



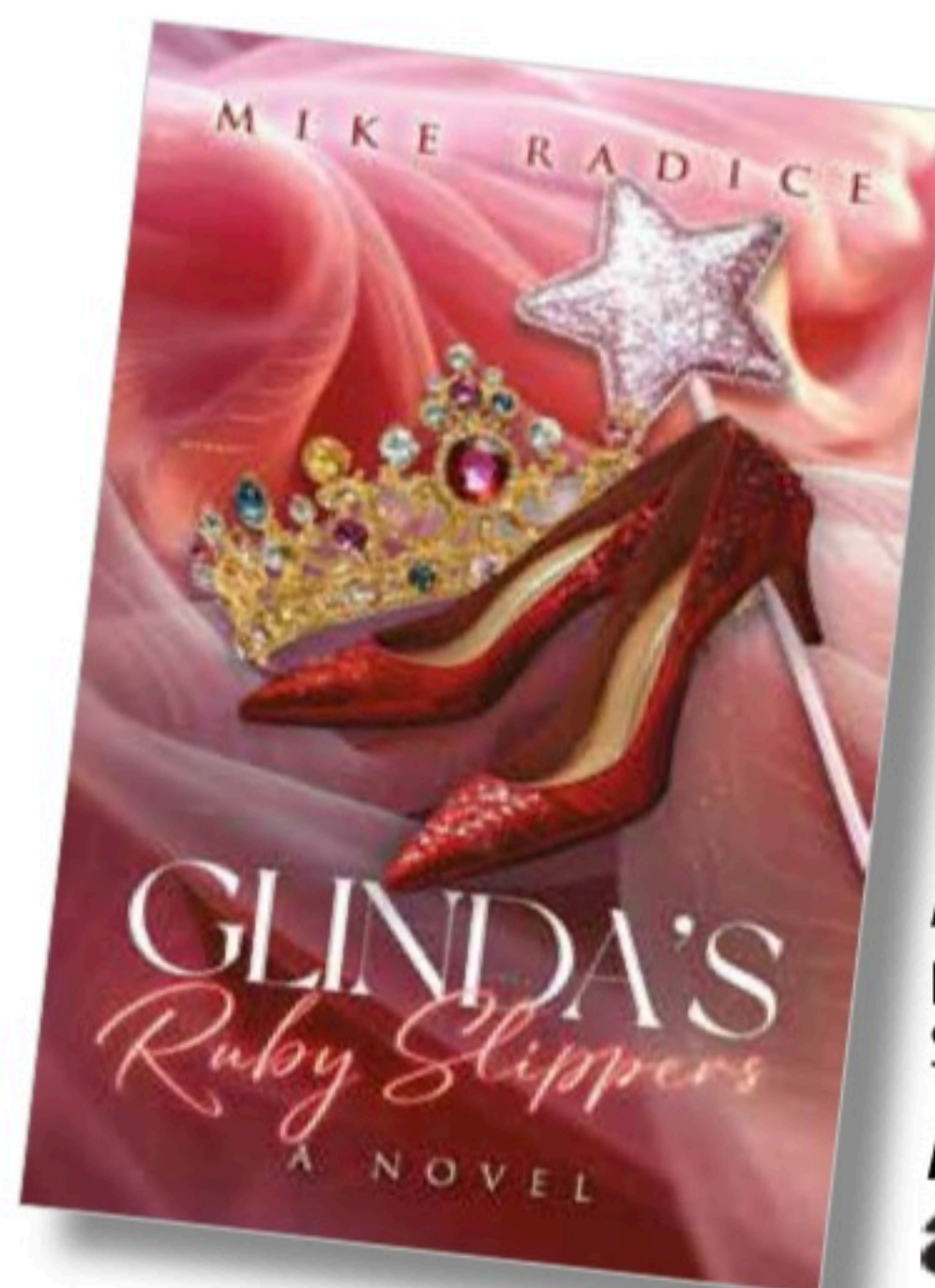
Glinda's Ruby Slippers

I don't know a single person who hasn't seen *The Wizard of Oz* multiple times. Released In 1939, it has withstood the test of time. It was groundbreaking then, delighting audiences for its use of technicolor, thrilling and frightening me as a child (darn those flying monkeys), sentimental to watch with my own kids (again, darn those flying monkeys), and now come full circle, relevant to today's generation with the *Wicked* version released this year.

When I think of *The Wizard of Oz*, the mental picture I conjure up first is that of Glinda the Good Witch, played by Billie Burke. I am still transfixed to the screen when the pink bubble carrying the equally pink Glinda floats in. She is pure confection in her bouffant dress, skyhigh crown, sparkling wand, and impossibly high cheekbones. She soothes the inner child in us all with her lilting childlike voice and doe eyes.

In *Glinda's Ruby Slippers*, author Mike Radice floats the reader in a pink bubble, right into the action, on set of the filming in 1938. Radice allows the reader to slip past security into the backdoor of the studio, letting us witness the Golden Age of Hollywood, but also the tarnished fools gold side as experienced by Burke in the forms of agism, sexism and actors beholden to their studios with oppressive contracts. Radice brings Burke to life from shadowy black and white to technicolor, revealing a surprisingly relatable person, as she navigates widowhood and motherhood while simultaneously reinventing her career. Glinda may have been her most famous role, but Billie had a long and full career, including an Academy Award nomination.

Written as historical fiction, the book has a nonfictional feel, the facts validated with the Google



Author: Mike Radice
Publisher: Blydyn Square Books

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inquiries I embarked upon afterwards. The research for this book feels like it must have taken years, a true labor of love. I was struck while reading to compare Radice's writing to Italian sculptor, Michelangelo who when asked about his artistic process, replied, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."

Radice is also a marble shaper, starting with voluminous facts, cutting away the superfluous material, providing cohesion and clarity by molding intuitively imagined scenes and carving until he freed our Good Witch.

"Come out, come out wherever you are," and read *Glinda's Ruby Slippers*. Available for preorder for release April 25 on Amazon and wherever books are sold.



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