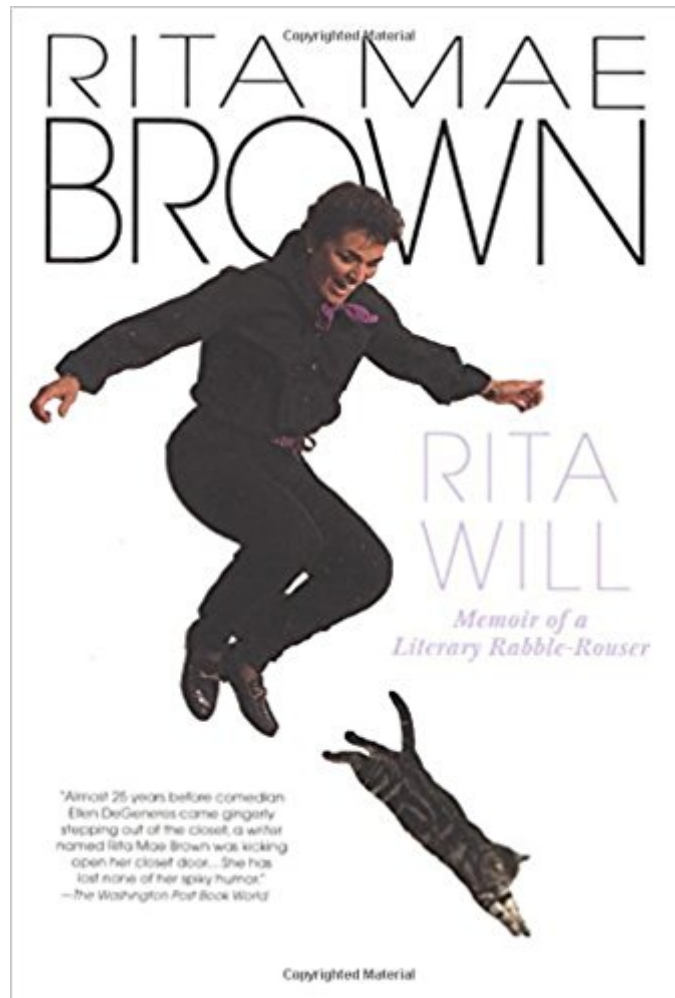




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Rita Will: Memoir Of A Literary Rabble-Rouser



Synopsis

When Rita Mae Brown writes, people often end up laughing out loud. So naturally, when the bestselling author of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, *Venus Envy*, and the Mrs. Murphy mystery series writes about her own life, it's a hoot, a rollicking ride with an independent, opinionated woman who changed literary history--the first openly lesbian writer to break into the mainstream. Now, in *Rita Will*, she tells all...and tells it hilariously. It is often said that the best comedy springs from hard times. And Rita Mae Brown has seen plenty of those. In this irresistibly readable memoir, she recounts the drama of her birth as the illegitimate daughter of a flighty blue blood who left her in an orphanage. The sickly baby was quickly rescued by relatives eager to adopt her but afraid she would not survive the long journey home. Her determination to live, and shock everyone by doing it, has become a metaphor for her entire life. Though raised by these loving adoptive parents and a wacky host of other interfering kin, Rita Mae Brown learned early on to be tough and to speak her mind. It was her refusal to be anything but herself that often brought her the most trouble. Here she tells of her tempestuous relationship with her adoptive mother, the mythic Juts of the novels *Six of One* and *Bingo*, who called her "the ill," for illegitimate, whenever she lost her temper, and who swore she'd introduce Rita Mae to the social graces, including the dreaded cotillion, even if it killed them both. Here, too, Rita Mae reveals how her headstrong support of social causes almost cost her a hard-earned education and her outspokenness in the early days of the women's movement got her drummed out of NOW, and how the release of her first novel, the scandalous classic *Rubyfruit Jungle*, made her an overnight phenomenon--the most famous openly gay person in America--and took her from the heights of the New York Times bestseller list to the surreal playhouse that is Hollywood. Through it all, Rita Mae has drawn strength from her profound bond with animals, from her abiding affection for the South and its native tongue, and from the great passions of her life. She writes with close-to-the-bone honesty about woman-woman love...including her love-at-first-sight relationship with a popular actor and her headline-making romance with tennis great Martina Navratilova. With her trademark humor, she unflinchingly bares her own flaws, flouting public opinion yet displaying the unflappable good sense that shows through everything she writes. A look into a woman's mind and a writer's irrepressible spirit, *Rita Will* is quintessential Rita Mae Brown--a book that feels like a kick-your-shoes-off visit with an old friend. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Before Rubyfruit Jungle stormed the book world in 1973, the term "bestselling lesbian novelist" was an oxymoron. But Rita Mae Brown's first novel was so honest and funny that it broke all barriers. The 52-year-old author's memoirs have the same sassy panache as her fiction. Generous and loving toward her eccentric family and most of those with whom she's been intimate, Brown pulls no punches when depicting those she considers hypocrites or cowards. Billie Jean King will hate this book; Martina Navratilova won't like it either. Almost everyone else will find it a delight. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an autobiography of novelist, essayist, poet, and screenwriter Brown, who reached fame and notoriety with her first novel, *Rubyfruit Jungle* (1973). She begins with her illegitimate birth and adoption by relatives, followed by amusing tales of her adopted mother, father, and Aunt Mimi; accounts of her childhood pranks; stories of her volatile life as a student, political activist, lover of tennis champion Martina Navratilova and Fannie Flagg; and reminiscences of a writer who dared to live, speak, and write openly and honestly. Whether or not readers agree with her ideology, opinions, and lifestyle, they will enjoy the ease, candor, and humor with which Brown relates her life story. Brown's passions for life, her work, the English language, the South, and animals, especially her longtime cat companion, "Baby Jesus," are evident throughout. Reading this book is like sitting down and exchanging tales with a good friend or close family member. --Jeris Cassel, Rutgers Univ. Libs., New Brunswick, N.J. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an

out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoyed this book very much. I am a devoted admirer of Rita Mae Brown and her books, although of course I like some of the books more than others. I was very happy to learn more about her life, and why she has chosen to live the way she does, i. e., on a farm. The book is written openly and honestly, and in places is screamingly funny. Brown's insight into her own personality and that of others is illuminating. And her connection to animals is beautiful. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to those who do not know Brown's work, and also to those who do, with the caveat that anyone who harbors prejudice towards gays would do well to avoid it.

This book hooked me on the works of Rita Mae Brown. She is a literary inspiration and an inspiration in all life's avenues. Seeing the woman behind the writing was a privilege and an honor. Here is a picture of what it takes to have a dream for a better nation and live a life that actually moves a country forward. It is funny (laugh out loud funny), insightful, honest, engaging, and even important. I have recommended it highly and even bought copies for friends and family members of all ages and interests. It is a book worth reading for several reasons and an extremely enjoyable one to boot!

I love Rita Mae Brown's books but this one was at least 1/2 based on the women's movement. I would have liked more personal stories like in the first 1/2 of the book.

I am reading this now also.....very happy have always been a fan of hers

Fantastic. It isn't very often that I read a book that changes my view of the world. This one certainly did.

A great depiction of literary accomplishment.

Rita Mae Brown is BRILLIANT. I really enjoy reading this book. Not only do you learn about her, you also gain some wisdom, learn about the South, and even get some laughs out of this book. She greatly inspires me.

It was interesting to know her background as I usually only read her mysteries. She is a very

intelligent and engaging writer.

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