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***"In the world of relationships, possibly the most complicated, uncommon, hard to find, hard to keep, and most rewarding has got to be friendship... my friends have made me laugh, moved me to tears, hurt me, helped me, changed me. Extraordinary that I have been so lucky."***

**—Lauren Bacall**



Dear Feature Editor:

What makes your relationships with your best friends special? Are they filled with humor and honesty? Do they offer comfort in hard times? Are they built on passion and shared interests?

Melissa Hellstern, author of the 2005's bestseller *How To Be Lovely: The Audrey Hepburn Way of Life* always considered herself lucky to have great girlfriends, but it wasn't until a couple of years ago, when her friends saw her through a particularly rough patch, that she realized first-hand how crucial friendships are in a woman's life. She found comfort, hope and strength in her best friends, and was inspired to write **GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY: A Celebration of Friendship, (Dutton, October 23, 2008, \$19.95)**, a guide to the friendships of some of Hollywood's classic female icons.

Hellstern gives the inside scoop on various Hollywood friendships. In an interview, she can discuss fun stories and interesting tidbits such as:

- How Vivian Vance (Ethel from *I Love Lucy*) once saved Lucy from drowning—in front of a live studio audience.
- Why the "Rat Pack" is rumored to have been named by Lauren Bacall and her friend Judy Garland
- How Julie Andrews told her best friend Carol Burnett she was pregnant (hint: it involved a top secret code and loudspeakers)

I hope you'll keep gorgeous and heartwarming book in mind for November. It is the perfect book for holiday gift features. I will be in touch soon to discuss review and feature possibilities.

Best,

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*GETTING ALONG  
FAMOUSLY:  
A Celebration of Friendship  
By Melissa Hellstern*

If we are truly fortunate, each of us has a special friend in our lives—the person who is there for every success and failure, someone who can lift our spirits even in the darkest hour, someone who knows our every secret and will never tell.

Not surprisingly, celebrities have close friends too, and in **GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY: A Celebration of Friendship** (Dutton, October 23, 2008, \$19.95), Melissa Hellstern, author of the bestselling *How To Be Lovely: The Audrey Hepburn Way of Life*, dishes on the friendships of some of the most iconic and glamorous starlets of our time, sharing the stirring tales of heartbreak, joy and laughter, and the friendships that lasted through it all.

Filled with beautiful, glossy photos, and heartwarming quotes on friendship, **GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY** sheds light on the friendships of such famous Hollywood duos as:

*Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn:* These unlikely friends (Loren was the sexy starlet, Hepburn the gamine good girl) bonded over the desire to be mothers, and found comfort in each other when both suffered miscarriages.

*Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher:* When Debbie's husband Eddie Fisher left her for a high profile affair with Elizabeth Taylor (think Brad and Angelina), she was left to raise her daughter Carrie on her own—and ended up raising her closest friend.

*Lucille Ball and Vivian Vance:* The on-screen neighbors (Vivian played neighbor Ethel in *I Love*

Lucy) loved—and fought—like sisters, building a bond that lasted long after cameras stopped rolling.

*Carol Burnett and Julie Andrews:* After a random meeting at a Chinese food restaurant, the two stars built a lifelong friendship based on their love of performing.

*Katherine Hepburn and Lauren Bacall:* Despite a seventeen year age difference, these friend survived fifty years of career ups-and-downs, love and loss, and life as two of Hollywood's most independent women.

*Coco Chanel and Misia Sert:* Once rivals, these fashion icons relied on each other for honesty and inspiration as they revolutionized the world of high fashion.

Hellstern writes: "Friendship makes us better women, better lovers, and better mothers. When we play together, laugh together, or cry together, we bring more meaning into our lives. Men may fix things, but women fix each other."

A perfect gift for women of all ages, **GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY** is a celebration of the strongest and most enduring bonds in a woman's life—her best friends.

*GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY*  
*A Celebration of Friendship*  
By Melissa Hellstern  
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October 23, 2008  
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[www.melissahellstern.com](http://www.melissahellstern.com)



**About the Author:**

**MELISSA HELLSTERN** is the author of the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller *How To Be Lovely: The Audrey Hepburn Way of Life*, which continues to inspire women the world over. Hellstern's thoughts of Hepburn have been featured in many print interviews and on the television show *The Greatest Fashion Icons on Film*, which aired on TLC. She lives in Chicago.

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