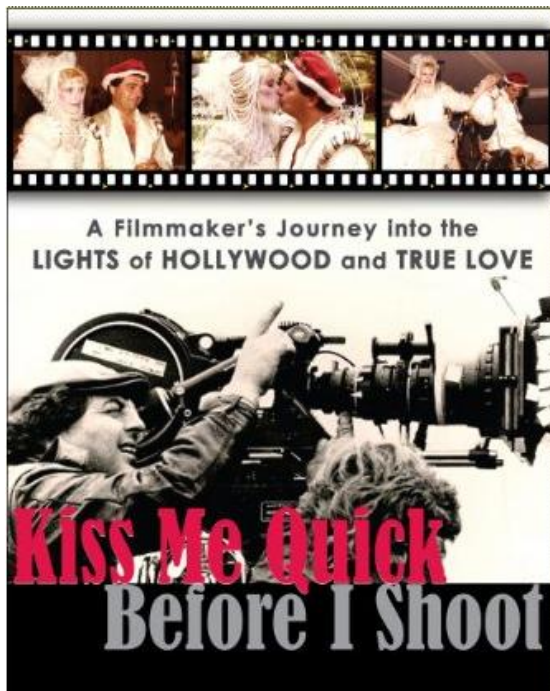


## Kiss Me Quick Before I Shoot by Guy Magar by Sheila Deeth - GATHER

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Author Guy Magar is the founder and a teacher at Action/Cut Filmmaking. He's directed, written and/or produced several indie films, including *Showdown* with Matt LeBlanc of *Friends* fame (I'm planning on renting it) and *Retribution* (soon to be rereleased on DVD), plus episodes of lots of well-known TV series. But why would I want to read his memoir?

Lots of reasons actually: Firstly, he's an interesting guy. Born in Egypt, he left as a child with his family after the military coup of 1952. He spent time in France, waiting for permission to immigrate to the US, then struggled to fit in as an obvious foreigner till his family moved to a smaller more welcoming town. I'm an immigrant too. Of course I'm interested.



Secondly, he's a storyteller who's made it. I'm a storyteller dreaming of making it. His book is filled with nuggets of advice, well-seasoned with tales of how that advice has worked out for him. I don't dream of writing movies, but his experiences seem equally relevant to the efforts of aspiring novelist to be published and read.

Third, this is Hollywood. The author drops famous names like someone who really knows what and who he's talking about, and the anecdotes are fun.

Fourth, the author's a teacher and it shows. Reading this book is like listening to a really good speaker at the podium. Sure, he's got opinions and he's not afraid to share them—it's part of why he's such a fun speaker/writer. And the book never falls to the level of just another start-to-finish memoir; it feels much more like a well-planned series of talks, with tons of great photographs as if he's putting up slides to keep those readers in the back awake.

Finally, this isn't just the story of someone "shooting" films. Guy Magar is a real person, with real love and a wife who he loves. He tells this story too, and just as

powerfully (with his own take on how love works and how to love yourself), till the reader almost shares the pain of Jacqui's cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatment. The same drive and the same commitment thread this relationship of husband and wife as that of producer and films, bringing the reader into two fully realized and different worlds united by one passionate, vocal and immanently readable man.

*Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book from PRbytheBook in exchange for an honest review.*