



# Growing Up Fisher: Musings, Memories, and Misadventures

*Joely Fisher*

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Actress, director, entertainer Joely Fisher invites readers backstage, into the intimate world of her career and family with this touching, down-to-earth memoir filled with incredible, candid stories about her life, her famous parents, and how the loss of her unlikely hero, sister Carrie Fisher, ignited the writer in her.

Growing up in an iconic Hollywood Dynasty, Joely Fisher knew a show business career was her destiny. The product of world-famous crooner Eddie Fisher and '60s sex kitten Connie Stevens, she struggled with her own identity and place in the world on the way to a decades-long career as an acclaimed actress, singer, and director.

Now, Joely shares her unconventional coming of age and stories of the family members and co-stars dearest to her heart, while stripping bare her own misadventures. In *Growing Up Fisher*, she recalls the beautifully bizarre twist of fate by which she spent a good part of her childhood next door to Debbie Reynolds. She speaks frankly about the realities of Hollywood—the fame and fortune, the constant scrutiny. Throughout, she celebrates the anomaly of a two-decade marriage in the entertainment industry, and the joys and challenges of parenting five children, while dishing on what it takes to survive and thrive in the unrelenting glow of celebrity. She speaks frankly about how the loss of her sister Carrie Fisher became a source of artistic inspiration.

Fisher's memoir, with never-before-seen photos, will break and warm your heart.

## Growing Up Fisher: Musings, Memories, and Misadventures Details

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# From Reader Review Growing Up Fisher: Musings, Memories, and Misadventures for online ebook

## Lea Bowski says

It was okay. There's some interesting family history here, and she does have a fascinating family, but the writing is pretty scattered and unorganized. One moment she's sharing a memory from when she was 5 years old and the next she's talking about something that happened last week and there's no seeming connection.

The dedication and stuff about Carrie is interesting but nothing that wasn't already known. She doesn't seem to have Carrie's way with words but then who does?!

I get the impression there was some catty-ness between Connie Stevens and Debbie Reynolds despite the fact they were friends. I was disappointed to read that but then it's hard to tell if it was genuine or simply Joely's perspective.

The most interesting part for me is when she talked about her time on the Ellen show.

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## Colette says

She's no Carrie, that's for sure. You can tell she tries to be a clever wordsmith like her sister but it comes off as phony at times...trying too hard and just not authentic.

Her politics are annoying and she's just like all those other Hollywood types...nothing original about her. I mean nothing.

I was interested in certain aspects about her family dynamics though (like the relationship between her mom and Debbie Reynolds for example.) I did find her relationship with her Dad a bit odd though. That's all I'll say about that.

I do feel for her. Losing a sister is hard.

This was just ok for me. 2 1/2 stars rounded up to 3.

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## Mediaman says

Joely Fisher is not normal. But she claims to be. She's a drug addict who defends her continued use and an upbringing where drugs were just sitting out for the taking. She's an alcoholic who claims to have her drinking under control though she won't give it up. She's sexually fluid, saying the greatest love of her life was a woman that she wishes she was with today yet she married a man with whom she admits to having threesomes and open relationships. Then throughout the book she tells the reader how "normal" she is and that what she does is what anyone would do. Oh no it's not.

Being the child of long-ago singer Eddie Fisher and B-list celebrity Connie Stevens is exaggerated by Joely into being that she was the child of one of the most famous couples in history. She goes way overboard hyping her mother as being a top celebrity when in truth Connie was a very cute 60s sidekick who few under the age of 60 would recognize today. She demeans her dad because he only saw her four or five times in her childhood, forgot her birthday, mooched off his kids when they started making money, and even managed to

misspell her sister's name in his autobiography. Yet Joely ties herself to these people and claims herself to be a "star," but she had a minor long-ago career and has a hard time getting work today.

The problem is that she was the half-sister of Carrie Fisher and the book is filled with her obvious insecurity of being in Princess Leia's shadow. She works overtime trying to convince us that the two were serious sisters cut from the same cloth (and that's good?). Debbie Reynolds was her ex-stepmom and ended up living next door, so Joely feels the need to make her own mother to be on an equal level of stardom with Debbie. But reality is that Debbie and Carrie were major Hollywood actresses, while Connie and Joely were minor performers that were trying to get a lot of mileage out of their last name. The title of the book is appropriate, because she wants to be known as a Fisher to tie herself to the more famous members of her family.

