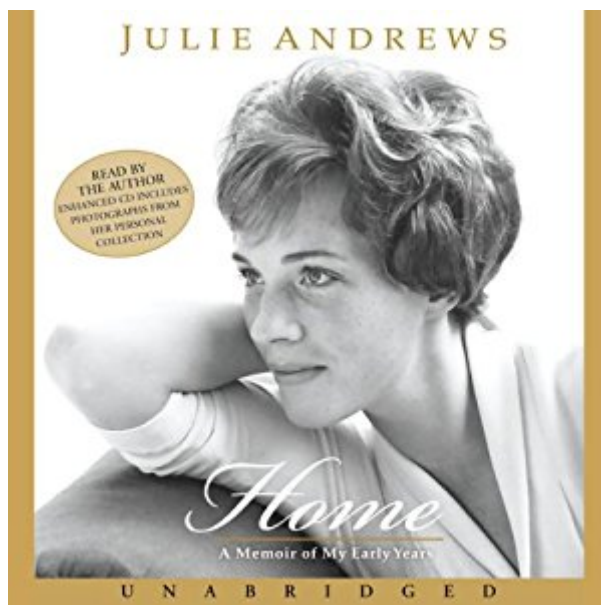


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# Home: A Memoir Of My Early Years



## Synopsis

Since her first appearance on screen in *Mary Poppins*, Julie Andrews has played a series of memorable roles that have endeared her to generations. But she has never told the story of her life before fame. Until now. In *Home: A Memoir of My Early Years*, Julie takes her readers on a warm, moving, and often humorous journey from a difficult upbringing in war-torn Britain to the brink of international stardom in America. Her memoir begins in 1935, when Julie was born to an aspiring vaudevillian mother and a teacher father, and takes readers to 1962, when Walt Disney himself saw her on Broadway and cast her as the world's most famous nanny. Along the way, she weathered the London Blitz of World War II; her parents' painful divorce; her mother's turbulent second marriage to Canadian tenor Ted Andrews, and a childhood spent on radio, in music halls, and giving concert performances all over England. Julie's professional career began at the age of twelve, and in 1948 she became the youngest solo performer ever to participate in a Royal Command Performance before the Queen. When only eighteen, she left home for the United States to make her Broadway debut in *The Boy Friend*, and thus began her meteoric rise to stardom. *Home* is filled with numerous anecdotes, including stories of performing in *My Fair Lady* with Rex Harrison on Broadway and in the West End, and in *Camelot* with Richard Burton on Broadway; her first marriage to famed set and costume designer Tony Walton, culminating with the birth of their daughter, Emma; and the call from Hollywood and what lay beyond. Julie Andrews' career has flourished over seven decades. From her legendary Broadway performances, to her roles in such iconic films as *The Sound of Music*, *Mary Poppins*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Hawaii*, *10*, and *The Princess Diaries*, to her award-winning television appearances, multiple album releases, concert tours, international humanitarian work, best-selling children's books, and championship of literacy, Julie's influence spans generations. Today, she lives with her husband of thirty-eight years, the acclaimed writer/director Blake Edwards; they have five children and seven grandchildren. Featuring over fifty personal photos, many never before seen, this is the personal memoir Julie Andrews' audiences have been waiting for. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

My impression has always been that Julie Andrews probably grew up in a rather high class situation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The hardships she grew up with as a child, and the difficult and rewarding relationships with family, are related vividly in this book. The book is engaging -- the writing is packed with great imagery of settings and stories. I loved learning how her early years, performing in vaudeville with her parents and others, helped her become a successful actress and singer. She relates unusual and funny occurrences with delightful descriptions. Her early vocal training is described in detail, along with her various vocal teachers. You see how she grew from a very shy girl to a world star, and at a very young age. As she grew older and began to travel to the United States for tours there, you get a glimpse of both the hardships of traveling alone without family, and the exhilaration of meeting stars she had heard about. You experience the burdens she carried of supporting her siblings and parents, all during her young career, at home, abroad, and again back home in England. I was amazed all during the book, at the recall of people, places, and dates, included with the captivating stories. After finishing the book, I learned that she had a number of people researching the details. The book is absolutely packed with exemplary incidental information regarding culture, history, acting, voice, actors, relationships -- I imagine this book would appeal to a broad spectrum of readers, in addition to those like me, who have simply grown up loving Julie Andrews and her performances. After returning the library book, I promptly ordered my own copy.

