



## Call Me Crazy

By Anne Heche

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"I believe that many people may think I went insane. I do not believe I am insane. I believe I went through a period of my life that was insane and it lasted thirty-one years," writes Anne Heche in *Call Me Crazy*.

Yet what is truly surprising is that the most publicized event of her personal life - her romance with Ellen DeGeneres -- is only one development in a fascinating and difficult life that has included more than its share of heartache and tragedy.

Anee, the youngest of four children, moved nine times before the age of 12. During that year, Anne discovered that during her father's frequent absences, he'd been leading a double life. He died of AIDS when Anne was 13, leaving the family in poverty. Throughout her childhood, she acted in school plays and local dinner theater. After graduating high school, Anne began a four-year stint on *Another World*. During this period she began to face the horror of a childhood filled with unspeakable abuse. In the ensuing twelve years she struggled with her past, all the while experiencing success as an actress, screenwriter and director.

Filled with unsparing candor and honesty, *Call Me Crazy* captures Anne's struggle to face her demons, including a period in which she was, quite literally, insane. Heche's memoir reveals the woman behind the headlines, one who has conquered overwhelming odds.

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## Call Me Crazy By Anne Heche Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Actor Heche became tabloid fodder for her lesbian relationship with comedian Ellen DeGeneres and a bizarre incident in which Heche showed up at a stranger's door raving about a spaceship that was coming to take her to heaven. In this harrowing autobiography, Heche unflinchingly lays bare the abuse and psychological trauma that led her to that moment. She grew up in a fundamentalist Christian family rife with dysfunction (e.g., a father who, she says, sexually molested her). Her resulting case of herpes went untreated because her mother didn't believe in doctors. Heche's father also disappeared for weeks at a time (she later learned he was stealing away to have homosexual affairs) and rarely seemed to be employed. The children were forbidden to ask any questions, under threat of being beaten with a wooden spoon. Now, with 13 years of therapy behind her, Heche is able to talk insightfully about her emotional landscape. At one point, she believed herself to be a heavenly messenger from a "fourth dimension" of pure love; looking back, she realizes that this insanity was her subconscious way of surrounding herself with the love she craved, after being coldly rejected by her family. Heche says that she was attracted to DeGeneres's strong self-image, so different from her own shattered psyche. She doesn't describe herself as a lesbian, saying, "I fell in love with a person, not a gender," and was surprised and appalled that the relationship evoked such a strong negative reaction in the media. Heche is a superb narrator. Raw with emotion, her voice is by turns sorrowful, enraged and hopeful, drawing the listener into her story. Simultaneous release with the Scribner hardcover.

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From Library Journal

This controversial autobiography describes Heche's lifelong struggle to overcome horrific childhood abuse. Growing up in a terribly repressive, dysfunctional household, Heche was instructed to be seen and not heard. However, with years of therapy, she was able to recall sexual abuse at the hands of her closeted gay father, a former church choir director who lived a double life and died of AIDS in 1984. The author believes her psychological problems, including her split personality, resulted from the trauma of this maltreatment. Although members of her family have publicly expressed skepticism at her claims, hearing this popular actress relate her life story is quite moving and may well be a comfort to other victims of abuse. For all popular collections. Beth Farrell, Portage Cty. Dist. Lib., OH

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From [AudioFile](#)

Best known for her relationship with Ellen DeGeneres, actress Anne Heche tells all about her life as an abused child, her struggles with her acting career, and her experiences with her own insanity. Reading in an edgy voice, full of grit and spunk, Heche does nothing to dampen her own emotions or emotional involvement with herself. The listener hears about all her needs and problems. This is a memoir for those who want to know the deep, dark secrets of the rich and famous. The self-involved Heche doesn't hide much. M.B.K. © AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

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From reader reviews:

**Chris Robins:**

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