The book itself has a lot of interesting stories but you have to wade through a disorganized mess in order to get to them. The first few chapters of the book skip and hop around to different subjects and eras. It almost made me put it down because she seemed to be hyped up on something (the drugs she loves to brag about taking?). By the middle of the book she is better organized, though begging for the reader to love her and accept her flaws. There are repetitive stories and places of contradiction--she claims to not be Jewish in one spot but her father's parents were Jewish and later she describes herself as having "Jewish Italian curls." The last portion of the book reveals her terrible shopping habits, which she blames on her mom and her genes, as well as major financial issues, which she wants to blame on a money manager that doesn't file her taxes. But she needs to ask herself why she wasn't paying attention to her money for seven years, and wasted tens of thousands of dollars on drugs and drinking, then wants us to feel sorry for her having to sell her mom's seven houses before moving into a rental.

Her lack of self-awareness runs throughout the book. She constantly talks about how "inclusive" she is and how "inclusive" she teaches her children to be by accepting everyone--yet she uses the book to slam Trump, Republicans, and conservatives, telling her kids to stay away from them. So much for being inclusive. Her definition, which seems to match most of liberal Hollywood, is that inclusiveness means accepting drug addicts, alcoholics, sexual deviants, and those that want to use average taxpayers to pay for others failures and bad moral choices. If she truly were inclusive she would get her kids out of her Los Angeles area bubble and see how the rest of the world lives. Her problems are almost all of her own making and hard to empathize with. And while her charity work is admirable, it again is mostly L.A.-centric safe issues that will help her get jobs in the industry.

There's nothing normal about her life, and while it can make for a sometimes entertaining life story it makes for frustrating reading when it reveals how out-of-touch celebrities are with the real world.

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## **Kirk says**

Fasinating. Somewhat disjointed, jumps back and forth in time, otherwise a fasinating look inside a world few of us will ever know.

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## **Kayo says**

Very interesting.

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## Laurel-Rain says

Actress, director, entertainer Joely Fisher invites readers backstage, into the intimate world of her career and family with this touching, down-to-earth memoir filled with incredible, candid stories about her life, her famous parents, and how the loss of her unlikely hero, sister Carrie Fisher, ignited the writer in her.

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**My Thoughts:** As a fan of Connie Stevens from the 60s, before she married Eddie Fisher, I was also hooked on their beautiful little family. I enjoyed seeing their two daughters who were approximately the same ages as my first two sons. I followed stories of them over the years, but then lost track.

Next, Joely Fisher's movies and TV appearances caught my eye, as I was also a fan of her older sister Carrie. It was fascinating to me how Debbie Reynolds and Connie Stevens lived next door to each other on the beach at one point, and co-parented their children at times. Like a big blended family, abandoned by the father. Later in her life, Joely reconnected with Eddie, but she was the one who made the first moves. In the end, they were closer than she had thought possible.

Sharing what *Growing up Fisher* was like, with Eddie gone and Connie as the perky matriarch, I settled in to enjoy the moments and the memories. The photos were great, and I enjoyed learning more about their primary home on Delfern Drive, in Holmby Hills; a home in which they lived...when they didn't. As money got tight at times, they would lease the home out and live elsewhere, returning when finances were better. At one point, Connie leased the home to the production crew that filmed Carrie Fisher's movie *Postcards from the Edge*, and I loved learning this fact that was previously unknown to me.

The story was told in a back and forth fashion, following along to topics like *The Fishbowl*; *Oh My Papa*; *The Courtship of Eddie's Daughter*; *The Apple Doesn't Fall Apart Very Far from the Tree*; *Blind Trust*; *Home*; and *After Thoughts*...to name a few. An enjoyable read: 4 stars.

