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## I Wish You Love: Conversations With Marlene Dietrich

*Eryk Hanut*

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**Eryk Hanut : I Wish You Love: Conversations With Marlene Dietrich** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Wish You Love: Conversations With Marlene Dietrich:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An extraordinary story of friendship and love By A Customer An unusually fine celebrity memoir surfaces in Eryk Hanut's I WISH YOU LOVE-CONVERSATIONS WITH MARLENE DIETRICH. for several years before Dietrich's death, in 1992, at the age of 91, Hanut, a young dane living

in Paris, carried on wide-ranging phone chats with the aged star. Hanut's records of these talks reveal Dietrich as an intelligent woman of fiery opinion, and the author as a sensitive soul who here offers neither hagiography nor indictment, but a tender, thoughtful appreciation of a woman turned legend PUBLISHERS WEEKLY April 1996

Marlene Dietrich's film career spanned six decades, until she retired in 1976 to live her life as a recluse. While living in Paris in the 1980s, Hanut wrote to Dietrich, expressing his admiration for her work. To his surprise, she responded. Here is a record of their sudden friendship. Dietrich shares her thoughts on a wide array of topics--art, literature, haute couture, Hollywood, her career, and her image and persona. 2 cassettes.

From Kirkus sThis first book by Danish-born, Paris-raised photographer Hanut describes his telephonic friendship with Dietrich over the last few years of her life. Hanut recalls that he first saw Dietrich at one of her stage performances when he was only eight years old. He was terrified by this commanding presence in furs, and his fears were only slightly assuaged when she came over later to speak to his aunt, another film actress, at a postshow gathering. Many years later he wrote to her on a whim, thereby engendering a series of phone conversations that are the *raison d'être* of this slender volume. Much of the book's first half is taken up with Hanut's rather overwrought narrative of his own depressing childhood and youth: abusive father; both parents killed in an auto wreck; raised by a dotty celebrity aunt; drugs, booze, living on the bum across Europe. He never met Marlene in person, but seems to have enjoyed rare confidences from her during their long chats. Their conversations, as recounted herein, range over a wide assortment of topics, touching only briefly on her film career, but dwelling at length on her philosophy of life, her love of Paris, her distaste for America and its culture, her devotion to the poetry of Rilke. The Dietrich that emerges from this book shows flashes of the scathing wit that was one of her cinematic trademarks, as in a series of derisive remarks about Monaco's Princess Stephanie. Most of the time, however, she deals in rather pretentious aperus of a purportedly philosophical nature on such high-flown subjects as love and friendship. In that respect she is an accurate reflection of the author, who once sent her a copy of Gibran's verse. The book reeks of sincerity. In describing his initial letter to Dietrich, the author calls it "a monument of touching imbecility." The same may be said of the book. -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.