



Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery

By Herbie J Pilato

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Based on author Herbie J Pilato's exclusive interviews with Elizabeth Montgomery prior to her death in 1995, *Twitch Upon a Star* includes insider material and commentary from several individuals associated with her remarkable life and career before, during, and after *Bewitched*, including her classic feature films *The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell* (1955), *Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?* (1963), and *Johnny Cool* (1963).

Two of Montgomery's many popular TV movies, *A Case of Rape* (which remains one of the highest-rated TV-movies of all time) and *The Legend of Lizzie Borden* (which will soon be remade as a feature film), were groundbreaking and remain classics. But *Twitch Upon a Star* also goes behind the scenes to explore Montgomery's political activism, including her early advocacy for AIDS sufferers and the peace movement; her support for all minorities, including the gay community and the disabled; and her controversial participation as narrator of the 1988 feature film documentary *Cover-Up* and its 1991 Oscar-winning sequel, *The Panama Deception* (both of which chronicled the Iran/Contra scandal of the 1980s). The book also explores Montgomery's tumultuous relationships with her father, screen legend Robert Montgomery (she was a liberal; he was a staunch conservative), and her four husbands (including actor Gig Young, who later died in a murder/suicide). Through it all—and to family and friends such as fellow performers Ronny Cox, Sally Kemp, and Florence Henderson—she was just Lizzie: down-to-earth and unaffected, just like *Samantha*, the "witch-with-a-twitch" *Stephens*, her most famous role.

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Editorial Review

Review

Elizabeth Montgomery's life is beautifully portrayed by author Herbie Pilato in [this] loving new biography. (*FrontiersLA*)

[A] comprehensive and touching biography of Montgomery's life. . . . Fans of classic television or of well-written biographies should seek this out . . . an insightful read about an amazing woman! (*Journeys in Classic Film*)

. . . [T]ells you all about *Bewitched*, the magical 1960s-and-'70s sitcom, and other triumphs enjoyed by the talented and beautiful Montgomery. (*Village Voice*)

Twitch Upon a Star is an engrossing look at a strong-willed actress whose career spanned five decades. It will satisfy Elizabeth Montgomery's fans, as well as *Bewitched* buffs interested in learning more about that series' leading lady—and even how the famous twitch was 'invented.' (*Classic Film and TV Café*)

[A] blockbuster new book. (*The National Enquirer*)

Life's journey is never simple. *Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery* is a biography from Herbie J. Pilato [in which] he tells the *Bewitched* star's story . . . forming friendships, romances, enemies, and everything in between. An advocate with her own problems, [Montgomery's] story is one of [an individual] who tried to make a difference with her stardom. *Twitch Upon a Star* is a strongly recommended addition to Hollywood and television history biography collections; highly recommended. (*Midwest Book Review*)

. . . [A] love letter . . . No matter how big your twitch itch, this book will scratch it. (*Ventura County Star*)

. . . [I]t's like meeting [Elizabeth Montgomery] all over again for the very first time. . . . If you've ever enjoyed an episode of *Bewitched*, come meet her for yourself. (*BookSteve's Library Blog*)

This biography covers it all. . . . Fans will love the three sections of photos and Pilato's respectful, yet truthful, portrait of the woman who will forever be remembered for as the beautiful witch Samantha Stephens. (*SheKnows Book Lounge*)

Twitch Upon a Star is based on Pilato's exclusive interviews prior to Montgomery's 1995 death. . . . The book follows her career before, during, and after *Bewitched*, and goes behind the scenes chronicling her political activism [and] reveals behind-the-scenes anecdotes about the show and Montgomery's life. (*Long Beach Press-Telegram*)

Pilato expertly captures the life of [this] wonderful actress. (*Daytona News-Journal*)

[Pilato is] the master of all things *Bewitched*. . . . [*Twitch Upon a Star* is an] amazing new book. (*NewNowNext on Logo Online*)

Fans of Elizabeth Montgomery and *Bewitched* will love this book. (*Living in the Kitchen with Puppies*)

For anyone who only recalls Elizabeth Montgomery from her most memorable role, on the 1960s sitcom *Bewitched*, this thoroughly researched, extensively detailed, and wholly fascinating biography will load you up with everything you've been missing. It's a delicious, detailed look at her life and remarkable career before, during and after that magical, life-changing show; her crusading and often controversial activism for the causes close to her heart; her often turbulent relationship with her father, actor Robert Montgomery; her rocky marital history; and the many other facets of the woman who played Samantha Stephens, TV's 'witch with the twitch' at the end of her nose. (*American Profile*)

Herbie J Pilato, a long-time fan and later friend of the actress uses his extensive interviews with the actress, plus meticulous research to get to the bottom of what the *real* Elizabeth Montgomery was like. (*Soap World Magazine*)

Herbie J Pilato reveals the real Elizabeth Montgomery in *Twitch Upon a Star*. Her loves, her demons and even her politics are explored in this new biography of one of television's favorite stars. (*InMaricopa.com*)

The research that went into this book is amazing. . . . We get the essence and life of Elizabeth Montgomery by embarking on a journey 'into the loves, politics, and performances of this multi-talented actor—a very magical journey, yet based in the real emotion of love.' (*Reviews by Amos Lassen*)

Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery is based on the author's exclusive interviews with Montgomery before her death in 1995, and includes new, never-before-published material and commentary from many associated with her life and career before, during and after *Bewitched*. Any with an interest in the show or Montgomery will find this a definitive exploration that ranges from insights on her career to revelations about her personal life and relationships. The result is a lively read indeed, recommended for film and biography holdings in general and especially for any reader with prior affection for *Bewitched*. (*Midwest Book Review*)

Twitch Upon a Star is as perfect a book could be. . . . [It] shines bright at a rating of 5 Stars (out of five). I read it twice. Afterwards I watched re-runs of *Bewitched*—knowing what I learned from *Twitch Upon a Star*—and what stirred me most were the questions that came to mind which I feel *Twitch Upon a Star* answered. *Twitch Upon a Star* is as no other book. . . . For me, a person who thinks he's read the best of the best books, [this] put a twinkle in my eyes [from] Herbie J Pilato's mastery of the craft of writing. (Salvador SeBasco, book critic; host of *The Inside View Show*)

Heavily researched, expertly executed, and handled with reverence, *Twitch Upon A Star* is a magical revelation about one of the most popular and endearing performers of all time. It's clear that Herbie J Pilato not only knows what he's talking about, but that he also cares very deeply about his subject, from a personal, yet objective perspective. . . . No two ways about it, this book is a class act about a classic actress. (Danny Gold, film and television producer)

I encourage everyone to read Pilato's astounding, loving, riveting, eye-opening book. (Lydia Cornell, star of classic TV's *Too Close for Comfort*, comedienne, and women and children's advocate)

The way Herbie J Pilato tells it, Elizabeth Montgomery just didn't have guts, she had balls. She was kind to those she felt deserved it but had no qualms about setting others straight. Who'da thunk that sweet little Samantha had such chutzpah? (Larry Brody, veteran TV writer and producer (*Baretta*, *Diagnosis: Murder*, *The Fall Guy*, and more))

Not only has *Bewitched*'s Samantha Stephens influenced hundreds of female TV characters and the actresses

who portrayed them, but Elizabeth Montgomery's lasting influence on Hollywood and society has been far greater than the TV series that made her a legend. Herbie J Pilato, one of the great students of classic TV, spins a compelling narrative that brings to life a magical TV series and its even more magical star. It's a true Hollywood story, and more than any book I've read *Twitch Upon a Star* goes behind-the-scenes to capture a fascinating period in history when television was coming of age. (Jack Myers, media ecologist, author, and producer)

Intricately revealing, well written, and hard to put down, Herbie J Pilato's *Twitch Upon a Star* captures the essence and life of Elizabeth Montgomery. He leads readers on an intriguing journey into the loves, politics, and performances of this multi-talented actor—a very magical journey, yet based in the real emotion of love. I heartily recommend this well-rounded read for fans, friends and all who value the life of a gifted, complex and bewitching woman. (Kathy Garver, film, TV, and stage star (Cissy on the classic Family Affair TV series); author, *The Family Affair Cookbook* and *Surviving Cissy*; and speaker)

Much more than just a celebrity biography *Twitch Upon a Star* relays a spiritual quest that can speak to anyone. Retelling the story and work of a life can activate an awareness of the beauty and purpose in our own unfoldment. Pilato accomplishes this masterfully and magically, uncovering such depth and absorbing reflection with authenticity and vigorous charm to reveal Elizabeth Montgomery's journey as a true cultural treasure. This book is magnificent! (Thomas Warfield, performing artist and founder of PeaceArt International)

Twitch Upon a Star is ASTOUNDING. Herbie J Pilato does a wonderful job of mixing hard info with his personal relationship with Elizabeth Montgomery. His approach makes the book very unique. This is one of the best biographies I've read in years. It is a real classic . . . a brilliant work! (Rick Lertzman, media historian and author of *Codename: Dr. Feelgood*)

Wonderful book and terrific author . . . (Shannon Devereaux Sanford, *Shannon's Corner*, WTBQ radio)

If you love Liz, you'll adore this book. Pilato's biography of everyone's favorite witch is incredibly detailed. He draws from many sources, including Montgomery's friends and his own interviews with the star. . . . The book also contains wonderful photos that chronicle Montgomery's life. Getting to know this remarkable woman, you'll love her for far more than just her dramatic and comedic talents. (*Pop Culture Classics*)

About the Author

Herbie J Pilato is a writer, producer, actor, songwriter, and entertainment executive. The author of several media tie-in books (including *Glamour, Gidgets, and the Girl Next Door*, *NBC & Me*, *The Bionic Book*, and many more), Pilato has also produced for the A&E, Bravo, TLC, Syfy, and TV Guide channels, as well as Sony, Warner Bros., NBC Universal, and other television networks and film studios. He now has several TV shows, books, and films in development and resides in Burbank, California, where he established Television, Ink. (a production company geared toward family entertainment) and The Classic TV Preservation Society (a nonprofit organization that seeks to close the gap between popular culture and education).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Irene Vaughan:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider when those

information which is inside the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take *Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery* as your daily resource information.

Robert Carlson:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the subject *Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery* suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. Typically the book untitled *Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery* is a single of several books which everyone read now. That book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new age that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this reserve. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world with this book.

Philip Edwards:

Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *Twitch Upon a Star: The Bewitched Life and Career of Elizabeth Montgomery* although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

Terry Smith:

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