

Stand Up Straight and Sing: A Memoir by Joyce Antler



Stand Up Straight and Sing!: A Memoir by Jessye Norman

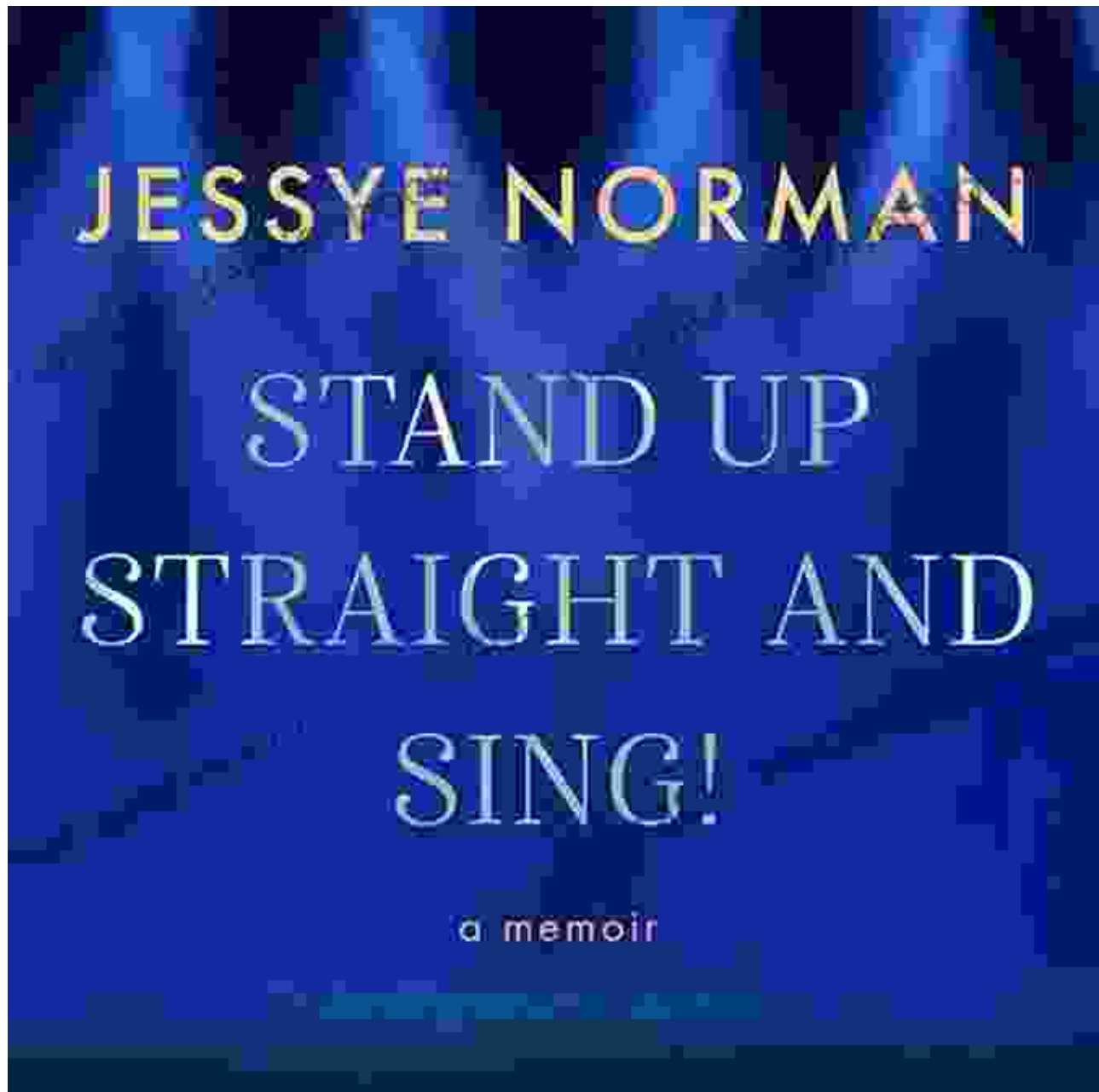
★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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An Unforgettable Journey of Resilience, Social Activism, and Triumph

In her captivating memoir, *Stand Up Straight and Sing*, Joyce Antler invites readers to embark on an extraordinary journey through the tumultuous events of the 20th century. As a daughter of Jewish immigrants, Antler's upbringing instilled in her a profound sense of social justice and a determination to make a difference in the world. Throughout the book, she

chronicles her experiences as an activist, organizer, and witness to some of the most pivotal moments in American history.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1936, Antler grew up in a vibrant Jewish community where the values of education, community service, and social action were deeply ingrained. Inspired by the stories of her parents and grandparents, who had fled persecution in Eastern Europe, Antler developed an unwavering belief in the power of collective action and the importance of fighting for what is right.

Into the Heart of the Labor Movement

After graduating from college, Antler joined the labor movement, where she played a pivotal role in organizing workers for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. She worked tirelessly to uplift the lives of women, immigrants, and people of color, advocating for equal pay, job training, and affordable housing.

Antler's experiences in the labor movement taught her the importance of solidarity and the power of collective bargaining. She witnessed firsthand the transformative effects of unionization, as workers gained a voice in the workplace and a sense of dignity and empowerment.

A Voice for Civil Rights

Antler's activism extended beyond the workplace. As the civil rights movement gained momentum in the 1960s, she became deeply involved in the struggle for racial equality. She participated in Freedom Rides, sit-ins, and voter registration drives, risking her own safety to challenge the injustices of segregation and discrimination.

Through her work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Antler witnessed the courage and resilience of civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. She played a supporting role in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, where King delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Breaking Barriers for Women

Antler was also a passionate advocate for women's rights. She co-founded the Women's Action Alliance, an organization that fought for equal pay, reproductive freedom, and an end to gender-based discrimination. Antler's tireless efforts helped pave the way for greater opportunities and equality for women in all spheres of life.

As a feminist, Antler recognized the intersectionality of oppression and the need for a broader social justice movement that addressed the interconnected struggles of race, class, and gender.

A Legacy of Social Change

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Joyce Antler has made an indomitable mark on the world. Her unwavering commitment to social justice has inspired countless others to join the fight for a more just and equitable society.

Stand Up Straight and Sing is more than a memoir; it is a testament to the power of one person to make a difference. Antler's story is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, hope and resilience can prevail.

Joyce Antler's *Stand Up Straight and Sing* is a captivating and inspiring account of a life dedicated to social change. Through her experiences in

the labor movement, civil rights movement, and feminist movement, Antler offers a unique and valuable perspective on some of the most significant events in American history. Her memoir is a testament to the power of collective action, the importance of standing up for what is right, and the legacy that one person can leave behind.

Additional Resources

- Joyce Antler's official website
- *Stand Up Straight and Sing* on Amazon
- *New York Times* review of *Stand Up Straight and Sing*



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