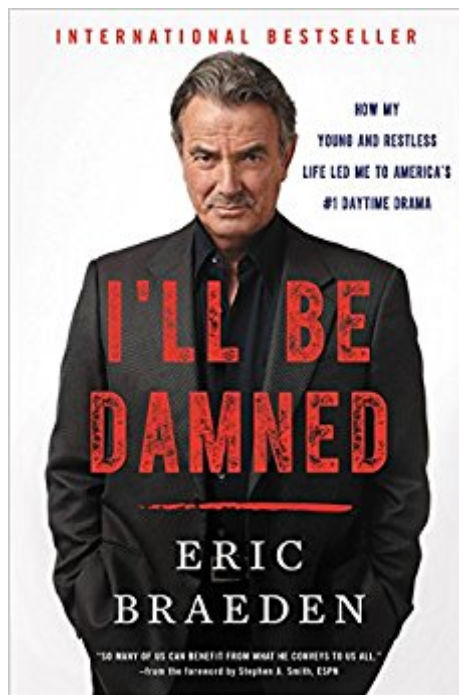


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# I'll Be Damned: How My Young And Restless Life Led Me To America's #1 Daytime Drama



## Synopsis

In this startling candid and poignant memoir, the legendary Emmy Award-winning star of *The Young and the Restless*, America's #1 soap opera, chronicles his amazing life, from his birth in World War II Germany to his arrival in America to his rise to humanitarian and daytime superstar for the past thirty-five years. For nearly four decades, fans have welcomed the star of television's number-one daytime show, *The Young and the Restless*, into their living rooms. While they've come to know and love the suave Victor Newman, few truly know the man behind the character, the supremely talented Eric Braeden. *I'll Be Damned* is his story—a startling and uplifting true tale of war, deprivation, determination, fame, and social commitment that spans from Nazi Germany to modern Hollywood. Braeden's journey from a hospital basement in Kiel to the soundstages of Los Angeles has taught him more about joy, heartbreak, fear, dignity, loss, love, loneliness, exhilaration, courage, persecution, and profound responsibility to the global community than he could have hoped to learn in several lifetimes. Growing up in the years after Germany's defeat, Braeden knew very little about the atrocities of his parents' generation, until he arrived in America as a teenager—a discovery that horrified and transformed him. Trying to redress the wrongs of his homeland, he has dedicated his life to humanitarian work—even forming the German American Culture Society—working for decades to show the world that what we share as humans is far more important than what separates us from one another. Told with openness, candor, humor, heart, and occasional raw vulnerability, *I'll Be Damned* reveals a man committed to making the world a better, more loving place. Filled with sixteen pages of photos from his decorated life and career, *I'll Be Damned* will be a treasured keepsake for Y&R fans, and is an inspiring testament to the goodness within us all.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Dey Street Books; First Edition edition (February 7, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062476114

ISBN-13: 978-0062476111

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 283 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #37,437 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Biographies &

Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers #81 in Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #299 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers

## Customer Reviews

For nearly four decades, fans have welcomed the star of television's number one daytime show, *The Young and the Restless*, into their living rooms. While they've come to know and love the suave Victor Newman, few truly know the man behind the character, the supremely talented Eric Braeden. Now, in his first book, Eric shares the story of his life—a startling and uplifting tale of war, deprivation, determination, fame, and social commitment that spans from Nazi Germany to modern Hollywood. Braeden's journey from a hospital basement in Kiel to the sound stages of Los Angeles has taught him more about joy, heartbreak, fear, dignity, loss, love, loneliness, exhilaration, courage, persecution, and profound responsibility to the global community than he could have hoped to learn in several lifetimes. Growing up in the years after Germany's defeat, Braeden knew very little about the atrocities of his parents' generation until he arrived in America as a teenager—a discovery that horrified and transformed him. Trying to redress the wrongs of his homeland, he has dedicated his life to humanitarian causes—even forming the German American Culture Society—working for decades to show the world that what we share as humans is far more important than what separates us from one another. Told with openness, humor, heart, and raw vulnerability, *I'll Be Damned* reveals a man committed to making the world a better, more loving place. Filled with sixteen pages of photographs from Braeden's decorated life and career, *I'll Be Damned* is a cherished keepsake for his fans and an inspiring testament to the goodness within us all.

