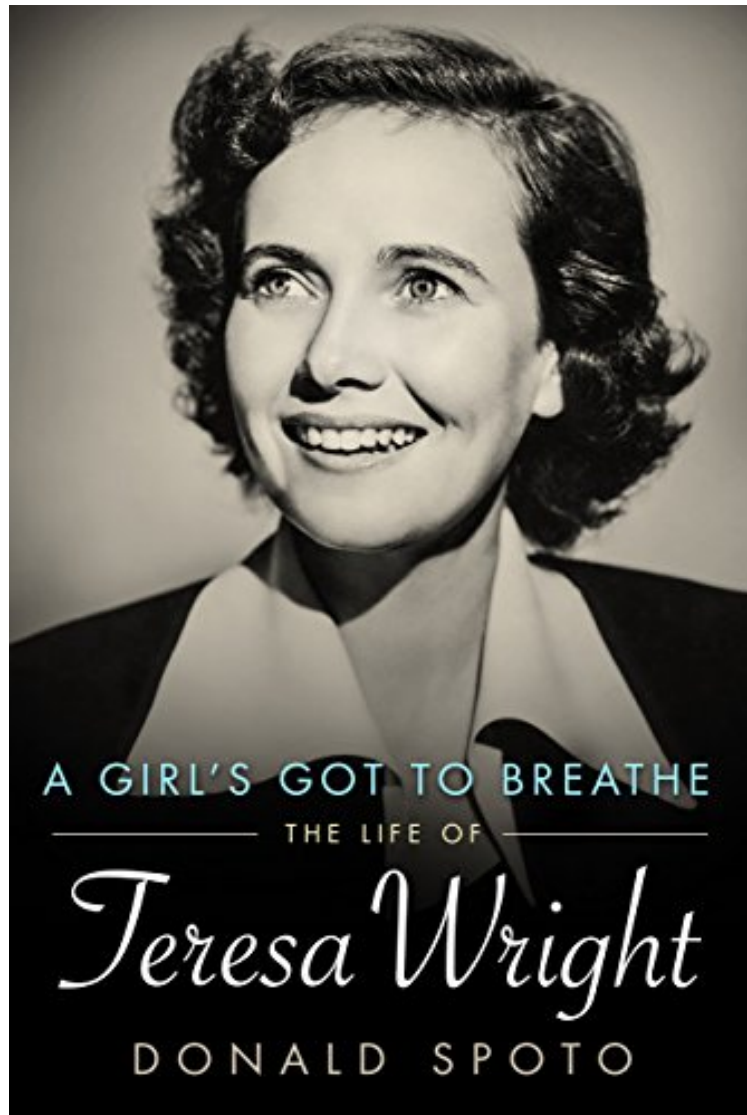


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A Girl's Got To Breathe: The Life of Teresa Wright (Hollywood Legends Series)

Donald Spoto

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Donald Spoto : A Girl's Got To Breathe: The Life of Teresa Wright (Hollywood Legends Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Girl's Got To Breathe: The Life of Teresa Wright (Hollywood Legends Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another Great Jersey Girl ActressBy Jo EspositoGreat actress with scruples... Love her...!12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Sometimes Forgotten StarBy R PRIUSI

cheated a bit on this one and got a free ebook from NetGalley. This review is 100% mine with no obligation to give it favorable high marks. Donald Spoto, Wright's biographer, is a good writer. I expected this to be a thoughtful and well researched story and was not disappointed. Spoto had known Wright for decades and had been a friend who benefitted from the normally reclusive actress's confidences. When he attempted to tell T.W.'s story he also had access to her family, friends, archives, and professional associates. Since so little was known about Wright, this book proved to be a revelation from her lonely childhood moving forward. Two marriages, three Academy Award nominations at the beginning of her career, one Oscar win, legendary film and stage performances, a career that seemed to stall, it is all there. I was surprised, possibly even shocked by some facts that did not seem obvious or were even hinted at. TW was a lady with true grit and determination who was a survivor. The decline of the studio system and a troublesome exclusive contract with another legend Samuel Goldwyn did not keep her down. She was someone who mended fences and didn't hold grudges. I loved this story and the author's sensitive and honest knowledge of Wright. This was a terrific story told mostly in chronological order that resonated. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Really like Donald Spoto's writing. By John Very enjoyable read. Really like Donald Spoto's writing. Like Ms. Wright even more, if that was possible.

