

Allison's Book Corner March 2023

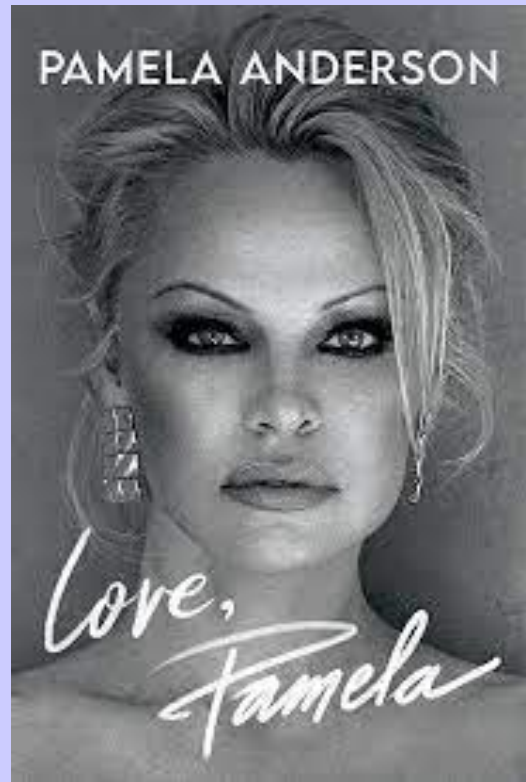
Love, Pamela by Pamela Anderson
Dey Street Books (2023)

Happy Spring! I have not done this in a long time but I am recommending a book and a movie (really, a one hour and 52 min documentary) but I promise you, together they are worth it.

When you think of poetry, paintings, and museums, does the actress Pamela Anderson come to mind? Yes, that Pamela Anderson of Baywatch and Playboy Bunny fame.

Her memoir ***Love, Pamela*** is available now with the documentary of the same name, streaming on Netflix. I highly recommend both, BUT you should read the book first.

At the beginning of various chapters and included throughout the book are Pamela Anderson's poems. She writes lovely, thought-provoking poetry that she shares with her readers. Pamela has kept a journal and has been writing since she was a little girl growing up in Vancouver, Canada. She is also a voracious reader who never goes anywhere without a book. Pamela also has a great appreciation for fine art and can discuss Picasso's work as well as that of other artists. She has spent more time at the Louvre than many, I am sure. Unfortunately, the documentary does not show us this depth of her mind and soul. It just is not possible. It makes much more sense for the visual documentary to focus on her Playboy career, her marriage with rocker Tommy Lee and of course her greatest achievement (Pamela's words), her sons with Tommy Lee. In fact, her son Brandon produced the documentary and appears on-screen with his brother. We also meet her parents in her documentary. It really is a great companion piece to the book.



Pamela's memoir also does not include any photographs. I found this to be odd, at first, but then I realized the majority of her life is indeed on film. No need to put photos in the book.

I have already divulged Pamela's intelligence to you and it is a wonderful thing to discover as you read her life in her own words. Pamela had two traumatic events happen to her when she was growing up. One happened when she was just five years old and the other when she was twelve. I think, like many children, she chose not to tell her parents for fear of their reaction and/or actions that they would take once they had the information.

I will not share those events here, but just like the great Maya Angelou, in Pamela's child mind she wished a person to be dead and then the person did indeed die. What does a child do with this type of event that will affect their entire life? Maya stopped speaking for years. Pamela took another route. Who are we to judge the path she chose? I did not grow up with a lot of money. If I had been "discovered" at a young age and offered the world, I have no idea whether I would have taken the offer or not. We, so quick to judge, do not know our own reaction until we are in the specific situation. Please keep that in mind as Pamela's life unfolds before you in her book and on film.

One thing is very clear: Pamela Anderson at the age of 55 without make-up and sans the ill-advised breast implants is still a very beautiful woman. Her last role was not on television but as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* on Broadway. To her great surprise, she received wonderful reviews and packed the house at her limited performances.

As long as we live, we have a chance to re-invent ourselves, become someone new and wiser, to possibly love again. These are things I am learning in my own life, and Pamela has learned them also. This is a great read and a wonderful documentary. Many of you think you already know Pamela Anderson. Do not deprive yourself of really getting to know her through her book and film.