



## The Time of My Life

*Patrick Swayze , Lisa Niemi Swayze*

Download now

Read Online →

# The Time of My Life

*Patrick Swayze , Lisa Niemi Swayze*

## **The Time of My Life** Patrick Swayze , Lisa Niemi Swayze

In a career spanning more than thirty years, Patrick Swayze has made a name for himself on the stage, the screen, and television. Known for his versatility, passion and fearlessness, he's become one of our most beloved actors.

But in February 2008, Patrick announced he had been diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. Always a fighter, he refused to let the disease bring him to his knees, and his bravery has inspired both his legion of fans and cancer patients everywhere. Yet this memoir, written with wisdom and heart, recounts much more than his bout with cancer. In vivid detail, Patrick describes his Texas upbringing, his personal struggles, his rise to fame with North and South, his commercial breakthroughs in Dirty Dancing and Ghost, and the soul mate who's stood by his side through it all: his wife, writer and director Lisa Niemi.

A behind-the-scenes look at a Hollywood life and a remarkable love, this memoir is both entertainment and inspiration. Patrick and Lisa's marriage is a journey of two lives intertwined and lived as one--throughout their years in Hollywood and at home on their working ranch outside Los Angeles, and culminating in the hope and wisdom they've imparted to all who know them. This book will open the door for families, individuals, and husbands and wives to grow, bond and discover entirely new levels of love and sharing, proving that life shouldn't be lived as a series of endings, but rather as the beginning of greater strength and love.

## **The Time of My Life Details**

Date : Published September 29th 2009 by Atria Books (first published May 8th 2007)

ISBN : 9781439158586

Author : Patrick Swayze , Lisa Niemi Swayze

Format : Hardcover 244 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download The Time of My Life ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Time of My Life ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Time of My Life Patrick Swayze , Lisa Niemi Swayze**

---

## From Reader Review The Time of My Life for online ebook

### Faith Spinks says

Dirty Dancing was the reason I was a Patrick Swayze fan - like so many others of my age. I just loved that film and Patrick Swayze was definitely a big part of that for me. I knew of, and had seen some of the other things he had been in but had never really realised the extent to which he really lived his life.

The book is well written and gives you a glimpse of the real person behind the fame. A man who has his struggles, a man who does everything pushing himself as hard as he can, and a man who truly loves his wife. Patrick Swayze eventually lost his battle with pancreatic cancer and it seems so unfair given how hard he fought right to the end, but at the same time this book shows a life lived in full.

I'll definitely be looking out for some of the flims Patrick worked on and shared about in this book. And I'm sure that watching anything with Patrick Swayze in again will never be quite the same having seen something of the man behind the screen. I expect it will be even better.

---

### Margaret says

I was truly amazed by Patrick Swayze life and talent. I listened to the audiobook read by Patrick, he brought so much to his own story with his wonderful deep voice. I made the mistake by googling him and saw the last photos of him, heart wrenching to say the least. My father died of cancer and I have seen how gaunt a person gets at the very end but I wasn't prepared to see Patrick Swayze as a walking sick old man. A beautiful book, sad but beautiful.

---

### Lisa says

In 1984 I watched a movie called Red Dawn starring Patrick Swayze and I developed an instant crush. Three years later came Dirty Dancing and my crush turned to full on LUST! Patrick Swayze was the sexiest man alive as far as I was concerned. I've lost count as to how many times I've seen that movie, not to mention how many times I wished I could be Jennifer Grey for five minutes! When I heard about his pancreatic cancer diagnosis, I was heartbroken. Having lost a friend to this brutal form of cancer very quickly, I understood immediately how bad this was.

I knew he and wife, Lisa Niemi were in the process of writing a book about his life and I decided when I discovered Patrick himself would be narrating the audio version, that's what I wanted. I'm not a big audiobook user, but in this case, for me, it was the only way to experience this book. And I'm so glad I did. Having Patrick narrate this book makes it a more intimate and personal experience because you feel like he's talking directly to you. Obviously, you lose the benefit of any photos in the book, but that isn't a big deal for me. Even during some really bad days while recording this book, his voice is even, strong and sexy as ever.

