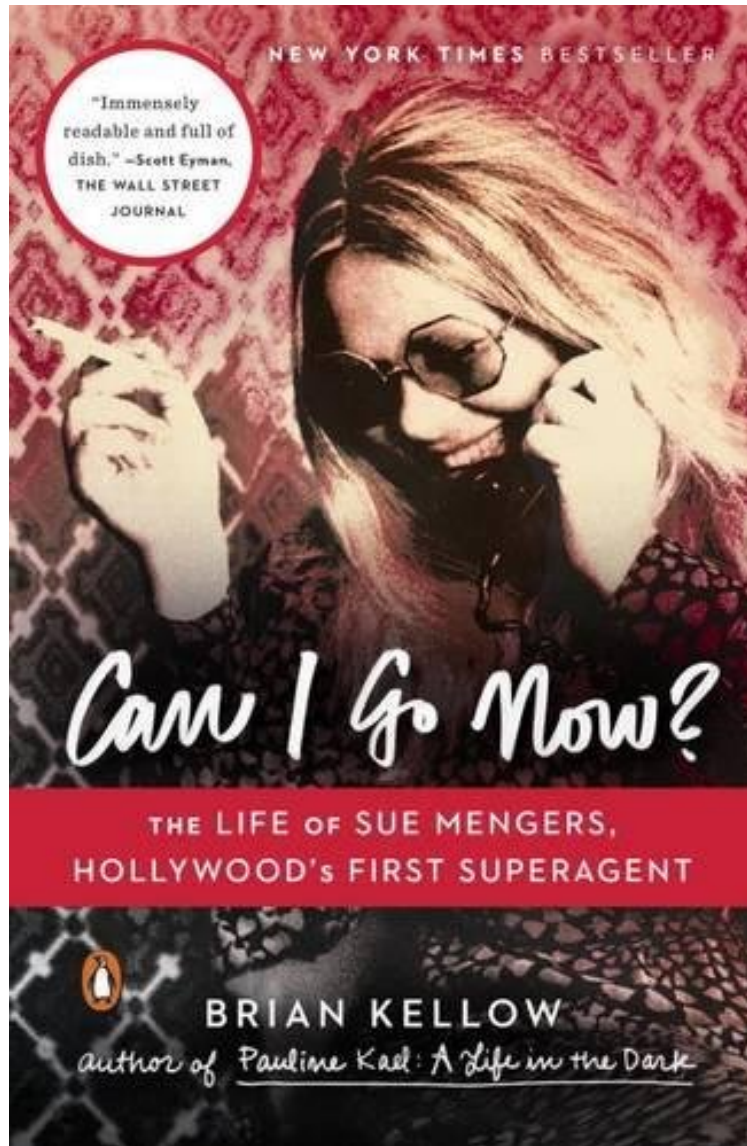


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Brian Kellow

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#468104 in Books Kellow Brian 2016-09-06 2016-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .70 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0143108875336 pages Can I Go Now The Life of Sue Mengers Hollywood s First Superagent | File size: 43.Mb

Brian Kellow : Can I Go Now?: The Life of Sue Mengers, Hollywood's First Superagent before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Can I Go Now?: The Life of Sue Mengers, Hollywood's First Superagent:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Biography NOT Viewed Through The Subject's Rose-Tinted Glasses! By peter2258 Can I go now? is yet another example of the delicate and fine balancing act any biographer walks when analyzing an individual against their role and/or participation in a cultural paradigm shift. Mr. Kellow threads the needle once again with adept candor and proficiency as he did with his biography of Pauline Kael. Elements of the period when Mengers achieve (some might say seized) her power and influence intersected with the crossroads of a shifting cultural and, to a greater extent, economic transformation in the town dominated by a single industry. Thoughtful, insightful, dishy yet never disrespectful of either the subject nor any of the myriad of individuals who have provided back ground and comment as raw material for Kellow to mold, this extremely readable and enjoyable book is far from the oddly flat biography of such a colorful character. Janet Maslin of The New York Times penned in her oddly suspect review. Doubtful Ms. Maslin was reading the same fully dimensional biography I read. Perhaps the not so transparent undercurrent of her review, i.e. a bit of jealousy mixed with an East Coast bias to a mostly West Coast industry, lay manifest to her assumption. It seems Mr. Kellow has a penchant for that delicious (with Kael and now Mengers) period in Hollywood history that has been under-analyzed. I for one, not only enjoyed the read but came away with informed knowledge of a critical period in moviemaking and of an individual who help shape its profile.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Colorful and Exciting Lifestyle By Stella Carrier This book of Can I Go Now?: The Life of Sue Mengers, Hollywood's First Superagent by Brian Kellow touches on both Mengers early life and her later life. Some of the multiple tidbits in this book; pictures starting after page 118 of Sue Mengers as a child in Hamburg Germany, pictures of Sue Menger with her mother Ruth Mengers, her cousin Leo Senders engagement party photo, a photo of Sue Mengers with her friend Boaty Boatwright etc. There is also a mention that Sue Menger worked to help Paula Prentiss obtain a role in the 1973 version of the movie Westworld (page 122).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great tell all about one of the first very successful women Multi Millionaire Hollywood Talent Agent! By Gary J. Chenett This is a no hold barred biography about a woman leader talent Sue Mengers who tells it like it is in the early days up until the 90's. Sue Mengal is a real character that makes you laugh at her boldness starting in the early days when women were expected to be in the home and not making millions dueling in Hollywood and New York. Sue has Clients starting with greats like Streisand and going through the lists of many of the most famous stars of the Hollywood and their friends. She is known for her Great Parties that she uses a a ruse to make friends and then sign dozens of the biggest names of the "Silver Screen" . It is really a hilarious adventure you take with her as she raises hell and becomes the go to person for most stars.....She is wacky and bold and the book tells it all. I found it very entertaining and funny.....A great read if you want to know about the grit and grim she faced working her way to the top. She is another largely unknown person that operated behind the scenes helping make the movies we all so loved. It is a easy and very well written book about this historical woman.