Dame Julie Andrews is an amazing person. This book is a glimpse at a fascinating life, albeit one that was not always easy. Raised by an alcoholic show-biz stepfather and her top-notch pianist mother, Julie Andrews became a star in London's theater district by the age of 10. I found her book really interesting. She can drop names with the best of 'em -- George VI, Queen Elizabeth, some of the best pianists and voice teachers in London, not to mention Richard Burton, Rex Harrison,

Lehrner and Lowe, Rogers and Hammerstein, etc. But she's not really not name-dropping. These are the people she knows -- the people who shaped her professional (and personal) identity. That actually was her life!!! It doesn't sound like it was ever boring. Her book gives a glimpse at the world of show business in the gasps of an old theater and music hall world that mostly gave way to television and radio. Her childhood was a weird mix of nightly exposure to show-biz people, with all the adult behaviors that go along with it, and the prim and proper background that she got from her mom, her famous voice-teacher, and the many excellent musical and theater directors who coached her from a very young age. That mix of low-brow music hall and high-brow concert hall is what makes her a complex person. Truly amazing. I respect her a ton. Her career had a few downturns after Maria von Trapp. I guess that was act to follow. I wish she'd write a book on her 'big years,' but I guess those are probably well-known already.

I really enjoyed this well-written memoir, loved reading about bucolic England and the love Ms. Andrews had for the countryside there. I also especially loved reading about her early years in the NY theater. As she states in the title, it's a memoir of her early years. Still, because the book is so good, I was disappointed when it ended, especially since it ends before she gets into Mary Poppins, The Sound of Music, etc. She's a lovely writer. It would have been so pleasant to continue a few more hours with her. The big surprise for me was how tough her childhood was. You never can tell about a person from the way they look and speak.

Coming some 60 years after her first professional recording, this audiobook is sort of the pinnacle of Ms. Andrews' recording career. The life of Julie Andrews, as written by Julie Andrews, and read to you, as if she were personally telling you the story of her life, by Julie Andrews. Ms. Andrews' life and career have both been well-documented by biographers, but everything takes on new meaning and becomes personal when told by Ms. Andrews herself. And, of course, there are anecdotes and details that only Ms. Andrews herself can share with her audience, so there is much for even the most devoted fan to learn from this book. Here, she tells the story of her life from her earliest childhood to her career as a child star, from her journey to Broadway and television through to being cast by Walt Disney in MARY POPPINS. The audiobook on CD is 13 hours long, spread over 11 CDs. Each disc contains seven to ten tracks; some chapters are one track long, and others are two to three tracks long. The production is straightforward and what you would expect of an audiobook -- read clearly, recorded well. Of course, I'd be happy hearing Ms. Andrews read the dictionary to me, but there is something magical and mesmerizing about her voice here, describing her own life. At the

end of the audiobook, Ms. Andrews says, "Thank you for listening." This is the only detail she has wrong -- we, the audience, should be saying to her, "Thank you for telling." I only hope we don't have to wait too long for the next part of the Julie Andrews story...

I basically liked Julie Andrews but didn't really have any strong feeling about her. I got this book out of a combination of it being on sale at a time when I had a wild hair and thought "Eh, why not?". I ended up really enjoying the book. This book covers her early life and career, both of which turned out to be quite interesting. Her writing style is open and easy, very readable and you feel immersed in her world as she describes it. When I finished this book, I got back on and was disappointed to discover there was no Part 2 covering the rest of her life and career. Come on, Julie! Get on it!

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