



Forever Liesl

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The magic of **The Sound of Music** lives on in the minds and hearts of everyone it has touched. Now, **Charmian Carr**, who in 1965 captivated moviegoers as Liesl "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" von Trapp, tells what it was like to be a part of the film that has become a cultural phenomenon. It's all here: from how she got the role (and why she almost didn't) to romances on the set and wild nights in Salzburg; from the near-disaster during the gazebo dance to her relationships--then and now--with her six celluloid siblings. Charmian offers stories from fans and friends and a treasury of photographs. And she reveals why she left acting, what she learned when she met the real von Trapp children; and how The Sound of Music has helped her get through stormy times in her own life. **Forever Liesl** celebrates the spirit of the movie and what it stands for: family love, romance, inspiration, nostalgia, and the joy and power of music.

Forever Liesl Details

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Author : Charmian Carr , Jean A.S. Strauss

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Mom says

I just loved reading this book! It was fun not only reading about Charmian's life, but also all the little bits of information that she includes about the other actors/actresses she worked with. Charmian shares the whole experience and impact that *The Sound of Music* had on her life. After finishing this book, I want to put the movie in right now and watch it!!

Sarah says

Picked up this book from the library on a whim and enjoyed it very much. I was not a hard-core fan of **The Sound of Music**, but seeing the movie with my mother in Quebec is a good memory from my childhood. I especially enjoyed the early part of the book about the making of the movie. Amazing that all seven of the actors who played the von Trapp children got along so well and have kept in touch. I enjoyed the stories from hard-core fans interspersed throughout the book and it was interesting to read a little about the real von Trapp family and how their story and the movie differed. I read Maria von Trapp's account of their lives many years ago when I was a teenager; perhaps I should see if I can find it.

Claire says

The Hills are alive

There is no greater story of love than The Sound of Music. The story of the von Trapps and their love for family, for music, for life, and for their country, is one that resonates with souls worldwide. In Forever Leisl, Charmian Carr describes how the beloved movie came to be, and what it was like to be "16 going on 17," when she was actually 21.

Tonks Orey says

A wonderful book full of information I never knew! Not only does it go into detail about Charmian's own life, but it takes you behind the scenes of the making of the movie. It grips you and makes you want to watch the movie all over again. I was a true fan of the movie and now after reading this book I am even more so a fan. If you haven't read it and loved the movie I suggest you read it!

KatieMc says

You will always be 16 going on 17 #CharmainCarr, love a Sound of Music superfan.

PS - yes I have read this book and actually own the hardcover which proudly sits on my bookshelf.

Felicity says

I bought this book off Amazon as I'd wanted to read it for several years. I'm so glad I did. This book is about Charmian Carr's experience of playing Liesl in The Sound of Music and also about her life before and after the film. She manages to write a memoir which isn't in chronological order successfully which is no mean feat. The book is full of warmth and amusing anecdotes about herself and other cast members during filming The Sound of Music. She also talks about the real Von Trapp family and the differences between their story and the film.

She talks about her relationships with her celluloid siblings both then and up to 1998. She also tells you what each one of them were doing before and after The Sound of Music which is fascinating and is what most people will want to know! She seems to have gone through some tough times but she is very honest about this and grateful for the friends and family who helped her. A lovely warm book which almost brought me to tears in places. A must read if you are a fan of The Sound of Music!

Merritt Corrigan says

I cried a minimum of 15 times. This memoir of playing a beloved character in an extremely beloved film was totally heartwarming and filled my heart with joy. First love, romantic love, love of family, love of country, love of God - The Sound of Music really has it all. It's an amazing film that will stand the test of time.

Tara says

Visited the Trapp Family Lodge and bought this book to get more background info on the Sound of Music. I couldn't put it down. The coauthor did a wonderful job editing it, and I loved the vignette letters the open the chapters. Inside info on behind the scenes, the actors, the filming, and her own voyage beyond the film. I think you have to be a fan of the movie/play to enjoy this, or of memoir and film. But I highly recommend it if you are. Fun!

