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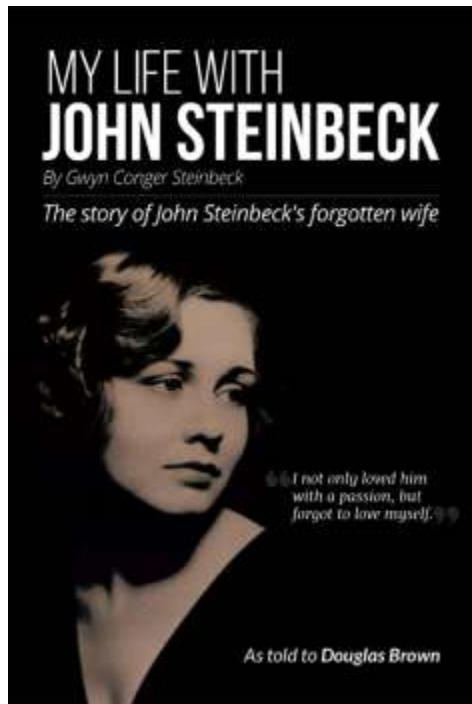
Discovered--GWYN CONGER STEINBECK. New book relates love and adventures of the "forgotten wife," muse to the Nobel Prizewinning author of American classics

MY LIFE WITH JOHN STEINBECK: by

Gwyn Conger Steinbeck

The Story of John

Steinbeck's Forgotten Wife



Who was Gwyn Conger Steinbeck? Unlike Steinbeck's first and third wives, she's unmentioned in standard editions of classics, such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*. But that's about to change with the publication of **MY LIFE WITH JOHN STEINBECK: by Gwyn Conger Steinbeck, *The story of John Steinbeck's Forgotten Wife***. (Lawson Publishing Ltd. Sept. 6th.). The ms, lost since 1972, was recently discovered in Wales. The book includes her introduction, that of journalist Douglas G. Brown and the acclaimed John Steinbeck biographer, Jay Parini.

The book reveals the missing voice of Gwyn, "the forgotten wife," mother of his two sons, during a 6-year marriage that included the tumult of World War 2.. When she met Steinbeck in 1939, Gwyn was a professional singer, working for RKO radio and CBS in L.A. She was an independent young woman, lively and radiant in her love for the great man wooing her--14 years her senior. He was impressed by her beauty and magnetic presence. For women of her era, many of whom had to leave jobs after the war, marriage was considered a woman's true career--love was life. This journal is her story of that adventure, often "on the road" with a restless Steinbeck, criss-crossing continents and making homes. She later wrote:.

"Tremendous love existed between us....Sometimes, love made us better than we were, it does that with everyone. My love for John was such that I had no hesitation in giving up everything I had for him, which I did. That was a mistake. Although our relationship brought happiness, it also brought unhappiness. At one point, I became the Indian woman, walking three paces behind the master."

Full of insight, **My Life with John Steinbeck** is funny and on target about people and places. A newlywed on 78th St in NYC., Gwyn was alone after John suddenly decided to go to war. But later they enjoyed snowstorms and high society, carousing with the Robert Benchleys and Burl Ives among others. They moved to Monterey for sojourns with Steinbeck crony Ed Ricketts in his eccentric Lab. There were treks to Mexico, a story of an elegant party at a Russian Embassy, and one about being pregnant and sick by the side of a road..

Gwyn says Steinbeck was "in love with love." But for much of their time together, she was completely in love with both the great writer and the flawed man. She gave him complete quiet to work and, when needed, her full attention *The Moon is Down*, *Cannery Row*, *The Pearl*, *The Wayward Bus* were written during their years. Gwyn tried to be the "Amazon" Steinbeck expected; until their sons' births which she linked with the mysterious "death of their love." When she asked for a divorce (finalized 1949) she could no longer live with him. He may never have forgiven her.

How often do we hear about the costs of being with a famous man? When is "trading up" self-abandonment? Gwyn's story is an enigmatic look at an "everywoman" of her era, who took marriage as her vocation and enabled a great man to pursue his work. Yet the ideology of giving "all" came at a steep price. 2018, the 50th anniversary of John Steinbeck's death (12/20/68), may be the year of the woman. How fitting for Gwyn Steinbeck's journal to be published.

LAWSON PUBLISHING LTD.

Lawson Publishing LTD is located in Powys, Wales. Publisher Bruce Lawson is pleased with the release of **GWYN CONGER STEINBECK: *My Life With John Steinbeck*** in the U.K. and the United States.

Douglas G. Brown, Editor

Douglas G Brown was a British and American journalist, feature writer and one-time columnist who became editor of the *Palm Springs Desert Sun*. His brother, John Brown, who inherited the manuscript for ***My Life with John Steinbeck***, decided to publish it with Lawson Publishing Ltd as his late brother's legacy.



Bruce Lawson, Publisher

Bruce Lawson was born and educated in Kidderminster. After working in Ireland and Jamaica, where he became a rugby international, he returned to the UK to run his own Chartered Accountancy Practice. In 2013 he wrote and published *Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce*. Bruce now lives in Montgomeryshire and is the director of Lawson Publishing Ltd. He has made an extensive study of Steinbeck's early life and worked for two years, bringing ***My Life with John***

Steinbeck to publication..

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As told to Douglas Brown

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