The actress Teresa Wright (1918-2005) lived a rich, complex, magnificent life against the backdrop of golden age Hollywood, Broadway and television. There was no indication, from her astonishingly difficult indeed, horrifying childhood, of the success that would follow, nor of the universal acclaim and admiration that accompanied her everywhere. Her two marriages to the writers Niven Busch (*The Postman Always Rings Twice*; *Duel in the Sun*) and Robert Anderson (*Tea and Sympathy*; *I Never Sang for My Father*) provide a good deal of the drama, warmth, poignancy and heartbreak of her life story. I never wanted to be a star, she told the noted biographer Donald Spoto at dinner in 1978. She began acting on the stage in summer stock and repertory at the age of eighteen. When Thornton Wilder and Jed Harris saw her in an ingénue role, she was chosen to understudy the part of Emily in the original production of *Our Town* (1938), which she then played in touring productions. Samuel Goldwyn saw her first starring role on Broadway in the historic production of *Life with Father* and at once he offered her a long contract. She was the only actress to be nominated for an Academy Award for her first three pictures (*The Little Foxes*; *The Pride of the Yankees*; and *Mrs. Miniver*), and she won for the third film. Movie fans and scholars to this day admire her performance in the classics *Shadow of a Doubt* and *The Best Years of Our Lives*. The circumstances of her tenure at Goldwyn, and the drama of her breaking that contract, forever changed the treatment of stars. Wright's family and heirs appointed Spoto as her authorized biographer and offered him exclusive access to her letters and papers. Major supporting players in this story include Robert Anderson, Alfred Hitchcock, William Wyler, Karl Malden, Elia Kazan, Jean Simmons, Dorothy McGuire, Bette Davis, George Cukor, Marlon Brando, George C. Scott, the artist Al Hirschfeld, Stella Adler, and more.

Prolific celebrity biographer Spoto (*The Redgraves: A Family Epic*) paints an engaging and intimate portrait of Oscar-winning actor Teresa Wright. Her notable film roles included *Shadow of a Doubt*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, and *The Pride of the Yankees*, in which she improvised her famous line, *A girls gotta breathe!*, after receiving a lengthy on-screen kiss from costar Gary Cooper. . . . [Spoto] depicts Wright as a unique and hardworking talent who shied away from the spotlight. As he describes her, she embodied the buoyant and determined spirit of mid-twentieth-century America, and her fresh-faced beauty was warmly embraced by contemporary audiences. Publishers Weekly This affectionate tribute to a shamefully neglected talent benefits greatly from the insights of Wright's children and friends. With the performers' views on Marlon Brando, Sterling Hayden, and notable American directors and playwrights, it is recommended for students of American film and theater. Stephen Rees, *Library Journal* In between the standard celebrity-bio synopsis of every one of Wright's roles, prolific entertainment biographer Spoto (*The Redgraves*, 2012) creates a respectable study of a woman who may not have realized the happiness she desired in her personal life, but whose professional accomplishments cannot be denied. A worthwhile read for fans of Hollywood's Golden Age. Carol Haggas, *Booklist* *A Girls Got To Breathe* is as much memoir as biography, but the intimacy works. Wright's talent and yearnings come alive on the page. Scott Eyman, *Wall Street Journal* Teresa Wright's long career is lovingly recreated in this warm and revealing biography that is a tribute to her art and a record of her longtime friendship with the author. *A Girls Got To Breathe* is one of Donald Spoto's most insightful and personal biographies and a portrait of an artist who can truly be called a working actress. Bernard F. Dick, author of *The Screen Is Red: Hollywood, Communism, and the Cold War* Teresa Wright projected a kind of gentle incandescence and, simultaneously, a tacit, unyielding strength. She was a real actor who could conjure both a glowing sympathy and a winning toughness—qualities that are unforgettable in the great Hitchcock classic *Shadow of a Doubt*, to name but one of her many enduring achievements. Donald Spoto's revelations about the woman's stunning and tragic family history make it all the more apparent that she was an artist with an extraordinary gift for transcendence. Mart Crowley, playwright, *The Boys in the Band* Teresa Wright was one of the great American actresses. She finally received her due in Donald Spoto's charming and incisive biography. Stephan Talty, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Agent Garbo* About the Author Donald Spoto received

his PhD from Fordham University in 1971. He is the author of twenty-nine books published in more than twenty-six languages.