The start of The Time of My Life is Patrick explaining how he came to realize something was not right with his health and how it changed his life. Then, it's Lisa's turn to explain how that realization effected her. I believe, in the printed version, that is the prologue.

Patrick then starts telling his story from 1970 when he was a high school athlete, dancer and gymnast. He

chronicles his career and personal accomplishments he and Lisa shared along with some really tough times in his personal life. It becomes obvious pretty early on how fierce his competitive nature was and how much he loved striving to be the best at whatever he put his mind to. But it was also clear that dancing was his first love. With a mother like Patsy Swayze, a very respected dancer, choreographer and teacher, it was inevitable he become an accomplished dancer in his own rite.

Although I've read a few reviews that felt the book is more of a rundown of his movie career than the story of his life, I feel differently. It's quite clear that for Patrick and Lisa, their movies and dancing were their life. They worked hard as a team on every endeavor they attempted and they gave each project 110 percent. This book shows that Patrick lived an extremely full life doing exactly the things he loved to do. He did have passions other than acting and dancing as well. He also loved horses and flying airplanes and therefore became an accomplished rider and pilot.

If there is one message that I will take away from this book, it is to live life to the fullest each and every day. That's what Patrick did. He wasn't afraid to tackle anything. He had incredible drive and it's that drive that enabled him to fight pancreatic cancer as hard as he did.

This book was very inspirational and interesting and I recommend it for fans of Patrick Swayze. In fact, if you get the chance to listen to the audio book, it will be even better, hearing Patrick in his own words and voice.

---

## **Nicole says**

Buch 1/10 "The Time of My Life" von Patrick Swayze und Lisa Niemi

Die Autobiographie des Schauspielers und Tänzers. Von seiner texanischen Kindheit mit der fordernden Mutter, von Schulaufereien weil er als Junge Ballet tanzte, von High School Football, von beruflichen Anfangsschwierigkeiten, dann die Erfolge, Berühmtheit, Abstürze, Alkoholexzesse und immer an seiner Seite seine Frau Lisa.

Ehrlich und sympathisch erzählt Patrick Swayze. Seiner tödlichen Krankheit widmet er die Einleitung und ca 10 Seiten am Ende des Buchs, ansonsten handelt das Buch von seinem LEBEN.

Für eine Biographie las es sich wirklich gut.

---

## **Amy Bailey says**

I've always thought Swayze was a wonderful actor and someone who unjustly was viewed as a hunky fluff actor. He wasn't given near enough roles throughout his life that truly allowed him to shine for the artist that he was. Don't get me wrong, I still love "Dirty Dancing," and I think "Ghost" was one of the best films ever made. The latter film was one of the few in which he truly got to exhibit his talent for drama. This book was very disheartening. When he wrote it with the help of his wife, Lisa, he was pretty set on continuing the fight. He was absolutely dedicated and optimistic that he could beat the cancer. That's why it's so sad to read this book after he's already gone. I'd never realized how much he struggled throughout his entire life. I didn't know that family tragedies, insecurity and stress had driven him to years of alcoholism. He'd always managed to keep pretty private. I had always respected and admired his relationship with his wife. He and Lisa were one of the only Hollywood couples that hadn't self-destructed after a year or two. Their marriage is truly something to look up to. Although I've always respected Swayze, I respect him even more after reading

this autobiography. Definitely recommend for fans of Swayze or fans of the genre.

---

~?~Autumn♥♥ says

Fascinating details about his life so I enjoyed it very much.

