

# Iron Curtain Calls: A Captivating Memoir of Cold War Theater



## Iron Curtain Calls by Richard Tashjian

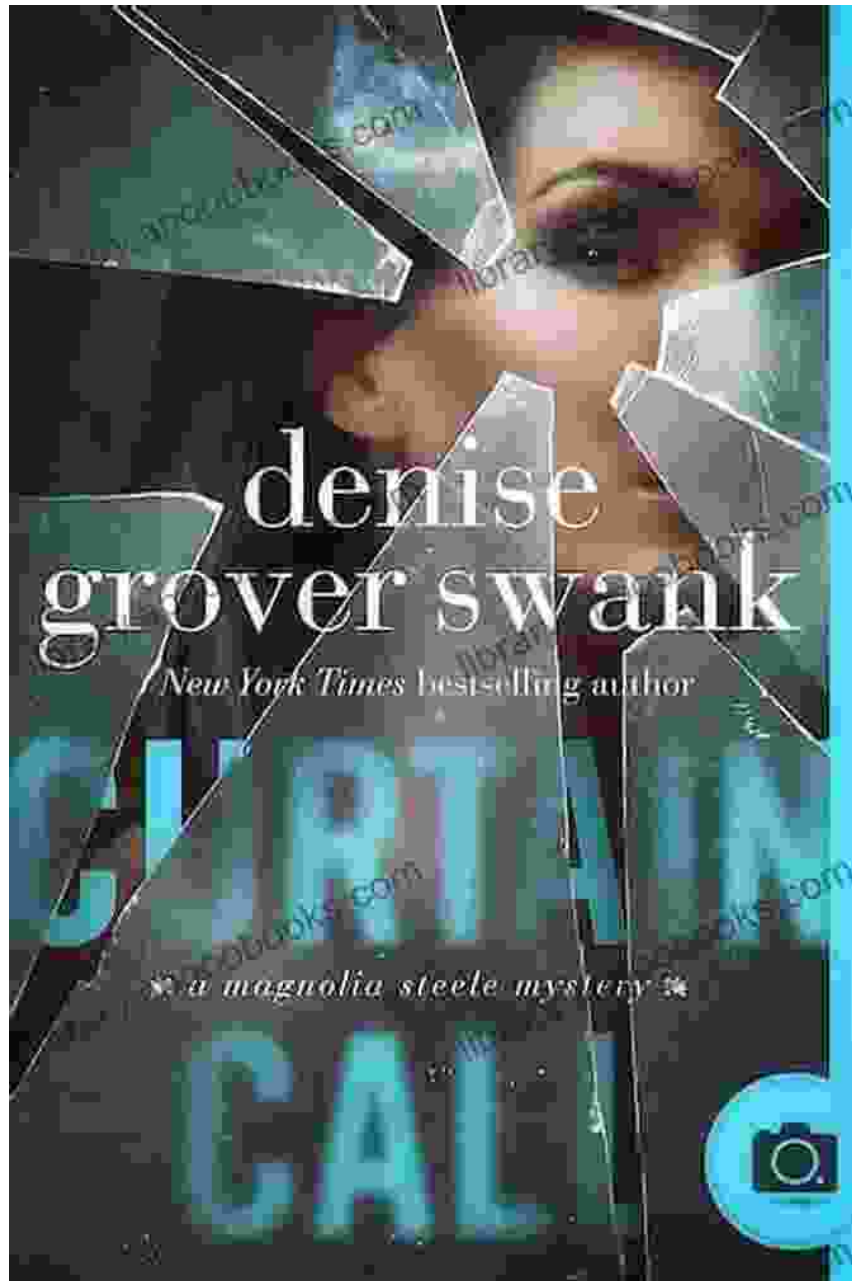
★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
Paperback	: 138 pages
Item Weight	: 14.9 ounces
Dimensions	: 8.5 x 0.32 x 11 inches
File size	: 977 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 322 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported

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Richard Tashjian's *Iron Curtain Calls* is a captivating memoir that transports readers behind the Iron Curtain during the height of the Cold War. As a young American theater director, Tashjian embarks on a daring mission to bring Western theater to Soviet Russia and its satellite countries.

With vivid prose and a keen eye for detail, Tashjian paints a vivid picture of the challenges and triumphs of cultural diplomacy during this tumultuous

period. Along the way, he encounters a cast of extraordinary characters, from renowned Soviet actors to high-ranking government officials.

One of the most compelling aspects of *Iron Curtain Calls* is Tashjian's ability to bridge the cultural divide between East and West. Through his encounters with Soviet artists and audiences, he discovers a shared love of theater and a desire for human connection that transcends political ideologies.

Tashjian's memoir is not only a fascinating historical account but also a deeply personal story of growth and transformation. As he navigates the complexities of Cold War politics, he learns the importance of empathy, perseverance, and the transformative power of art.

Through Tashjian's compelling narrative, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of the Cold War and the role that cultural diplomacy played in shaping international relations.

## **Behind the Scenes of Cold War Theater**

*Iron Curtain Calls* offers readers a unique glimpse into the behind-the-scenes world of Cold War theater. Tashjian vividly describes the challenges of producing Western plays in Soviet Russia, from navigating censorship restrictions to overcoming language barriers.

He also sheds light on the ways in which theater became a powerful tool for political expression. In one particularly memorable scene, Tashjian recounts a performance of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* in Moscow, which was widely interpreted as a critique of Soviet communism.

## **Encounters with Extraordinary Characters**

One of the highlights of *Iron Curtain Calls* is Tashjian's encounters with a cast of extraordinary characters. He meets legendary Soviet actors such as Innokenty Smoktunovsky and Oleg Tabakov, who share their insights on theater and the human condition.

Tashjian also interacts with high-ranking government officials, including Soviet Minister of Culture Yekaterina Furtseva and American Ambassador to the Soviet Union Averell Harriman. These encounters provide a fascinating glimpse into the political dynamics of the Cold War.

### **A Deeply Personal Journey**

Beyond its historical significance, *Iron Curtain Calls* is also a deeply personal story of growth and transformation. Tashjian reflects on his own evolution as an artist and a diplomat, and he shares valuable lessons he learned along the way.

Through his experiences behind the Iron Curtain, Tashjian comes to understand the importance of empathy, perseverance, and the transformative power of art. His memoir is a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity and build bridges across cultural divides.

*Iron Curtain Calls* is a gripping and thought-provoking memoir that offers readers a unique glimpse into the world of Cold War theater. Through Richard Tashjian's vivid prose and compelling narrative, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of international relations and the enduring power of human connection.

Whether you are a history enthusiast, a theater lover, or simply someone interested in the human experience, *Iron Curtain Calls* is a must-read. It is

a timeless story of cultural diplomacy, personal growth, and the transformative power of art.



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