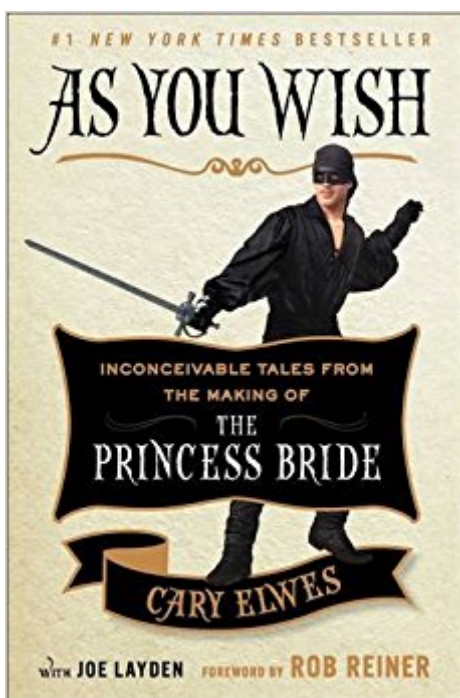


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# As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales From The Making Of The Princess Bride



## Synopsis

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** From actor Cary Elwes, who played the iconic role of Westley in *The Princess Bride*, comes a first-person account and behind-the-scenes look at the making of the cult classic film filled with never-before-told stories, exclusive photographs, and interviews with costars Robin Wright, Wallace Shawn, Billy Crystal, Christopher Guest, and Mandy Patinkin, as well as author and screenwriter William Goldman, producer Norman Lear, and director Rob Reiner. *The Princess Bride* has been a family favorite for close to three decades. Ranked by the American Film Institute as one of the top 100 Greatest Love Stories and by the Writers Guild of America as one of the top 100 screenplays of all time, *The Princess Bride* will continue to resonate with audiences for years to come. Cary Elwes was inspired to share his memories and give fans an unprecedented look into the creation of the film while participating in the twenty-fifth anniversary cast reunion. In *As You Wish* he has created an enchanting experience; in addition to never-before seen photos and interviews with his fellow cast mates, there are plenty of set secrets and backstage stories. With a foreword by Rob Reiner and a limited edition original poster by acclaimed artist Shepard Fairey, *As You Wish* is a must-have for all fans of this beloved film.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Cary Elwes’ book recounts the wacky antics of Billy Crystal, Rob Reiner and others behind ‘The Princess Bride’ . [A] delightful remembrance of the three months he spent making the unsung movie that went on to become a family classic.” (New York Daily News)

tender, comical behind-the-scenes look at the 1987 classic. (US Weekly) "Filled with fun tidbits from the cast about making a movie that became an unlikely classic. (Los Angeles Magazine) "[A] fascinating memoir|Cary Elwes has proved that he is as adept with the mighty pen as he is with the powerful sword. A treasure trove of fascinating behind-the-scenes accounts. As You Wish is thoughtfully and seamlessly compiled. (New Orleans Living Magazine) "Even if you don't have a crush on Cary Elwes, you'll enjoy this vivid behind-the-scenes account of the making of The Princess Bride. His stories, especially those involving Andre the Giant, will leave you in stitches. Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Billy Crystal, and others also recount their experiences. An amusing account of a group of performers who came together to make a heartfelt film that is loved by many. (Library Journal) "The movie The Princess Bride achieved a certain cinematic magic, which Elwes (Westley) captures in his warm and revealing behind-the-scenes account. (Publishers Weekly) "Designed to hit all fan-service sweet spots for folks familiar with the film, as it's stuffed with photos, recollections, and interviews with relevant parties. The book's dust jacket is even a Shepard Fairey print, for crying out loud. I never had a chance. (The A.V. Club) "Cary Elwes' memoir will make you want to watch The Princess Bride at least 100 more times. (SheKnows.com) "This is an entertaining tale of how 24-year-old Elwes learned how to ride a horse in the Rob Reiner adaptation of William Goldman's screenplay (and original, brilliant book). (Flavorwire.com)

Cary Elwes is a celebrated English actor who starred in The Princess Bride before moving on to roles in Robin Hood: Men in Tights, Glory, Days of Thunder, Twister, and Saw, among many other acclaimed performances. He will always be indebted to The Princess Bride, he says, for changing his life and giving him a career that has spanned decades. He lives in Hollywood, California, with his family. Find out more about Cary Elwes on Twitter @Cary\_Elwes. Joe Layden has authored or coauthored more than thirty books, including multiple New York Times bestsellers.