---

**Cindy says**

I've been meaning to read this book for years but just never got around to it. I grew up with Dirty Dancing, Red Dawn, The Outsiders, and Roadhouse so I was definitely a Patrick Swayze fan. I was upset by his cancer diagnosis and eventual death, but it wasn't until a few years ago when a friend of mine was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that I realized just what that diagnosis had meant for him.

What I liked most about this book is that it focuses on his early life and his career up to his diagnosis. I didn't realize that Swayze had danced ballet professionally, though I knew he was a dancer. I enjoyed reading about his experiences while working and why he chose to make the films he did. He definitely wasn't as prolific as some actors and it's because he made movies he really believed in, even if they weren't mega blockbusters. He could have made many more movies if he had allowed himself to be typecast but he really didn't want that. He liked to make different kinds of films to stretch his abilities and to learn new things.

I also enjoyed reading about his relationship with his wife. They had their problems but they worked things out together through it all. In a time when a lot of Hollywood marriages don't last more than a few years, it's refreshing to read about a couple who truly loved, respected, and supported each other.

I have always enjoyed memoirs and autobiographies. Call it my nosy nature but I like the behind the scenes info people share about their lives that I wouldn't otherwise get to know. I would have liked a bit more background on his family and I certainly felt that the loss of their baby could have gotten more than a couple of paragraphs but I imagine that even all those years later, it must have been incredibly difficult to write about.

Overall, I'm glad I read the book but it makes me sad too, to think of the loss of such a talented man, gone much too soon.

---

**K.D. Absolutely says**

I normally read books early in the morning. I think it has something to do with my age. Old people, this includes me, need lesser hours of sleep than younger people. However, there are exceptions. My wife and I are of the same age but she still sleeps a lot. When I read early in the morning, she is normally enjoying her blissful sleep.

I finished this book the other morning but I did not have the energy to write this review. Not that it was a bad book and I did not have anything to say about it. However, this book really touched the core of my heart - in a sad way. I was in bed when I finally finished this. I turned my head to my sleeping wife and stared at her peaceful face, gently reached out for her hand and held it for several minutes. No reason in particular. There were neither sweet nor romantic sexy-time thoughts going on in my mind. I just wanted to feel her hand

without any intention of waking her or disturbing her sleep. Married people, those who for many years have been sharing beds with their partners, know this: you can touch and kiss your partner without waking them up. You can get up and go to the toilet without them knowing. It's as if your partner is already used to your daily routines and your bed habits. Even my wife is already used to have my reading lights on sometimes the whole night without being bothered by it.

I started reading this book on September 14, 2011, exactly two years after Patrick Swayze (1952-2009) died of stage IV pancreatic cancer. Although I watched the 1990's Oscar-nominated film *Ghost* starring him, Demi Moore and Whoopie Goldberg, I am not his fan. In fact, I think that was the only movie of him that I saw. Wait, I also saw *Pointbreak* (1991) but the reason was the young Keanu Reeves and not him and that was after I saw and liked the *Matrix series* on video.

However, this book can be appreciated by anyone – fans or otherwise. Yes, it is a sad book but more than the cancer aspect of it, the book presents the strong marriage-bond of Patrick and Lisa. They have been married for 33 years prior to Patrick's death, they are childless but they still love and adore each other. The narration is told in first person with Patrick and Lisa alternating and their words for each other are very moving and inspiring. They are like two people who are really meant for each other. I felt sad not because Patrick had to go but I felt sad more for a beautiful marriage to come to an end.

The reason why I did not really feel sad for Patrick's death is that we are all going to die someday and so it is a reality that we have to face. Swayze was 58 when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died just a year after at the same age his father (heart attack) died too. Incidentally, his father's death in 1982 (Patrick was 30) devastated him and he became alcoholic. His sister Vicky committed suicide through drug overdose in 1994 (Patrick was 42) and this opened his eyes to seek medical treatment to his alcoholism. Patrick loved life and he made sure he lived it to the fullest. He and Lisa are both achievers and talented people and I know that they both have no regrets about the way their lives went. More than lives being well-spent though, I'd rally more for love well-given and love well-shared. Very few marriages or unions among showbiz couples last that long and they deserve appreciation for having survived all the temptations proliferating in show business.

