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| Dear Friends,    A stray memory popped into my mind the other night while I was driving home from my Brazos Valley Writers' Group meeting, of the time I interviewed country music superstar Kenny Rogers for my high school newspaper. A bit belatedly, it reminded me of the connection to my newest book, [**When the Stars Fall**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=eoqwv6uab.0.0.h5jwtgtab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FWhen-Stars-Sisters-Texas-Mystery-ebook%2Fdp%2FB012BGDBKG). The climatic ending of the book takes place at a livestock auction, which is where I met the famed Hollywood and Nashville star. And the stars that fall in the book... well, they aren't necessarily from the sky! To read more, see [**below.**](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#m_7301950379403733722_KennyRogers) |

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| |  | | --- | | **Random Facts & Useless Knowledge that are fun to know!** | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   **What Kenny Rogers, Sale Barns, and When the Stars Fall Have in Common****KennyRogers**  About 1979 or '80 (years before his infamous plastic surgery), superstar Kenny Rogers starred in a television special that featured his country roots. The singer called Houston his hometown,  but at least part of his youth was spent in Crockett, Texas. A special segment was to be filmed at Crockett's East Texas Livestock Auction, showing him bidding on cattle.  On the day of the auction (Tues) Kenny and crew saw a cute little boy in attendance with his grandfather, all decked out in his standard cowboy attire, and decided he would be perfect to include in the special. Unfortunately, there weren't many cattle that day and the sale was over before the crew could get set up. They rescheduled for Saturday, even though it would technically be filmed at Buffalo Livestock, in a town about an hour away. (A pesky detail not mentioned on TV.)  On Saturday morning, the little boy showed up in his brand-new suit and tie, all spiffed up and shiny for his debut television appearance. The production crew scrambled around, rushed the child down to the nearest western wear store, and had him looking like a little cowboy again in no time, just in time for the cameras to roll.  I happened to work in the office in Buffalo (my very first job, in fact, from the age of 13 until after my children were born) and was on sight to watch it all unfold. As editor of our high school newspaper, I knew my Journalism teacher had taught Kenny Rogers years before in Houston and that she would be thrilled if I remembered her to him. I worked up the nerve to ask Manager Ken Kragen if I could interview the star, and both agreed. Totally inexperienced and totally nervous, seventeen-year-old me manged a conversation with the Superstar and took down enough details to come up with an article. (And, yes, he did remember Mrs. Landry.)  So you see, my one shot at rubbing elbows with a true Superstar happened at a sale barn, of all places, very much like the one in When the Stars Fall. The stars in my book, however, are a retired soap opera queen, her Hollywood boyfriend, and the crew of *Home Again*, a make-believe remodeling show.  So now you know what Kenny Rogers, sale barns, and my newest book have in common! | |