To call Sue Mengers a character is an understatement, unless the word is written in all-caps, followed by an exclamation point and modified by an expletive. And based on Brian Kellow's assessment in his thoroughly researched Can I Go Now? even that description may be playing down her personality a bit. Jen Chaney, The Washington Post A NY Times Culture Bestseller An Entertainment Weekly Best Pop Culture Book of 2015 A Booklist Top Ten Arts Book of 2015 A lively and colorful biography of Hollywood's first superagent one of the most outrageous showbiz characters of the 1960s and 1970s whose clients included Barbra Streisand, Ryan O'Neal, Faye Dunaway, Michael Caine, and Candice Bergen Before Sue Mengers hit the scene in the mid-1960s, talent agents remained quietly in the background. But staying in the background was not possible for Mengers. Irrepressible and loaded with chutzpah, she became a driving force of Creative Management Associates (which later became ICM) handling the eras preeminent stars. A true original with a gift for making the biggest stars in Hollywood listen to hard truths about their careers and personal lives, Mengers became a force to be reckoned with. Her salesmanship never stopped. In 1979, she was on a plane that was commandeered by a hijacker, who wanted Charlton Heston to deliver a message on television. Mengers was incensed, wondering why the hijacker wanted Heston, when she could get him Barbra Streisand. Acclaimed biographer Brian Kellow spins an irresistible tale, exhaustively researched and filled with anecdotes about and interviews more than two hundred show-business luminaries. A riveting biography of a powerful woman that charts show business as it evolved from New York City in the 1950s through Hollywood in the early 1980s, Can I Go Now? will mesmerize anyone who loves cinema's most fruitful period. From the Hardcover edition.

Even the brightest star is occasionally eclipsed by a moon. Sue Mengers was a moon. . . . Kellow is the first to pull back the caftan, to consider what really made Mengers Mengers. He has made a specialty of forceful showbiz women previous subjects include Pauline Kael and Ethel Merman and she fits easily into that pantheon. . . . [Mengers] came of age as the moving pictures, and seemingly the world, burst into Technicolor. Kellow vividly renders this time of alliterative rat-a-tat names begat of the typewriter Boaty Boatwright, Freddie Fields, Lionel Lerner, Maynard Morris and restaurants that treated regulars like family: Downeys and Lindys and Sardis. . . . [a] reflective and soulful book. Alexandra Jacobs, The New York Times Book To call Sue Mengers a character is an understatement, unless the