---

## Buggy says

Opening Line: *"In late December 2007, life was looking pretty good."*

This was one of the better biographies I've read, and I kick myself now for putting it off for so long. However like a lot of people my age (40ish) who grew up watching and swooning over Patrick Swayze I felt I had to give myself time to get over his death before I was ready to read about his life. In my day he was just IT, that's right "The sexiest man alive" (according to 1991's People magazine) Actually I still have trouble believing that he's gone, probably because he was just bigger than life in his movies, so vibrant and energetic and indestructible (Yes even in Ghost)

Ultimately I needn't to have worried because this was not a sad memoir and Patrick's battle with cancer takes up very little page space, this is about his life. With a ton of personal photos it becomes evident right off that this was a man that lived a full and adventurous life (outside of being a movie star) Patrick or "Buddy" as his family called him was also lucky enough to meet his lifelong love Lisa at the age of 19 (she was just 15) and spend 30+ years with his best friend. He experienced more in his 57 years than most of us can only dream of, but still...

I guess you could say I grew up with Patrick Swayze (again it's a 40's thing) so over the years I've managed

to see most of his movies. This made reading his book super interesting, getting the behind the scenes info from all my favorites including; North & South, Uncommon Valour, Red Dawn, The Outsiders, Point Break, Roadhouse and of course Ghost and Dirty Dancing (which is actually my least favourite).

Born in Houston, the son of a champion rodeo cowboy and a choreographer Patrick inherited both of his parent's passions equally. He was a star football player and aspired to be an Olympic gymnast before a serious knee injury sidelined those dreams. He continued to dance however, eventually moving to New York City where he landed a spot in the second company of the Joffrey Ballet. He married the girl he'd met at his mother's dance studio in 1975 but for a long time felt like he didn't deserve Lisa and that he loved her more than she loved him. (Aww) Sidelined by knee operations Patrick was finally forced to quit ballet (he counts this of as one of his lifelong regrets) and instead focused on acting. Moving to LA he and Lisa experienced some very lean years, working as carpenters at one point and surviving on peanut butter and oranges that grew in their backyard.

Swayze had to work for every role that he received (for some reason this surprised me) and had a hard time overcoming the dancer turned actor image. He was also a perfectionist and very insecure which must have made trying to "sell" yourself in auditions a nightmare and probably what led to his later battles with alcohol and depression. Their lives changed ridiculously when he skyrocketed to fame with his iconic roles in Dirty Dancing and Ghost yet through it all he and Lisa were a team. I had always been curious why they never had children and they describe it as missing their window after a miscarriage left them devastated. Patrick suffered some serious brushes with death, breaking both legs in a horse vs. tree collision and suffering hypoxia and crash landing his plane (yes he had his pilot's license). Through it all Patrick continued to be cowboy (raising and showing Arabians) and to dance.

As Patrick describes his life throughout this book, I noticed that in every single instance he says "we" it is never "I" which made me realize just how incredibly joined he was to Lisa. I wish her the best. Sigh...  
4.5

---

## **Dawn says**

I had no idea that Patrick Swayze had done so much in his life. I always loved him because "Dirty Dancing" is one of my favorite movies and I love "Ghost" and "Point Break" as well. Of course, I knew that he was an actor and a dancer, but I had no idea that he was so talented in so many other areas. I will discuss some of these further, under the spoiler section, so you can skip them if you would like.

One thing that really resonated with me was his obvious love for his wife. In this era of marriages lasting no time (especially celebrity weddings), it's nice to read about one that lasted well over 30 years. I also appreciate the fact that he seemed to include his wife in everything and saw her as an equal, even professionally, even though she never really quite achieved the fame that he did. She was still very talented in her own right, and that wasn't lost on him.