Since February 2, 1980, ERIC BRAEDEN has starred in the iconic television series *The Young and the Restless*, winning a Daytime Emmy for his role as the complex self-made billionaire Victor Newman. He has many other television credits to his name, and has starred in films, in numerous theater productions, including Shakespeare recitals, and on Broadway. Braeden has won two national championships in two different sports: In 1958, he won the German Youth Team Championship in Discus, Javelin, and Shot Put, and in 1973, he won the U.S. National Soccer Championship with the Los Angeles Maccabees.

A light read that is actually loaded with great insights, perfectly sprinkled amidst anecdotal recaps of a remarkable "Hollywood" career. Mr. Braeden is a great storyteller: lots of humor, but even more

integrity and depth of convictions that I personally admire. And as a native Angeleno, I loved all of the iconic references to restaurants and locations in this city that hold so much rich history. I've always been a fan of Eric Braeden's character, Victor Newman on Y&R (have watched since 1993), but had no idea how far reaching accomplishments of the man behind the character truly are.

I have to admit that I'm not a soap opera fan, so the later part of this autobiography is a bore for me, but I did like the first half, in that I was a fan of Braeden from Rat Patrol to the point that he went to work on Young And The Restless. Soap stars are the hardest working actors in show business, and I have nothing but respect for them, as a result, but I don't like soaps, as they move too slow and seldom go anywhere. My favorite of all his performances was in Colossus: The Forbin Project, but I also liked his performances in various TV shows, like Gunsmoke and Hawaii 5-0. He comes across as a fine gentleman, with great values, and for that I salute him. Recommended.

I purchased this book for his insights into growing up in Nazi Germany. He is younger than I thought, so the era didn't affect him as much as for other people whose stories I have read. It was interesting how his German ancestry impacts his entire life. His life in show business was a small part of the story, until the end where he discusses quite a bit about "The Young and the Restless". If you watch this soap opera, you will probably find lots of interesting tidbits. As a non-soap opera viewer, not so much. Still, a good read.

My wife Marilyn introduced me to the noontime soap opera Y&R and its iconic and complex character Victor Newman aka Eric Braeden. He has been a mainstay on this riveting daytime drama for almost four decades. However, this gifted actor is much more. Like the mystical Phoenix, this proud German-American arose from the devastation of wartime Germany to become a gifted athlete, talented film and stage actor, and an ambassador of healing, co-operation, and understanding that is sorely lacking in many today. Hard work, discipline, and an appreciation of life itself are trademarks of this fascinating man! What's really amazing are the millions of viewers from all walks of life who eagerly look forward to the next episode of Y&R because of him!

I picked up this book because I've always liked Eric Braeden as an actor whether it was in Rat Patrol or The young and the Restless. I learned a great deal more about this man than your run of the mill tabloid fodder. He has an interesting perspective on post-WWII Germany, and although I'll never see eye to eye with Mr. Braeden on politics, this was surely an interesting and well written

book.

If you're a fan of Eric Braeden - Victor Newman, I think you'll find this book informative & entertaining. I knew some of the background of his life growing up but he went in to quite a bit more detail than what I ever imagined. He is a lucky guy & I think has had a very interesting life. The only thing that seemed to bother me, not that I'm not use to hearing "4-letter words", is his quite frequent use of these "bad" words. Also, I was hoping he would say a little more about his relationship with some of his co-stars.

I couldn't put this book down and was so disappointed when it was over because I wanted to read more about this amazing man & his contributions to our society-warts and all. I will continue to follow his career with a new understanding of what it means to be German.

I have watched The Young and the Restless since the 1980's. What a treat to read the true backstory about one of my favorite actors! I used to think "I'll bet he used to box" when I watched him give pointers to his "sons" and now I KNOW he did! Eric's (or Hans') history is truly fascinating and I could hear him telling it in my head as I read it. "I'll Be Damned" is a phrase he uses frequently on the show... and couldn't be a more perfect title for this actor's story. I loved it!

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