

(Free read ebook) Composing a Life

Composing a Life

Mary Catherine Bateson

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#26785 in Books Grove Press 2001-05-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .50 x 5.50l, .58 #File Name: 0802138047256 pages Paperback with a Vermeer scene. | File size: 61.Mb

Mary Catherine Bateson : Composing a Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Composing a Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not quite the format I was anticipating, based on ...By Erinn Hatter Not quite the format I was anticipating, based on interview I heard with Mary Catherine Bateson that discussed this book. More speculative in nature, using a series of case studies as fodder. Still admire and respect Mary Catherine

Bateson and her work- will try other literature.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read it again to uncover more subtletiesBy Mike R. McLeanOf narrative, experience, and perspective. Feminism without the combative, activist, bra-burning, man-hating extremism. It's worthy of discourse-- but I'll need to read it again0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy bmhyes

Mary Catherine Bateson has been called "one of the most original and important thinkers of our time" (Deborah Tannen). Grove Press is pleased to reissue Bateson's deeply satisfying treatise on the improvisational lives of five extraordinary women. Using their personal stories as her framework, Dr. Bateson delves into the creative potential of the complex lives we live today, where ambitions are constantly refocused on new goals and possibilities. With balanced sympathy and a candid approach to what makes these women inspiring, examples of the newly fluid movement of adaptation--their relationships with spouses, children, and friends, their ever-evolving work, and their gender--Bateson shows us that life itself is a creative process. "Well-formulated and passionate ... Offers nothing less than a radical rethinking of the concept of achievement." -- San Francisco Chronicle "Fascinating ... A masterwork of rare breadth and particularity." -- The Boston Globe

From Publishers WeeklyBateson profiles herself and four other highly productive women, concluding that the obstacles life presents can be sources of wisdom and personal growth. "While the book's premise is intriguing, the telling is self-indulgent and only sporadically illuminates the author's themes," PW remarked. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalBateson, an anthropologist who is the daughter of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, attempts to examine women's lives from a new perspective. Using her own life and those of several friends, all of whom have interesting, multifaceted careers, she looks at life as a work of improvisational art. Rather than a series of interruptions, she sees child rearing, career changes, divorce, etc., as creative opportunities and seeks a unifying thread in varied life experiences. This attempt to create theory from life is not accomplished; reading about these women in a work of collective biography would be worthwhile, but the bits and pieces of their lives that Bateson gives lead nowhere. This books lacks the clarity of her *With a Daughter's Eye* (LJ 8/84; one of LJ' s "Best Books of 1984"). Women's studies collections may want to consider, but this is not an essential purchase.- Barbara M. Bibel, Oakland P.L., Cal.Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "It is time to explore the creative potential of interrupted and conflicted lives, where energies are not narrowly focused or permanently pointed toward a single ambition. These are not lives without commitment, but rather lives in which commitments are continually refocused and redefined." Utilizing the theme of improvisation, Mary Catherine Bateson examines her own life and career, as well as those of five other women - an anthropologist and writer, a psychiatrist with special interests in the homeless, an educator and president of Spelman College, an engineer and owner of her own company, and a dancer, artisan, and writer - and weaves them into a fat braid of lost, discarded, and reworked strands that continually emerges with a new shape and texture. She carefully laces in the extraordinaries with the ordinaries of life and portrays these exceptional women as human and understandable rather than superhuman and aloof. With the exception of the author's occasional tendency to use the book as a forum to vent her frustrations about her experience as Dean of a prestigious Eastern college, this is an accessible and rich intermingling of the lives of wonderful, mature women. Mary Catharine Bateson quotes her mother, Margaret Mead, as saying that she believed women possess "post menopausal zest." If that is the case, this book should be an inspiration for the present and future "Age Wave" generation. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. -- From *500 Great Books by Women*; review by Bunny Hagemeyer*Composing a Life* beautifully explodes the notion that life should or can follow a straight, pre-defined course. Instead, it reveals the richness of a life that is discovered and created as it is led. Mary Catherine Bateson, daughter of anthropologist Gregory Bateson and Margaret Mead, weaves a rich tapestry in telling the lives of five unconventional women (including herself), and constructing a mirror for the many possible reflections of our own. The experiences of these women, presented in a lush narrative, are more than inspirational; they serve to illustrate that our own lives are like a canvas, each ready to hold a full palette of possibilities. -- From *The WomanSource Catalog : Tools for Connecting the Community for Women*; review by Ilene Rosoff