**\*Spoiler\***

This book begins with Patrick's cancer diagnosis. It was really sad to read about how he was fighting for his life while he was writing this book. The parts about his optimism and his will to live were the hardest to read, considering the reader already knows the outcome. I am really glad that this book did not end with a followup by his wife about his death, though. I believe this book was released around the same time he died, so that was a big possibility. However, I am glad that he did decide to write this book.

It's sad to learn that knee injuries took so much away from him in his life. I recently tore a ligament in my

knee and that has temporarily changed my life, and quite dramatically, I might add. I couldn't imagine tearing all of the ligaments completely in two, like he did. And more than once. It was very difficult for me to read this part of the book. Although, he rehabbed it over and over and went through several surgeries and other procedures, his knee problems endured. Regardless, look what a great dancer and talent he was despite all of his pain. The knee injuries happened long before we knew him as Johnny Castle from "Dirty Dancing." I think that speaks a lot about the type of person he was.

He ponders in the book about what his legacy will be, if anything. I feel that determination and flexibility are his legacy. When he suffered his many injuries, he never gave up. He adjusted his dreams and goals many times to suit his capabilities. Although he lost his dream of a football scholarship, then his Olympic hopes and then his professional dancing career, he revised his dreams and persevered. And what a great actor he made because of this. He had this great ability to accept things that I think many of us could learn a lot from.

This book made me like him so much more and I am so glad that I read it. In my opinion, the world lost a remarkable man when it lost Patrick Swayze.

---

### **Kay says**

My opinion:

I like everyone else fell head over heel's in love with Patrick Swayze and I was so excited when finding this book in a charity shop.....

Then I started reading it and it made me very angry, he made me very angry!

I don't know if I read it wrong but to me it sounded like he forced his wife to marry him. He was a very insecure man with a very pushy mother who made his insecurities worse.

I did finish the book and the ending was pretty sad how he was always talking about fighting the cancer and surviving.

I finished reading this book anyway, I felt very sad and sorry for Lisa her own career was over shadowed by him and his career the book left me wanting to know more about Lisa not Patrick.

My illusions about him are well and truly shattered he was a self obsessed, ignorant insecure man.

---

### **Xanthi says**

I can't say I'm a big fan of this actor but recently my boyfriend's mother lent me the DVD of Dirty Dancing and my curiosity was piqued so she lent me this book. (Yes she is a big fan.)

Not all that well written but interesting enough. I have to admit that watching the film and reading this book were experiences tinged with sadness because of his passing at a relative young age. I wondered how someone so fit and active ended up so sick. Well, the clues came later in the book - almost as a passing mention, really.

All in all he sounded like he was a driven, decent guy though I cringed over the whole calf roping business. Yes, I know he was from Texas and he idolised his late father who was a cowboy but seriously? Public lynching of baby animals for entertainment is not cool.

---

### **Becky R. says**

I've always loved Patrick Swayze and his work, loved his passion for life, and loved his absolute dedication

to the people closest to him. To me, he was a wonderful, surprising man of conviction in an industry that often lack such qualities.

Having said that, and knowing some of his background already, I was so touched to learn more about his life. In his autobiography, *The Time of My Life*, Patrick Swayze reveals many of what he felt were vulnerable aspect of his character, which included his need to master whatever skill he attempted (feeling that he always had to be good at whatever he did), his abiding love for his wife Lisa (which he revealed he always felt she wasn't as in to him as he was into her, which he later learned was totally wrong), and his deep pain over losing a much loved father and its effects on him. I was moved to hear about his vulnerable moments, to hear how he faced them, and even how he overcame the problems he developed with alcohol as he dealt with his pain. To me, Patrick Swayze's life is a real testament to the ups and downs of any person's life, and how we can approach them.

