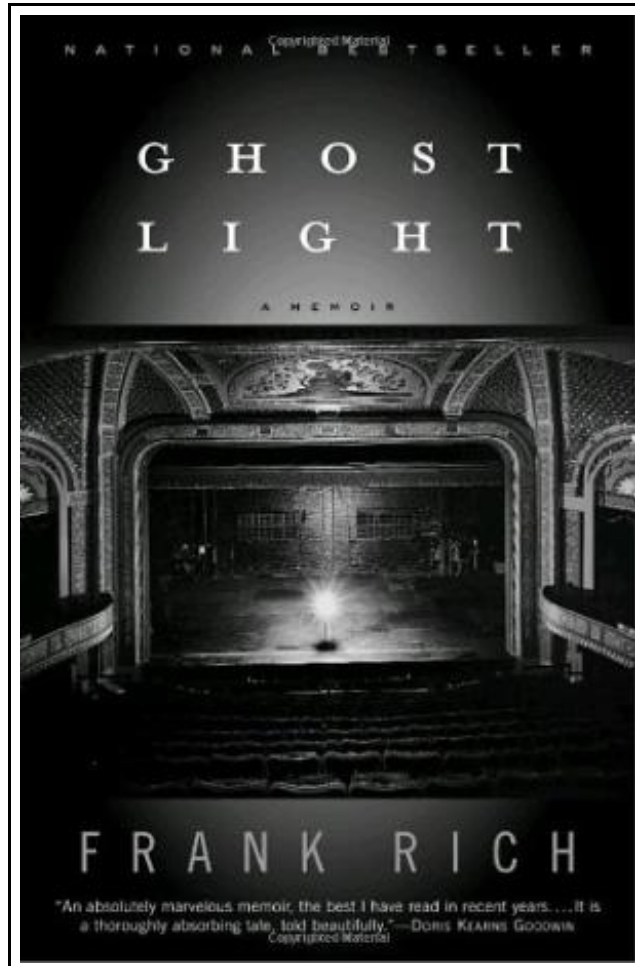


Ghost Light: A Memoir



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(Cathrine Larkin Sr.)

GHOST LIGHT: A MEMOIR



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Random House Trade, United States, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 201 x 124 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. There is a superstition that if an emptied theater is ever left completely dark, a ghost will take up residence. To prevent this, a single ghost light is left burning at center stage after the audience and all of the actors and musicians have gone home. Frank Rich s eloquent and moving boyhood memoir reveals how theater itself became a ghost light and a beacon of security for a child finding his way in a tumultuous world. Rich grew up in the small-townish Washington, D.C., of the 1950s and early 60s, a place where conformity seemed the key to happiness for a young boy who always felt different. When Rich was seven years old, his parents separated--at a time when divorce was still tantamount to scandal--and thereafter he and his younger sister were labeled children from a broken home. Bouncing from school to school and increasingly lonely, Rich became terrified of the dark and the uncertainty of his future. But there was one thing in his life that made him sublimely happy: the Broadway theater. Rich s parents were avid theatergoers, and in happier times they would listen to the brand-new recordings of South Pacific, Damn Yankees, and The Pajama Game over and over in their living room. When his mother s remarriage brought about turbulent changes, Rich took refuge in these same records, re-creating the shows in his imagination, scene by scene. He started collecting Playbills, studied fanatically the theater listings in The New York Times and Variety, and cut out ads to create his own miniature marquees. He never imagined that one day he would be the Times s chief theater critic. Eventually Rich found a second home...



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