



9 1/2 Narrow: My Life in Shoes

Patricia Morrisroe

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A funny, poignant coming-of-age memoir told through the shoes that she wore.

From baby booties to orthopedic brogues (and all the high and low heels in between) shoes mark important rites of passage, reminding us of both the good and bad times: the road not taken, the prince that got away, the missed opportunities, the traveling, the fun. Most of all, they bring to mind the people we've loved and sometimes lost along the way.

Combining tidbits of cultural history, Morrisroe chronicles her life as a bullied Catholic schoolgirl in "Moby Dick" brogues; a besotted college student in granny boots; an aspiring journalist in Annie Hall oxfords; a skeptical bride in her first Manolos; a reluctant fashionista in towering peep-toe pumps; and a concerned daughter, whose elderly mother hoped that her New Balance sneakers would help her regain her old balance. With wit and compassion, she introduces us to an unforgettable cast of characters, from her grandfather, who treated the family to legendary foot rubs, to her husband, whose vast collection of vintage Puma sneakers threatened to overwhelm their apartment and derail their marriage.

Morrisroe's "coming-of-age" is, at its heart, the story of a generation of women who've enjoyed a world of freedom and opportunity that was unthinkable to their mothers. Spanning five decades and countless footwear trends, *9 1/2 Narrow* is, like *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, about how we remember important events through a coat, or a dress, or in this case, a Beatle boot or Confirmation "wedgie." With her charming sense of humor and irresistible voice, Morrisroe not only recounts her own story but also everywoman's. Funny, candid and unexpectedly poignant, *9 1/2 Narrow* is about how we grow up, grow older, and finally grow into our own shoes.

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