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## **Christina says**

I adored this book! I read it simultaneously in audio and print, so that after every chapter I listened to I could go look at the fantastic full color photos in the hardcover copy to put faces to the names she talked about. I've been a fan of Joely's for years, as well as the rest of her famous family, so this was chock full of interesting family lore that I didn't know. She wrote it shortly after her half sister Carrie Fisher died, so some of it has a bittersweet tinge, as she talks about their relationship and about how hard it was when Carrie passed away. She also deals with her mother Connie Stevens' stroke in 2016, and the loss of her father Eddie Fisher, with whom she had a complicated relationship, being an absent father for her while she was growing up, but with whom she reconnected when she went off to college in Boston and could visit him in New York City. This is a funny book, full of sweet stories and anecdotes, told in Joely's inimitable dry style, but also a very personal book, as she discusses her drug and alcohol use, her bisexuality (did not know that!), and her family's many foibles and tragedies. She devotes a full chapter each to the life story of Eddie and of Connie, which was cool; I enjoyed learning more about their lives. She also talks about her own marriage and being a mom of two biological daughters, an adopted daughter, and stepmom to two boys. It's a heartwarming book, a nice way to get to know a little more about one of my favorite actresses. I was also listening to this as I drove for long stretches of time to visit my mom in a nursing home as she recovered from an injury, and on the one hand that made the book really connect with me, especially all the daughter-of-an-aging parent stuff (Joely and I are only a year apart in age), but on the other hand gave it extra poignancy and made me cry quite a bit more than I probably would have had I read it at any other time! It was also awesome to have her narrate her own book; being an actress, she does it particularly well, and it was like having a conversation with a friend, one who also makes you cry from laughter!

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## **Nicole says**

I feel like this book was written for a variety of reasons and the style of this is not something to celebrate. As a fan of other Fisher writers, I was disappointed.

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## **Fifi says**

### **Not enough**

The book was an ode to Carrie, but it told me nothing new. I was surprised at how Connie Stevens was portrayed. You know she loved her but....

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## **LAWonder10 says**

This was an interesting account of Eddie Fisher's posterity.

This mostly centers on His and Connie Stevens' children but the relationship of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fishers' kids are also brought into "play".

Although Joely adds some humorous remarks occasionally, I didn't find most of them very funny. It had a lot of crude language in it, I personally didn't like.

These Classical "Stars" were great actors, but unfortunately, most long-term relationships were doomed. However, it appears Connie Stevens did all within her power to give her children the best possible attention she could as a single mother.

There are some surprising friendships involved.

The information was very interesting but I had a very difficult time getting through it, because it was too dragged out to keep my interest.

I won this book on Goodreads.

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### **Terri says**

This was an interesting look into the lives of the "rich" and famous. Joely Fisher is the daughter of Connie Stevens and Eddie Fisher. Therefore, she is the half sister of Carrie Fisher. She lived next door to Carrie, Todd and Debbie Reynolds Fisher. She was in show business from the time she was young. She shares many stories about the families, the people she met and her career. It wasn't a surprise to hear that drugs and alcohol played a big part of all of their lives.

I was sad to hear that her mother, Connie Stevens, is not doing well. Money came and went and now they all struggle to stay together.

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### **Dawn Kaestner says**

I have always liked Joely's work and this was a decent autobiography however, I almost wish I hadn't read it. I thought she came across as a whiny, narcissistic, over-spender whose goal is to live off the connection to her more famous relatives. The "poor me" vibe was annoying at best.

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### **Jessica says**

I'm not sure why people are slamming Joely based on Carrie's work. I enjoyed this book because you got to see the world for a minute through Joely Fisher's eyes. You get to watch her find herself as a person outside of, and also including, her famous family's background. Brave to put her life and pain and everything out for the world.

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### **Jeanette says**

No rating. The Introduction nearly did me in, but then the first parts of the book proper didn't seem quite as stupefying so I continued for awhile. Eddie Fisher's mentality has always rather fascinated me. I don't know why, really. Except for the fact, maybe but not only, that he could have thought that Liz would be a permanent thing in any measure of redefining permanent. So I wanted to read about his daughter. Connie Stevens was interesting too. Why did she settle?

Regardless, this book in writing style and language use and cognition, all three! I couldn't take any more

after less than 100 pages. Don't bother. She certainly can't write despite being as screwed up as Carrie admitted she was. But Carrie could express it clearly without being a twit in doing so.

Forgive me. I don't know why I bothered to pick this one up on impulse. My fault, I should have read the intro and at least a part of the middle before checking it out.

DNF- dropped way before the 1/2.

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### **Robin says**

Way too scattered for me. There was no rhyme or reason to the progression of chapters/section/musings and I ended up reading bits and pieces. And I'm really sorry as I've been looking forward to this since I heard about it last summer. Guess I prefer my memoirs to a little more linear.

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