Mike says

I'm a sucker for films about the making of movies, and though only half of this book is actually about the making of *The Sound of Music*, it's still interesting. The second half tends to focus on what happened *after* the movie was finished, and there's a lot of good material there about the ongoing relationships of the 'children' from the movie, and the various people who were involved. Light reading, but enjoyable.

Tirzah Eleora says

When I first saw the Sound of Music I was seven years old. Naturally Marta, who announces that she will be seven on Tuesday (and wants a pink parasol) was my favourite. Then, when I got a little older I favored Brigitta. She was pretty and sassy and first appears on screen with a book in her hands. But from the start I always greatly admired Liesl, and she eventually made it to tops. She was so beautiful in those dreamy costumes that I coveted and I loved her soft, ladylike voice. I loved that she was friends with her siblings and played pranks on the governess with them. I loved it so much when she ran off after dinner to dance with an admirer and I loved that she was strong and moved on after he disappointed her. Learning all the little details about how that Liesl came to life was fascinating! Chairman Carr tells about how she was cast for the part and became friends with others working on the film. She tells all sorts of fun stories about filming in Austria. I especially loved reading the part where she described how they filmed that long "Do-Re-Mi" scene. And I hold the gazebo dance (favourite part!!! Well maybe it's second to the wedding....idk, how am I supposed to pick??) in even more awe now that I've learned she performed a good portion of the scene with a BROKEN ANKLE!!!!!! The girl had serious stick-to-ittivity!!!!

Awesome book if you're a fellow Sound of Music fan!

Estella says

This auto-biography was very well-written. I am a Sound of Music fan, although not quite to the degree my Aunt Anne was, who went to the movie theater innumerable times to see it when it first came out. (No DVD's or Tivo in those days, kids!) Charmain Carr does a very creditable job of sharing her memories of those bygone days. It was fun to get an insider's view of the cast and some of the adventures on the set while the movie was being filmed. I enjoyed the book very much, and recommend it to all those who love The Sound of Music!

Wendy says

Picked this up at a Free Little Library in Monterey, CA. Loved reading about some of the fun stuff that happened while filming The Sound of Music. It makes me want to go back and watch the movie again to see if I can spot some of the little tidbits that "Liesl" writes about in this touching memoir. Don't be expecting juicy gossip though.

John says

Critics say "The Sound of Music" is schmaltzy, overly sentimental and corny. All of which is true. It's also one of my favorite movies.

Charmian Carr's "Forever Liesl," has some of the same qualities as the movie, and for someone who's a fan of the movie it's great fun. Carr played the part of Liesl, the oldest of the von Trapp family children, in the movie. She was 21, not 16 going on 17, when she played the part. About half of this short memoir focuses on the process of making the movie, the rest on everything that came after. It must be an unusual life to realize that nothing else you will ever do will quite match what you did when you were 21 -- although Carr perhaps came close when, many decades later, she was Michael Jackson's interior designer.

The fun of a book like this, of course, is the bits of trivia you pick up along the way, such as:

... The real Maria von Trapp appears ever so briefly in the movie, while Julie Andrews is singing "I Have Confidence." (I checked, though, and you can't possibly really see her.)

... Among others who tried out for Liesl were Mia Farrow and Patty Duke.

... Among those who tried out for the parts of the boys were four of the Osmond brothers.

... Nicholas Hammond, who played Friedrich, grew 6 inches during the seven months the movie was being filmed.

"Forever Liesl" is gossipy in a nice way. Carr seems to not have an unkind word to say about anyone.

Although she never made much money from the movie, she seems filled with gratitude for the part she played in the story.

Jennifer says

A quick, easy, and heartwarming read. It was so thoughtful of Charmian to share her memories of The Sound of Music with its many fans around the world. Despite some hardships in her life, she seems like a positive, grateful, and down-to-earth person. You should read this if you're a fan of the movie!

Michelle says

The Sound of Music is one of my very favorite movies, and I recently had the pleasure of seeing it on the big screen for the first time. I adored this memoir. It was heartwarming and an excellent balance among the author's personal life, movie behind the scenes facts and updates on the other cast and crew. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loved The Sound of Music.