Probably the fastest I've ever listened to an audiobook. The impressions alone are worth the money, not to mention the great stories about the making of "The Princess Bride." I couldn't stop listening. What impressed me the most was the clear love and admiration the cast and crew had and still have for each other. You can HEAR it in their voices as they talk about each other. Most loved was Andre the Giant. I loved hearing the different impressions of him from Elwes, Reiner, and I believe Sarandon or Guest. You hear how much training and work went into the Greatest Swordfight in

Modern History. To hear that Robin Wright and Cary Elwes wanted to keep doing more takes of the final kiss is beyond adorable. Rob Reiner sounds like the nicest guy ever, and I now want to read every book William Goldman ever wrote. I'm sure a dustcover poster is cool, but to me, hearing the actors themselves read and talk about their experiences was beyond worth it.

For those of us who grew up with *Princess Bride* and still have a habit of silently, or sometimes loudly, saying the many memorable lines of this cult classic, this book could not come soon enough. For those who haven't seen it, *The Princess Bride* is a movie with a bit of everything: fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, and wuv, twuu wuv. The book takes readers behind the scenes for the movie's most recognizable moments, and includes remembrances from numerous esteemed cast members like Wallace Shawn (Vizzini), Mandy Patinkin (Montoya), Billy Crystal (Miracle Max), Robin Wright (Buttercup), and director Rob Reiner, who each share incredible stories behind how the movie was made and what effect it had on their lives. So much great insight, humor, and congeniality between the cast and crew in the making of this magical film. Inconceivable! The book is full of wonderful behind-the-scenes stories that are bound to wow any fan. The printed edition has photographs from Reiner and Norman Lear's personal collections, plus plenty of set secrets and very funny tales backstage tales which will keep any fan in stitches. This book is an absolute must have for any *Princess Bride* fan, and a should have for everyone else!

If you're a big *Princess Bride* nerd, and I am, then you probably already know some stories from the movie. I knew several awesome anecdotes about Andre the Giant already, he was one of a kind. These are repeated here. They are the most inconceivable thing in the book. The rest is just a behind the scenes look at the making of a movie, mixed in with Cary Elwes' reminisces about being an up-and-coming, anxious young actor. None of it is bad, but if you've watched any director's commentaries, ever, and ever googled Andre the Giant, there won't be anything new here. It's pleasant, if somewhat bland, in that Hollywood "It was just a Privilege to work with all of these people, who were all just Fantastic" style. No gossip. No stunning escapades. Just some mundane stuff while making an awesome movie, while Andre was his awesome self. Read if you don't know much at all about how movies are made and are curious. Or if you just don't like to google things. Skip it if that isn't you. Hardcore fans will ignore this, and they won't be traumatized, but they also won't be wowed.

Ever since I was a teenager, I've been a fan of 'The Princess Bride'. We had a copy we had bought on VHS (which tells you how long ago that was) and we wore it out. I watched that movie so many times that I had the dialogue memorized. In fact I used to get yelled at for saying the lines before the actors on screen would. To say this is one of my favorite movies is a gross understatement. It ranks in the top five, forever. That being said, I was always impressed by Cary Elwes performance and somewhat surprised that he didn't become more of a leading man type superstar. He portrayed the perfect swagger for the Westley/Dread Pirate Roberts dual role. His other roles that I remember were as villains. In Days of Thunder and Twister, he played the bad guy with that same swagger. It was these two movies and the fact that he never seemed to get the big roles that convinced me that the actor carried himself with that same swagger in real life. Reading this book showed me the error of my ways. This book carried me away on a journey. Not only the journey of the making of one the greatest movies of all time, but the journey of a young actor struggling inwardly to stay calm in the light of this most improbable of productions. I found Mr. Elwes to be a most generous storyteller. He paints himself as the young student to the master director. He shows us the kindness and generosity of Andre the Giant. He shows us the camaraderie of the close knit cast, and he isn't afraid to show his own mistakes. In fact, the more I read this book, the more I felt like I was reading the diary of someone who was having the best time of his life and had generously invited the rest of us along on the journey. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has ever seen The Princess Bride. It's more than just a peek behind the scenes. It shows the emotions of the people who came together to complete this most inconceivable movie.

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