word is written in all-caps, followed by an exclamation point and modified by an expletive. And based on Brian Kellow's assessment in his thoroughly researched *Can I Go Now?* even that description may be playing down her personality a bit. Gutsy, pushy and savvy, Mengers was the take-no-b.s. power agent for many of Hollywood's boldest bold-faced names in the late 1960s and the 70s. . . . *Can I Go Now?* a title inspired by something Mengers often said to cut short conversations offers plenty of dishy, inside-70s-Hollywood stories, including tales from those soirees at her Beverly Hills home. . . . Kellow doesn't shy away from highlighting her negative traits as well, qualities that often worked at odds with her strongest attributes. Jen Chaney, *The Washington Post* Picture Joan Rivers with less of a filter, bulldozer-setting ramped up to 12, shpritzing venom alongside comic abuse. Imagine that, and you'll start to get a vague idea of the lioness named Sue Mengers. . . . [Kellow's] book is immensely readable and full of dish. Scott Eyman, *The Wall Street Journal* Super-agent Sue Mengers handled some of the hottest stars in Hollywood. . . . Brian Kellow's new biography, *Can I Go Now?* derives its title from one of her favorite ways to end a phone call. As one of the most powerful agents in Hollywood for two decades *Time* magazine described her as a cross between Mama Cass and Mack the Knife Mengers was uncensored. She also was a skilled negotiator. And a trail blazer for women in the male-dominated field. Susan King, *The Los Angeles Times* Mengers was the first woman to amass the sort of power she did, representing Barbra Streisand, Gene Hackman, Michael Caine, Candice Bergen, Ryan O'Neal, Mike Nichols and so many more. But Mengers, as this insightful, often hilarious and celebrity-filled book relates, was a mass of contradictions. Larry Getlen, *New York Post* [Kellow] brings her rollicking personality to life with outrageous anecdotes while pointing out the behaviors that doomed her. . . . In the 1990s, she walked into a party, looked around and muttered to her companions, 'Schindler's B-list.' Her biography, however, is A-list all the way. Paul Teetor, *LA Weekly Colorful* is the kind of code word one uses when actual examples can't be published in a review. Kellow fills his lively book *Can I Go Now?* with enough ribald tales of Mengers being colorful to fill a crayon box. That she could be endearing as well as rude and insulting to the people she represented is surprising and just one aspect of a fascinating personality Kellow places squarely in the context of the way the movie business worked at that time. . . . Kellow give[s] Mengers the place in Hollywood history that she deserves. Douglass K. Daniel, *The Associated Press* Before there was Ovitz or Ari, there was Sue Mengers. During the peak of her clout in the 1970s, the brash barrier-breaker helped popularize the idea of the Hollywood super-agent. The media lapped up her comic crudity . . . her legendary dinner parties attracted Tinseltown's A-list, and *60 Minutes* came calling to do a lengthy interview that captured Mengers dishing and deal-making. . . . She didn't believe in gussying up hard truths and could be brutally candid with her clients. That lost her some accounts . . . but it also earned her respect. Everyone prized her honesty, Kellow said. In a town like Hollywood, that's hard to come by. . . . She was a scrutinizing, tough Jewish mama. Brent Lang, *Variety* An absorbing read. Clark Collis, *Entertainment Weekly* With his new book *Can I Go Now?*, Brian Kellow follows up his 2011 biography of film critic iconoclast Pauline Kael by telling the story of Sue Mengers, the first enormously successful female agent in the movie industry. As the representative for many of the major players of the day . . . Mengers helped to define a new concept of Hollywood stardom for a new, post-studio system era. Mengers also set a new standard for female power in the workplace, with a brash, inimitable style that mixed sweet talk and harassment, employing feminine wiles more often than not as a weapon. . . . The story of how a strong woman steamrolled through the Hollywood glass ceiling is an important one, but what makes *Can I Go Now?* worth reading is its careful chronicling of what happens after the glass shatters, and that woman has to figure out how to stay on top without revealing her wounds. Karina Longworth, *Slate* A minor masterpiece of Hollywood history in its most exciting, glamorous, and gossip-wise period. Liz Smith, *New York Social Diary* Mengers was a complicated, powerful trailblazer, one who barged down doors for women and changed the nature of the talent-agent business. Kellow's absorbing biography not only peels back the layers to reveal the true nature of this fascinating individual but also delves deeply into the film industry in the latter half of the twentieth century. *Booklist* (starred review) Effortlessly readable, especially for *Vanity Fair* enthusiasts and film buffs. *Library Journal* From the 1950s through the 1980s, Sue Mengers represented some of the most famous names in show business. . . . [The agents] coveted gatherings, her bawdy appearances at premieres and nightclubs, and a profile in *Vanity Fair* made her as recognizable as her glamorous roster of actors, and she worked tirelessly to promote them not just to get them parts, but also higher and higher salaries. . . . Kellow, an admirer of Mengers' spunk and achievements, serves her well in this deft, entertaining biography. *Kirkus's Praise for Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark* [A] smart and incisive biography. . . . [Moviegoers] are in for a colossal eye-opening. [Kael's] love for film has no present-day counterpart. . . . Mr. Kellow's clear, independent view of his subject is his book's most valuable surprise. . . . Kael liked to disparage what she called saphead objectivity. But Mr. Kellow is no saphead, and he makes objectivity a great virtue. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* (Editors Choice) Illuminating. *The New Yorker* (ers favorites from 2011) [An] entertaining and insightful biography, as much a study of her criticism as a narrative of her life. . . . [Pauline] Kael emerges from [Kellow's] biography as a great cinematic character, a kind of *Citizen Kane*, with a life lived and shaped by the dark. Elaine Showalter, *The Times Literary Supplement* A smart and eminently readable examination of the life and career of one of the twentieth century's most influential movie critics. *Los Angeles Times* (blog) To appreciate Kael's trailblazing, you have to see it in its broader context. Luckily, that backdrop is filled in with sure-footed sophistication by Brian Kellow in Pauline

Kael: A Life in the Dark, a fair-minded and deeply reported Kael biography. Frank Rich, The New York Times Book [A] rich, thorough, and admirably fair biography. Entertainment Weekly (Best Nonfiction Books of 2011) [Pauline Kael] got into my bloodstream more than any other critic. So I have been waiting most of my life for a smart, insightful biography like [Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark] to take me beyond and beneath the hypnotic thrill of her prose. Ben Brantley, The New York Times (Critics Picks)From the Hardcover edition.About the AuthorBrian Kellow is the author ofPauline Kael: A Life in the Dark;Ethel Merman: A Life;The Bennetts: An Acting Familyand the coauthor ofCant Help Singing: The Life of Eileen Farrell. His articles have appeared inVanity Fair,The Wall Street Journal,The New York Observer,Opera, and other publications. Kellow lives in New York City.