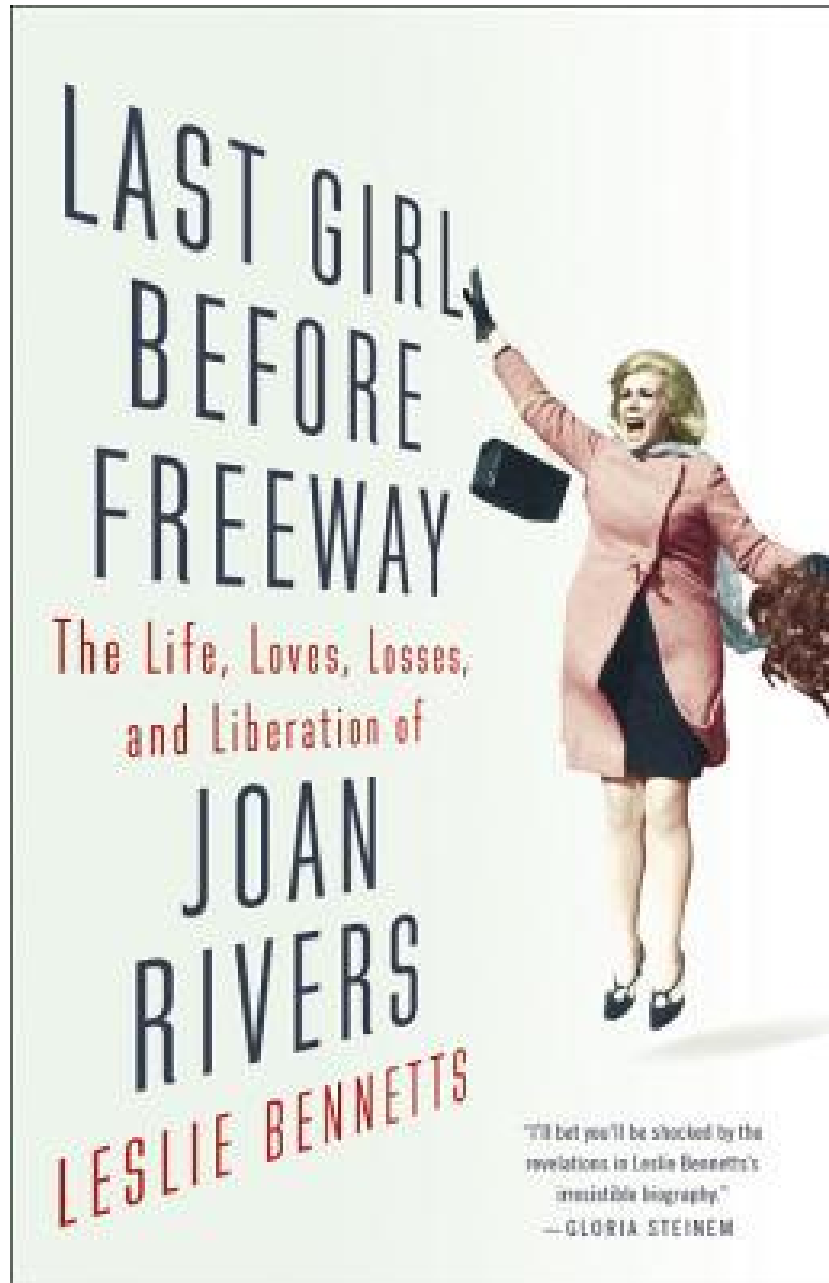


Last Girl Before Freeway: The Life, Loves, Losses, and Liberation of Joan Rivers Book PDF Download



**By:
Leslie Bennetts**

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What people Say:

Heather K (dentist in my spare time)

I love celebrity biographies and memoirs, and I've always been curious about Joan Rivers, so I was eager to read this. I should have skipped it, to be honest. Unfortunately,

was boring and repetitive, even with such a vibrant subject.

As a fellow Jew from the NYC area, I've always had a soft spot for Joan Rivers. While I enjoyed learning more about her family relationships and how she evolved as a comedian,

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It seemed as though the author simply copy and pasted previous stories about Joan Rivers, and did so with contempt. There was a negative vibe that permeated throughout the story, and it left me with a sour feeling.

