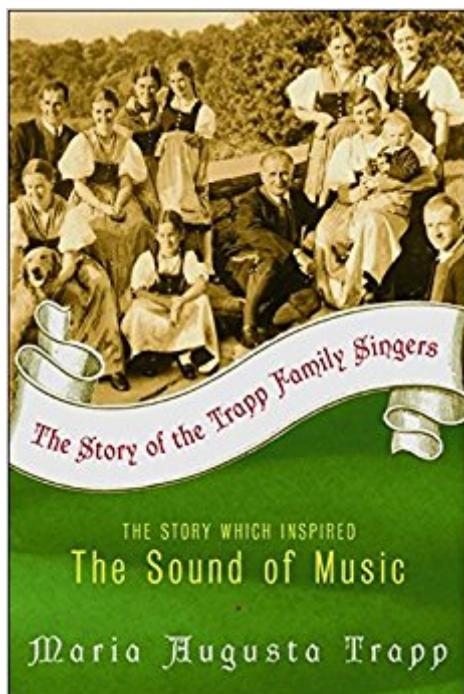


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The Story Of The Trapp Family Singers



Synopsis

With nearly 1,500 Broadway performances, six Tony Awards, more than three million albums sold, and five Academy Awards, The Sound of Music, based on the lives of Maria, the baron, and their singing children, is as familiar to most of us as our own family history. But much about the real-life woman and her family was left untold. Here, Baroness Maria Augusta Trapp tells in her own beautiful, simple words the extraordinary story of her romance with the baron, their escape from Nazi-occupied Austria, and their life in America. Now with photographs from the original edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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My review is colored by my own experience with the Trapp Family Singers whom I heard perform in Tacoma Washington in 1947, when I was eleven years old. The beginning chapter follows pretty much the beginning of The Sound of Music..... after that, it was a delightful and captivating story of

making a new life in the United States in the 1940s and 1950s. As a child of German immigrants, i do so remember the experiences of my parents and their friends and how they adapted and made a good life for themselves in a new world with a new language and new ways.In 1976 I had the opportunity to see the Trapp family property in Stowe, Vermont.This book is worthwhile even if "old fashioned."

Maria Trapp's book reads a little bit like one of those Landmark biographies written for kids back in the 50s. That is not to say that the book isn't good. It is! But there's very little in the way of dates, historical background, reflection, analysis, introspection or anything negative. Maria tells her tale in a largely unimaginative style with mostly just the facts of how things happened. Note that, as the title indicates, this is a book about the family's singing career and life in the U.S., and not strictly speaking an account of Maria's life.Thus, most disappointing to me was the almost complete lack of information surrounding the family's flight from Austria after the European phase of their singing career had begun. Similarly, Maria tells next to nothing about her romance with the Baron except for one little whimsical anecdote, and, then, suddenly they were married! Nor was there a shred of information about Maria's childhood or life prior to entering the Trapp household.The highlight of the book for me was Maria von Trapp's deep devotion to her Catholic faith which I found really very inspiring. Her faith permeated everything she did. This is especially apparent in her touching account of her husband's untimely death, one of the few incidents that she reflects upon with the reader, exposing her thoughts and sharing her fears.Maria must have certainly been a force to be reckoned with, a woman of action. You know, "how do you keep a wave upon the sand" and all the rest of those lyrics. In fact, there are times when I had almost had enough of her can-do, Climb-Every-Mountain attitude. How much can one person do anyway! At first glance, she might seem to be a carefree, light-hearted spirit, but she was an extremely capable, talented woman with an entrepreneurial streak who usually triumphed over adversity through common sense and persistence-- --and perhaps a large ego?Hers was an extraordinary life that might be better told by someone other than herself. However, I felt edified and enriched for having read the book and recommend it happily. I think this book might find its best audience among parents who would like their kids, especially their girls, ages 11 and up, to read about a strong-willed woman of deep faith and traditional values who was successful and influential in pretty much everything she did.

I loved reading about the real life story of the Von Trapps - the Sound of Music movie tells only a small piece of the story, and conveniently changes the facts around considerably. The real story is

about an incredible family that genuinely cares for each other. It tells about their life in America and the innumerable concerts they put on. It also shows a family that in Austria was wealthy and upper class, but are quite poor when they immigrate to America during the war. After reading the book, I can honestly say that I admire this family and would have loved to have known them and spent time with them. The thing I liked best about the book was the honesty and details about the family's personal life. The thing that I liked least was also the details - many so trivial. It made this a very slow read, especially as my wife and I read it aloud. I do recommend the book to those who love the movie and want to know more about the Trapp family, but be prepared for a slow read.

This is always an inspiring family to read about. If you ever have doubts about being a free American, read their story and/or watch the movie. It is a movie, but it also shows truths of how a country and people can fall. The older children knew the life and privilege they left behind, but their family had principles that were more important. Their father refused to work for the Nazis. Once they left Austria, they had almost nothing. They had to work and work hard to create a different life and they did! Their mother did not know the meaning of "give up!"

I really liked this book I thought it was very interesting about how Maria transitioned from being a nun to a wife and mother. I thought it was something else when although she was fond of the Captain, that she was not in love with him but that she grew to love him and respect him. She gave a very real depiction of how their religious freedoms were being denied to them to the point of persecution. Which I am fearful this is happening to us here in the USA. I really enjoyed reading about how they celebrated the different holidays and how they were observed in Austria back then. I also thought it was pretty cool the first place they performed in was in Wilmington DE, which I am from DE.

This book was given to me as a gift because of my love of the movie. The movie doesn't even scratch the surface of an amazing story, filled with insight on how I'm sure most immigrants felt during that period of time. I laughed at some of her experiences with the English language, and was saddened with the family's loss. Maria was an excellent writer, leaving me with wanting more... guess a road trip to Stowe, Vermont is in order!

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