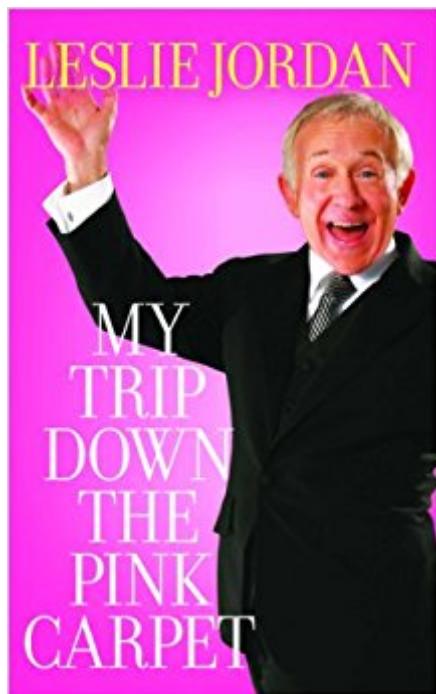


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# My Trip Down The Pink Carpet



## Synopsis

A hilarious romp from small-town USA to the pink carpet of Hollywood with the beloved Emmy-winning actor, playwright, and gay icon. Leslie Jordan is a small man with a giant propensity for scene stealing. Best known for his bravura recurring role as Karen's nemesis, Beverley Leslie, on *Will & Grace* (for which he won a Best Guest Actor in a Comedy Series Emmy in 2006), he has also made memorable appearances on *Ally McBeal*, *Boston Public*, *Monk*, and *Murphy Brown*. Raised in a conservative family in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Leslie "who describes himself as the gayest man I know" boarded a Greyhound bus bound for LA with \$1,200 sewn into his underpants and never looked back. His pocket-sized physique and inescapable talent for high camp paved the way to a lucrative and varied career in commercials and on television. Along the way he immersed himself in writing for the stage, and his one-man testimonials have become cult off-Broadway hits. But with success came dangerous temptations: a self-proclaimed former substance abuser and sexaholic, Leslie has spent time in jail and struggled to overcome his addictions and self-loathing. *My Trip Down the Pink Carpet* is a rollicking, fast-paced collection of stories, served up with wit, panache, and plenty of biting asides. Filled with comically overwrought childhood agonies, offbeat observations, and revealing celebrity encounters "from Boy George to George Clooney" it delivers a fresh, laugh-out-loud take on Hollywood, fame, addiction, gay culture, and learning to love oneself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Actor and playwright Jordan, who calls himself "the gayest man I know," makes a raucous, energetic and occasionally wistful tour guide to his life in Hollywood and out. Readers may know Jordan best as "Beverley Leslie," his Emmy-winning recurring role on TV sitcom "Will & Grace," but Jordan spends remarkably little time dishing about that, or any other, job. Instead, he focuses much of the book on his personal life, especially the challenge and isolation of growing up gay in Chattanooga, Tenn., dealing with alcohol addiction and learning to accept himself. Sober since 1997, readers might wish for more details of his "drunken-addled sex life, a soap opera unto itself" (his harshest anecdote is a catty story about buying underwear for Beverly D'Angelo), but Jordan is funny and entertaining throughout. His grateful and optimistic tone is likable, and he proves most memorable when he gets serious; a story about joining an addiction recovery group populated entirely by heterosexual men sums up his appeal: vulnerable, wise, eye-opening and welcoming, Jordan should connect with just about anyone who's felt like an outsider. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Leslie Jordan hails from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Standing at just four feet eleven inches, he has become an instantly recognizable face in film and television. He is best known for his role as Beverley Leslie in the hit series *Will & Grace*, for which he won an Emmy in 2006. He lives in Los Angeles.

I bought the book because I am always entertained by Leslie Jordan. What I got from the book was so much more than I bargained for. Leslie Jordan gave me a tiny heartbreakingly glance into the mind of a homosexual boy, young adult and adult trying to make sense of what was going on in his mind. What I got was a reminder to show love wherever I go. Leslie Jordan, you are one of a kind and some of your life choices really scared the time out of this mama, but I'm glad you made it safe and sound on to sobriety. I hope you'll consider writing again; maybe taking some of your journal entries and expounding on them in order to help others. Thanks for your humor, but thanks for your insight as well. Many of us have no idea what it's like to be tormented by our own minds and emotions. Keep on using your gift. Your humor itself is healing.