As I knew heading into his life story, I also knew that the book was completed shortly before his death in September of last year. Patrick Swayze's battle with pancreatic cancer was known from the beginning, and seems to float over the book as you read, making you think, "Just give it all you've got!" From this, I mean that I kept thinking that had he known, how would he have changed things? I think we all would just say to ourselves, to dig deep and give life all you have.

It seemed to me, that in the end, Patrick Swayze honored his own life and what he had accomplished through the way he battled cancer. Cancer will never define him, but strangely shed a light on all the good he had done, and reminded us all of how important it is to reach for happiness each and every day.

In synopsis, I highly recommend *The Time of My Life*. Listen, I'm the first person to run from stories of cancer or dogs (you know...because they always die!), but this autobiography was really moving. Like any human story, it reminded me how precious life is, and even how precious we are as individuals. The walk-away message of this book is varied, and I can say that I have thought about many different aspects of my own life since reading his autobiography. All I can say is, that as a fan, but more as a fellow human being, his life touched mine for good.

---

### ☆?♥☆ Unsolved Mystery ☆♥?☆ says

Patrick Swayze was a jack of all trades. I don't think there was anything this guy could not do. He was an actor, a singer and a dancer just to name only three. He had hobbies such as riding horses, enjoying the great outdoors, and flying his small airplane.

He cheated death numerous times in his life because he was so fearless. Sadly in 2009, Patrick died at the age of 57 from pancreatic cancer.

If Patrick had lived, he would have went on to do more great and wonderful things. Dance on, Patrick!

---

### Miss Kim says

I really enjoyed this biography. I fell for Mr. Swayze as a teen when he popped on my TV screen for a week as Orry Maine in *North and South*. I'd seen his work prior, in movies like *The Outsiders*, and *Red Dawn*, but it wasn't until the TV mini-series did he catch this young girl's heart.

For those that may be put off reading this because they fear it will be too sad, do not fear. This is well written book that I feel really shows how much he really lived his life to the fullest. There is an intro written by him, and also a section by his wife Lisa, which were written just a few months prior to his death.

Of all of the things I learned about Swayze from this book, the main thing that shines through the most is that this man was a fighter. If he set a goal for himself, there was nothing that was going to stand in is way to reach it. I really admire that.

Some facts I found interesting:

- His family called him ‘Buddy’
- Being from Texas, he aspired to be a pro-football player until career ending injury in HS
- He trained seriously for the men’s Olympic gymnastic team – another injury prevented this
- His mother was a very well known choreographer, and he trained as a dancer under her; he also dreamed of being a ballet dancer in New York. He did make a prestigious company, but his knee injury prevented him from staying
- He worked a long time on Broadway as Danny Zuko in Grease prior to the movie coming out
- He desperately wanted the role of Bud Davis in *Urban Cowboy*, but Travolta got it. Swayze felt the role was made for him. (another of my guilty pleasure movies)
- He had to really sell himself in auditions for every role he ever received because he had a hard time overcoming the image of ‘dancer turned actor’.
- He was actually very insecure and wanted to be liked by everybody
- He and his wife worked as carpenters during down periods in their careers. They did most of all of the renovation work on their ranch
- He and his wife had a hand in rewriting the scripts for most of his movies
- They lost a baby early Lisa’s pregnancy; this shattered them, and then they missed their window to have children. He mentions at the end of the book this was a regret now as he is leaving Lisa.
- He absolutely hated the line “Nobody puts Baby in a corner”. But later he realized how well it worked in the movie. He later said “No one put’s Patrick’s pancreas in a corner’ during his battle.

Random thoughts: I never really got into *Dirty Dancing*, which seems funny because most women will say right away that that is their favorite Swayze role. However, I have a tie between *North and South* and the awesomely cheesy *Roadhouse*. I have seen *Roadhouse* at least 20 times, and I will watch it twenty more times. I absolutely love his character, Dalton.

This is a quick read, and I encourage all fans to read it. It was not a tearjerker, in my opinion.

---