

(Audiobook) Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein by Jamie Bernstein

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By: Jamie Bernstein

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The intimate memoir of Leonard Bernstein and his family, that helped inspire the new movie *Maestro* Unique among classical-music memoirs for its physical intimacy, its humor and tenderness, its ambivalence toward an irrepressible family genius. . . . The existence of this well-written book, with its poignancy and its shuddery detail. . . is a mark of [Jamie Bernsteins] sanity and survival. In telling [her fathers] story, she got to write her own. *New Yorker* The oldest daughter of revered composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein offers a rare look at her father on the centennial of his birth in a deeply intimate and broadly evocative memoir The composer of *On the Town* and *West Side Story*, chief conductor of the New York Philharmonic, television star, humanitarian, friend of the powerful and influential, and the life of every party, Leonard Bernstein was an enormous celebrity during one of the headiest periods of American cultural life, as well as the most protean musician in twentieth century America. But to his eldest daughter, Jamie, he was above all the man in the scratchy brown bathrobe who smelled of cigarettes; the jokester and compulsive teacher who enthused about Beethoven and the Beatles; the insomniac whose 4 a.m. composing breaks involved spooning baby food out of the jar. He taught his daughter to love the world in all its beauty and complexity. In public and private, Lenny was larger than life. In *Famous Father Girl*, Bernstein mines the emotional depths of her childhood and invites us into her familys private world. A fantastic set of characters populates the Bernsteins lives, including the Kennedys, Mike Nichols, John Lennon, Richard Avedon, Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins, and Betty (Lauren) Bacall. An intoxicating tale, *Famous Father Girl* is an intimate meditation on a complex and sometimes troubled man, the family he raised, and the music he composed that became the soundtrack to their entwined lives. Deeply moving and often hilarious, Bernsteins beautifully written memoir is a great American story about one of the greatest Americans of the modern age.

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