



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Audacity of a Kiss Love, Art, and Liberation

Leslie Cohen

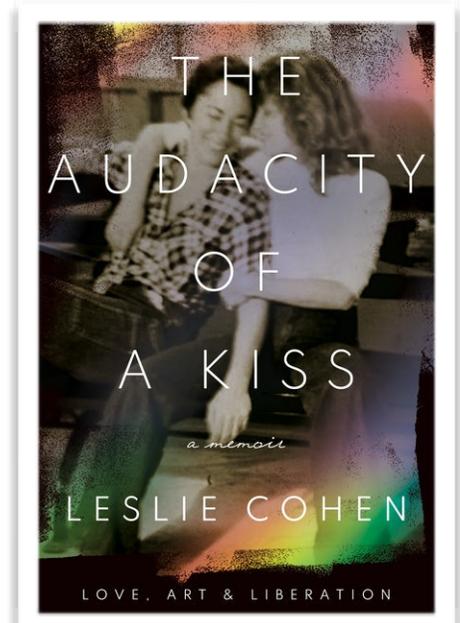
"I remember Sahara as a spring in the desert of the time!"
—Gloria Steinem

"I promise you will not put down this book. Leslie Cohen has the gift of being a wonderful writer with the added blessing of having a profoundly significant personal story to tell. It's one of those books whose time has come."

—Caroline Myss, author of *Intimate Conversations with the Divine* and *Anatomy of the Spirit*

Rendered in bronze, covered in white lacquer, two women sit together on a park bench in Greenwich Village. One of the women touches the thigh of her partner as they gaze into each other's eyes. The two women are part of George Segal's iconic sculpture "Gay Liberation," but these powerful symbols were modeled on real people: Leslie Cohen and her partner (now wife) Beth Suskin.

In this evocative memoir, Cohen tells the story of a love that has lasted for over fifty years. Transporting the reader to the pivotal time when brave gay women and men carved out spaces where they could live and love freely, she recounts both her personal struggles and the accomplishments she achieved as part of New York's gay and feminist communities. Foremost among these was her 1976 cofounding of the groundbreaking women's nightclub Sahara, which played host to such luminaries as Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Pat Benatar, Ntozake Shange, Rita Mae Brown, Adrienne Rich, Patti Smith, Bella Abzug, and Jane Fonda. *The Audacity of a Kiss* is a moving and inspiring tale of how love, art, and solidarity can overcome oppression.



LESLIE COHEN has been a museum curator, a nightclub owner and promoter, a limousine driver, and a lawyer, as well as a writer whose work has appeared in such publications as *Curve* and *The New York Times Style Magazine*. Now retired, she and her wife Beth live in Miami, Florida with their cat, Birdie.

Publishing September 2021

Cloth | \$24.95 | 978-1-9788-2511-6 | 265 pages, 39 b&w images | 5.5 x 8.5

E-book available

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