *Room 222*.

Though ours was never the romantic relationship I had hoped for after that first meeting, it wasn't for lack of trying. Our first date consisted of me picking her up in a three-wheel 1970 electric vehicle, which was not exactly a babe magnet. It was so slow that a kid on a scooter passed us by and gave us the finger. I decided to bide my time and wait for the right moment to pounce on her, but that didn't work out so well either.

I lulled her into a false sense of security, and convinced her to spend a weekend with me at Two Bunch Palms. After two years of waiting, I had little pride remaining. I did what any red-blooded male would do under those conditions. I begged her to let me into her room in hopes of getting to first base. I tried her door. Locked! And she probably had it bolted from inside. I thought about going around back to "jimmy" the window, but then the police might get involved. No, I had to make my peace with it. I had long ago

Foreword

become like a brother to her, and after weeping and begging, I quickly surmised that being her “brother” was a pretty sweet deal.

Her generosity in my life was endless. She became one of the biggest champions of my work as an actor, a stand-up comic, and an environmentalist. She loaned me a huge sum of money so I could buy my first house. She introduced me to a holistic doctor who kept me healthy for decades. She became the godmother to my daughter, Amanda. She got me cast as her brother on *Laverne & Shirley*. She introduced me to a long list of brilliant and creative people that are still an important part of my life.

We saved trees together, went on trips together, broke down on the highway together, and had many fantastic adventures together.

Though it wasn't what I had in mind at first, being considered “family” by this talented and dynamic woman is simply wonderful.

I suppose I should pay her back the money I borrowed.

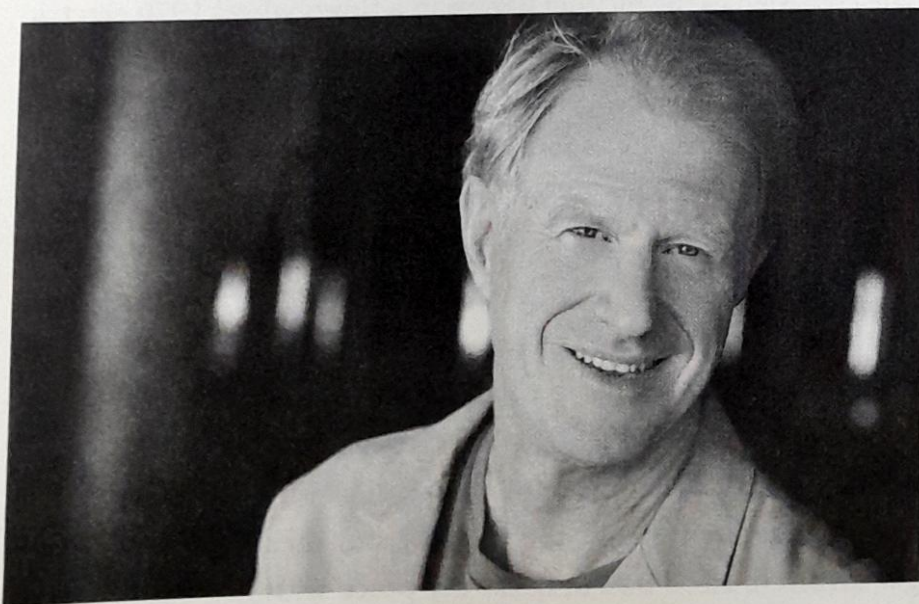


Photo by Tricia Lee Pascoe

Cindy Williams, half of the comedic duo *Laverne & Shirley*, has had a wild and lively career in show business. This book is an engaging and heartfelt journey from Williams's blue-collar roots to unexpected stardom—from being pranked by Jim Morrison while waiting tables at Whisky a Go Go to starring in one of the most iconic shows on television. With wit and candor, Williams tells stories of her struggles as a child growing up with meager means and dreaming of becoming an actress. She also shares many misadventures and amusing anecdotes about some of the most famous actors in Hollywood. Never taking herself too seriously, Williams finds humor and irony in the challenging world of show business.

"In this delightfully amusing memoir, Williams, best known for her role as Shirley in the 1970s sitcom *Laverne & Shirley*, takes readers on a lightning-quick tour of her life and career. She walks readers through her childhood. . . . Williams recounts her various acting experiences, such as working on *American Graffiti* with George Lucas, but also discusses the lean times before her big break when she nearly quit acting. She provides endearing stories featuring such celebrities as Johnny Carson, Cary Grant, and Bob Dylan, her music idol. Williams presents herself as genuine, witty, and down to earth, and her personality comes across on every page." —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"Cindy Williams: talented in everything she does. Writing her first book is NO exception . . . get ready to enjoy." —HENRY WINKLER

"Cindy's book brings back a lot of great personal memories, but it also entertained the hell out of me. The lady can write!" —RON HOWARD



CINDY WILLIAMS is an actress and comedian who has starred in some of the most notable movies and television programs in entertainment history, including *Laverne & Shirley* and *American Graffiti*. She still loves her theater roots and has performed in many shows across the country in addition to starring on Broadway in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She lives mirthfully in Southern California.



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