



The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

A YIDDISH GUIDE TO JACKIE COLLINS

by
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Syosset, New York

Best-selling novelist, Jackie Collins, died of breast cancer on Sept. 19, 2015. She had been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer more than 6 years before.

Jackie's South African-born father was Jewish and her British mother was Anglican.

Jackie has been called a "raunchy moralist" by the late director, Louis Malle. LA Times staff writer, Nikki Finke, wrote in 1990: Collins was "the undisputed SCHLOCK JOCK of the sun-and-sex-on-Sunset genre."

Shown below is a Yiddish Guide to the woman who wrote 32 novels, all of which appeared on The New York Times bestsellers list. In total, her books have sold over 500 "milyon" copies and have been translated into 40 languages. As a means of comparison, "Fifty Shades of Grey" books have sold about 90 "milyon" copies.

"di kindhayt" (childhood)

While growing up in England, Jackie often read novels by Harold Robbins, Mickey Spillane, and Raymond Chandler.

At age 15, she was a "school dropout" and "juvenile delinquent." She said, "I'm glad I got all of that out of my system at an early age."

Survivors:

Jackie is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren ("aineklach"), and her elder sister, actress, Joan Collins.

“der birger” (the citizen)

Collins held dual citizenship: British (by birth) and U. S. (by naturalization, from May 6, 1960.

“di marriage” (marriage)

“tragedye” (tragedy)

Jackie’s first husband was Wallace Austin. They were married in 1960 and divorced in 1964. They had one child (“kind”), Tracy, born in 1961.

In 1965, she married for a second time to art gallery and nightclub owner, Oscar Lerman. Collins and Lerman had two daughters, Tiffany and Rory. Lehman died in 1992 from prostate cancer.

Collins became engaged to LA business executive, Frank Calcagnini. He died from a “moyekh” (brain) tumor. She said that what got her through the tragedies of losing two loved ones was “celebrating their lives, as opposed to dwelling on their deaths.”

In 2001, she was asked if she was dating anyone. Collins said, “I have a man for every occasion.” She did confess to Craig Ferguson that she “loves comedian, Don Rickles.”

“matsliakhdik” (successful)

Collins said, “If you wish to be successful, there is a place you should be at a certain time. And Los Angeles in the 1980s was it.”

“naiv” (naive)

“There are so many bad boys out there, especially in Hollywood. And, yes, I know so many of them. I loved writing about them, and you love reading about them.

Unfortunately, that type attracts many young naive girls who don’t know better, but I do. With age comes experience.

(quote)

“farnumen” (busy)

The 2000s, turned out to be Jackie’s busiest time; she published 8 bestsellers, more than any other decade in her career.

“raykh” (rich)

In Sunday Times Rich List 2001, Collins was listed as UK’s fifth richest author with an estimate personal fortune of \$60 million.

“shraybn” (to write)

Collins said, “Write about what you know.”

Twitter

According to Carol Fitzgerald, Collins had 155,000 followers on Twitter.

One of her last tweets included: “#Emmys this weekend. Who do you want to win?”

“farshtelung” (disguise)

“I write about real people in disguise. If anything, my characters are toned down--the truth is much more bizarre.”

(quote)

“dis loshn” (the language)

“unter” (beneath)

Collins told Vanity Fair in 2010, “Hollywood wives was controversial, too. The Hollywood wives hated me. I got beneath the facade and into the mansions. Now it’s become part of the language.”

“libe” (love)

“Love’s not what makes the world go around.”

From her book titled, “Lethal Seduction”

“pretendirn” (to pretend)

“unterhern zikh” (to eavesdrop)

“I’m not grammatical in the way I talk or in the way I write, and I don’t pretend to be. I’m a high school dropout who eavesdrops.”

Note: Collins frequented celebrity hangouts in search of story material.

“di velt” (the world)

“I did it my way, as Frank Sinatra would say. I’ve written 5 books since the [cancer] diagnosis. I’ve lived my life, I’ve traveled all over the world. I have not turned down book tours and no one has ever known until now when I feel as though I should come out with it. (She told People in 2014 of her cancer diagnosis, about 5 years earlier.) Now I want to save other people’s lives.”

“kritikirn” (to criticize)

“My biggest critics are the people who’ve never read me. It doesn’t bother me at all.”
(quote)

“filosofye” (philosophy)

“My philosophy for women is this: If you’re going to get married and have a fabulous marriage...then you’re going to have to do everything you’ve ever wanted to do BEFORE you get married” (quote)

“tuts” (dozen)

Jackie’s attitude towards men was that Prince Charming was not a dime a dozen. BTW, she had a crush on Tony Curtis for years and had a brief affair with 29-year-old Marlon Brando.

“elnt” (lonely/lonesome)

“I never get lonely because I always have my characters with me.”
(quote)

“bukh” (book)

“khasene gehat” (married)

Her first novel in 1968 was “The World Is Full of Married Men.” It became a best seller. Barbara Cartland called it “nasty, filthy and disgusting.” It was banned in Australia and South Africa, but the scandal boosted sales in the U. S. and the UK.

“kukbuk” (cookbook)

In 2014, Collins wrote “The Lucky Santangelo Cookbook.” It’s named after Lucky Santangelo, the protagonist of seven of Jackie’s novels. It features the kind of bold and audacious flavors from meatloaf to creme fraiche with chocolate mousse. There’s recipes for zesty meatballs and sweet and spicy spare ribs. One thing you won’t find is a focus on nutrition. “It’s not a healthy book,” says Scott Simon.

“frageh” (question)

Why is Lucky Santangelo the most popular character in Jackie’s books?

She’s bold, wildly beautiful (“sheyn”), and totally her own woman. She’s a true Italian/American woman of the world. She likes to shake it up in the kitchen (“kikh”)-- from traditional Italian dishes to sumptuous desserts and crazy cocktails (“kokteyls”).

Jackie Collins was asked, “If you were casting Lucky Santangelo in “Chances” today, who would be right for the role?”

“entern” (to answer)

Collins said, “So...who to play her in a movie? Well, there is only one choice. The beautiful, wild, soulful and sexy Ms. Angelina Jolie. She would portray the perfect Lucky.”

When Collins was asked by USA Today how she stays “fresh,” she replied, “I’m a popular-culture junkie. I have six TIVo’s in my house.”

“matseyve” (gravestone/tombstone)

Collins told People magazine that she wanted her gravestone to read:

SHE GAVE A GREAT DEAL OF PEOPLE
A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE

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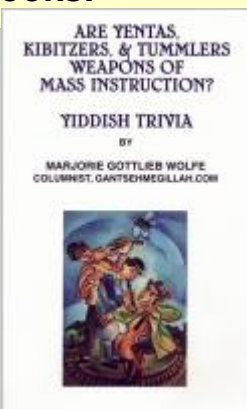
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**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of
two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish
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