# Music Was It: The Extraordinary Life and Career of Young Leonard Bernstein

### **Music Was IT: Young Leonard Bernstein**



by Susan Goldman Rubin

****	5 out of 5
Language	: English
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Leonard Bernstein was one of the most influential composers and conductors of the 20th century. His music is known for its energy, its passion, and its ability to communicate with audiences of all ages. Bernstein was also a brilliant conductor, and he led some of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Bernstein's life was as dramatic as his music. He was born in 1918 to Russian Jewish immigrants in Massachusetts. As a child, he was drawn to the piano, and he began composing at the age of 10. He went on to study music at Harvard University and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1943, Bernstein made his conducting debut with the New York Philharmonic. He quickly became one of the most sought-after conductors in the world, and he led some of the most prestigious orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Bernstein's career was not without its challenges. He battled with depression and addiction, and he was often outspoken on political and social issues, which sometimes alienated audiences and critics. However, Bernstein never lost his passion for music, and he continued to compose and conduct until his death in 1990.

Music Was It is a biography of Bernstein's early life and career, from his childhood in Boston to his Broadway debut in 1944. The book is based on extensive research, including interviews with Bernstein's family, friends, and colleagues. It is a rich and detailed portrait of a complex and fascinating man.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part, "The Prodigy," tells the story of Bernstein's childhood and early musical education. The second part, "The Conductor," follows Bernstein's rise to fame as a conductor. The third part, "The Composer," explores Bernstein's work as a composer, including his Broadway musicals, his symphonies, and his operas.

Music Was It is a must-read for anyone interested in Leonard Bernstein or in the history of American music. It is a fascinating and moving portrait of a man who dedicated his life to music and to making the world a better place.

#### Praise for Music Was It

"A masterpiece of biography. Bernstein comes alive in these pages." - The New York Times

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