I absolutely loved this book! One of my all time favorite characters on *Will & Grace* was Beverly Leslie (Leslie Jordan) and I was eager to hear from him what his life was like. The writing is casual and you feel you are reading a personal letter from him to you. Mr. Jordan is charmingly witty but

also very open about his struggles with his sexuality and substance abuse issues. As a child of the deep South myself, I could relate to everything he wrote; however, I do not believe that 'Yankees' would feel left out! At the end of the day, this book is about being human and the healing and transformative power of humor. I highly recommend this book!

Beats there heart so dead to love and laughter that it hasn't rejoiced to the sight of Will & Grace's Beverley Leslie and Karen Walker having a bitch-fight? I know mine does even yet. Leslie Jordan is my hero for that role, and for the fearless and wonderful job he does as Brother Boy, the Tammy Wynette-tribute drag queen in *Sordid Lives: The Series*, whose tragic seemingly permanent hiatus causes me great spiritual pain. He is also my hero anew for this line: "I write to keep the conduit open so the light can shine through me." Now, keep in mind: This is a 4'11" fey-as-hell Southern Babdiss of a Certain Age, renowned for hilariously being gay as a May morning, mildly famous for writing HILARIOUS one-Leslie shows and delivering them with verve and gusto, talking about being a conduit for universal love. This is the moment for you to reel back in startled, impressed respect. Men like Leslie Jordan used to kill themselves before they would have a chance to get famous and write a book. And very tragically, the boys these men once were are still killing themselves thanks to the hate-filled "teachings" of the predominant religious strain in their world. Yet here he is, folks, all of him such as it is, a morsel of protoplasm that's jumping up and down and hollering loud as he can: "It's all about love, it's only about love, can't we agree to see, it's all LOVE!" Yes sir, Mr. Jordan, you are correct. That is all that it is about, whatever "it" is the subject of conversation. Thank you for saying it, clearly and forcefully, with examples of what hate and fear have done to you personally before this blindingly simple truth smacked into you. So why should you read this book? For that message? Hell no! Read it because \*this\* little queen has ogled the packages of Luke Perry, Dean Cain, Billy Bob Thornton, on and on! In Person!! And he tells of his adventures in Hollywood, surprisingly, without cattiness or prurience. His sense of comedic timing is flawless, flawless, flawless, and he knows when to leave an anecdote instead of letting it drag on into anecdote. Why, then, have I given it a chary 3.9 stars? Because it's not perfect, as what can be; but its narrative flaw is that it's scattershot. It's not quite focused enough to be a real autobiography, and it's not as gauzily self-exculpatory or brutally self-excoriative as a memoir needs to be in this marketplace. It's a reflective essay, a pulling-together of his life's strings and strands, with little obvious attempt to match the colors up. Flawed or no, it's colorful and fun and, if you care to see it, quite uplifting. It's a Victoria's Secret bra of a book.

Whilst most TV audiences may only know the very gifted comic actor Mr Leslie Jordan as a regular guest star on "Will & Grace" (for which he won an Emmy Award) and "Boston Legal", there is oh so much more to him, as he reveals in his "autobiography" - MY TRIP DOWN THE PINK CARPET. The openly gay actor has had a very diverse career on stage, film and television. But indeed his life off the stage & screen has certainly been a wild ride, and one well worth documenting. Brought up as a Christian in the Deep South, self-tortured by his gay demons and unlucky in love, he turned to a variety of addictive substances that he thought would help him cope with life. Welcome to Hollywood! But he rose above all of that and now has his life and career well and truly back on track. He is happy and comfortable with who he is. As Mr Jordan says in his book, the secret of a healthy life is learning to love oneself. For those who like showbiz autobiographies - this is a great read. For those who might be having trouble coming to terms with their sexuality - this is a MUST read!

Having seen his live show I knew his stories were irresistibly fun to hear, and he does develop a lot of his themes much more deeply in the book than he can do on stage. The short chapters feel a little choppy and disconnected and the overall shape of the book feels messy but his self revelations are gripping especially all of his inappropriate crushes on unavailable movie stars and country singers

I really loved this book, but I wish it had been longer and a bit more detailed. Also, I see why one person who rated this book said you might have to be gay to not find it crude and appreciate it properly, but I think as long as you're not overly prudish and open minded, you won't have much of a problem with it. The book had many cute moments and a great many insights that, while sometimes stereotypical in terms of physical behavior, are actually true about gay and bisexual men sometimes. If you're not put off by sexual references or drugs and strange child and teenage thoughts and scenarios with some rather harsh parenting thrown in for "good measure", so to speak, you will like this book. I think everyone who is in any way a fan of Leslie Jordan should read it.

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