This story in no way did Joan Rivers justice, and it needed a few more passes with an editor to make it readable, IMO.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

lp

I went into this book not sure if I liked or disliked Joan Rivers. I wish I had mapped out my emotions page-by-page—it seems they were changing drastically every few paragraphs. But after reading this I feel I must make this declarative statement: I Love Joan Rivers! Despite my previous misgivings, She is smart! She is hard-working! She did the unthinkable—it bouncing back and reinventing herself after hitting rock bottom! She gave! She loved! She was honest! She had a hard

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She is confusing, though, you have to admit. She was a kick-ass woman who strived to break through the glass ceiling of comedy, but at the same time she displayed a hatred toward woman—tearing their appearances apart, making fun of them. How could you HATE Elizabeth Taylor so much!? What is going on, there? Was she just unhappy? Was it all for laughs? Gloria Steinem says "it was clear that she was desperate; to me it was like watching an addict. She couldn't help but say anything she thought was going to get a laugh." Steinem also calls her a victim. "I suspect that the insecurity inside her was an unfillable black hole."

The book talks about how this kind of humor, relentlessly trashing other woman, was "drag-queen" humor, which is fear-based. It's the guys who were always made fun of, so they make fun of themselves first. They say, 'I'm just being honest and saying what everyone else is thinking.'

But it does seem like she was a believer in "punching up." I don't think she would make fun of anyone lower than her on the totem pole. Oddly, she was kind to perfect strangers. She once said "we only shit on people at our level or higher."

The whole Carson debacle is fascinating—who knows what really happened there. It seems like Carson was a HUGE dick. I'd love to hear his side. I am obsessed with this idea of why her show did not work, and why it took so long for women to be able to get back in late-night TV. I mean, they're not even really back yet. It's like when Margaret Cho's terrible show, AMERICAN GIRL got cancelled, and it took 20 years for another Asian family to get a TV show—that was FRESH OFF THE BOAT. We cancel Joan's show and don't let women back on the stage for decades.

I want to go Jewish skiing with Joan:

"You get up in the morning and the lodge brings you breakfast. Around 11 in the morning, you take the tram to the ski area where you're in a heated shed. Joan's skiing outfit was black ski pants, black suede cowboy hat, black fitted Chanel parks and jewelry. She looked fabulous. The instructor comes with you, and you go down the buddy hill two or three times, and then it's 'Okay—lunch!' You go and have lunch, and after lunch you go on one more ride and then Joan goes, 'Okay, time to go home.' There are one or two masseuses waiting for us in the condo, and we all get massages, take naps and have showers. Max does everyone's hair, and then you go into town and have dinner, and then go to the old vintage clothing store."

Her relationship with her husband Edgar. It's almost like she loved him because he loved her, and

that is all. I'm sure he did good things for herâ€”maybe he was JUST what she needed. Maybe she didn't think she deserved to be in love. And unfortunately, maybe there was good in his suicide. His suicide freed her. That is when Joan Rivers started to become Joan Rivers.

Random notes:

jendlo

Summary: Joan Rivers was insecure, unhappy, angry, and mean â€” except to "the little people". She envied physical beauty, and shunned the ordinary. Life is but "THE DREAM".

I just saved you the 400-page read that

(and her second husband even more so. It's no wonder their daughter reportedly backed out of contributing to this book in which she, too, is maligned). A lot of the material, though, is just a rehash of Rivers' (and others') books, and is not particularly well

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The biography

, but I don't think that's enough to save it from ending up as a bargain book in the clearance bin.

Niki Wilson

Given her place in history, there are very few books about Joan written by anyone other than Joan: she alone, seemed to control her narrative. One of the few outliers is the heartwarming book by daughter Melissa after her death. Joan was the one who chronicled the stories and the rumors (not always truthfully), who poked fun at herself, and addressed every elephant in the room. I was sure the first book written about her following her death by an outsider would be a salacious skewering of a ligh

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Read full review at

Kris Marley Patrick

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Terrific prologue that doubles as a short thesis on how Joan Rivers's personal setbacks shaped her career trajectory. So terrific that I decided to stop there.