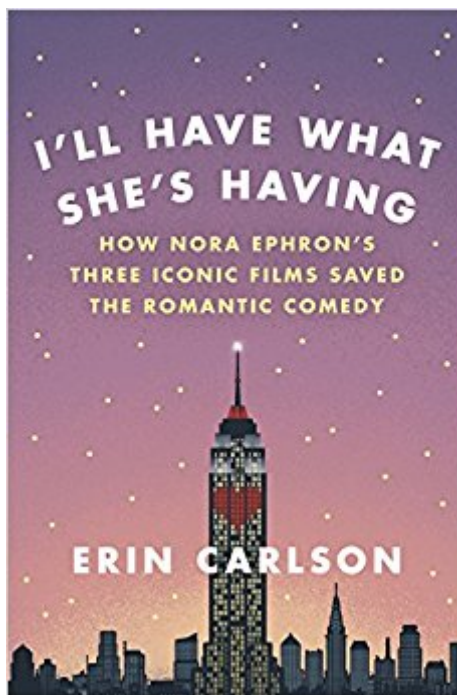




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# I'll Have What She's Having: How Nora Ephron's Three Iconic Films Saved The Romantic Comedy



## Synopsis

A backstage look at the making of Nora Ephron's revered trilogy--*When Harry Met Sally*, *You've Got Mail*, and *Sleepless in Seattle*--which brought romantic comedies back to the fore, and an intimate portrait of the beloved writer/director who inspired a generation of Hollywood women, from Mindy Kaling to Lena Dunham. In *I'll Have What She's Having* entertainment journalist Erin Carlson tells the story of the real Nora Ephron and how she reinvented the romcom through her trio of instant classics. With a cast of famous faces including Rob Reiner, Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, and Billy Crystal, Carlson takes readers on a rollicking, revelatory trip to Ephron's New York City, where reality took a backseat to romance and Ephron--who always knew what she wanted and how she wanted it--ruled the set with an attention to detail that made her actors feel safe but sometimes exasperated crew members. Along the way, Carlson examines how Ephron explored in the cinema answers to the questions that plagued her own romantic life and how she regained faith in love after one broken engagement and two failed marriages. Carlson also explores countless other questions Ephron's fans have wondered about: What sparked Reiner to snap out of his bachelor blues during the making of *When Harry Met Sally*? Why was Ryan, a gifted comedian trapped in the body of a fairytale princess, not the first choice for the role? After she and Hanks each separately balked at playing *Mail*'s Kathleen Kelly and *Sleepless*' Sam Baldwin, what changed their minds? And perhaps most importantly: What was Dave Chappelle doing ... in a turtleneck? An intimate portrait of one of America's most iconic filmmakers and a look behind the scenes of her crowning achievements, *I'll Have What She's Having* is a vivid account of the days and nights when Ephron, along with assorted cynical collaborators, learned to show her heart on the screen.

## Customer Reviews

"[Erin Carlson] offers a breezy, detailed rehearsal of three successful romantic comedies from the 1980s and '90s.... A large bag of buttery popcorn that goes down oh so pleasantly." *Kirkus Reviews* "Deeply reported and deeply felt, Carlson's account of Nora Ephron's unlikely rise to romantic comedy queen deftly exposes the messy, human reality lurking beneath those sparkling paeans to true love. Magically nostalgic, cynical, and smart all at once." *Jennifer Keishin Armstrong*, author of *Seinfeldia* and *Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted*

Erin Carlson has covered the entertainment industry for *The Hollywood Reporter* and AP. Her work has appeared in *Glamour*, *Fortune*, and the *LA Times*. She compiled and wrote an oral history of *You've Got Mail* for *Vanity Fair*. She holds a masters in magazine journalism from Northwestern,

and has been profiled in the New York Times.

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