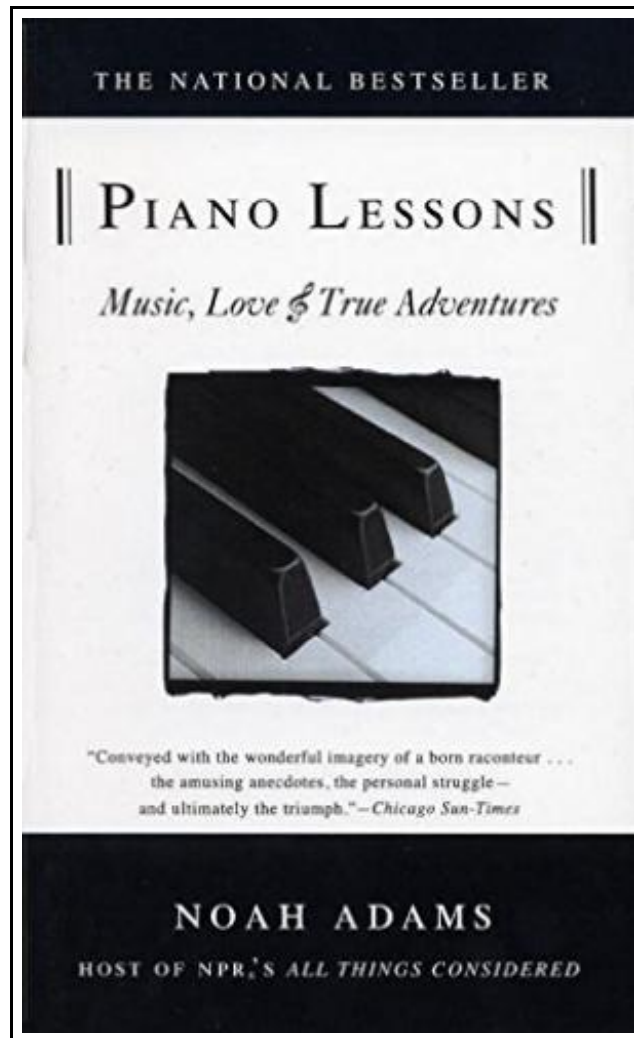


Piano Lessons: Music, Love, and True Adventures



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Reviews

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PIANO LESSONS: MUSIC, LOVE, AND TRUE ADVENTURES



Random House Publishing Group, United States, 1997. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 203 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Piano Lessons is Noah Adams s delightful and moving chronicle of his fifty-second year - a year already filled with long, fast workdays and too little spare time - as he answers at last a lifelong call: to learn to play the piano. The twelve monthly chapters span from January - when after decades of growing affection for keyboard artists and artisans he finally plunges in and buys a piano - through December, when as a surprise Christmas present for his wife he dresses in a tuxedo and, in flickering candlelight, snow falling outside the windows, he attempts their favorite piece of music, a difficult third-year composition he s been struggling with in secret to get to this very moment. Among the up-tempo triumphs and unexpected setbacks, Noah Adams interweaves the rich history and folklore that surround the piano. And along the way, set between the ragtime rhythms and boogie-woogie beats, there are encounters with - and insights from - masters of the keyboard, from Glenn Gould and Leon Fleisher (I was a bit embarrassed, he writes; telling Leon Fleisher about my ambitions for piano lessons is like telling Julia Child about plans to make toast in the morning) to Dr. John and Tori Amos. As a storyteller, Noah Adams has perfect pitch. In the foreground here, like a familiar melody, are the challenges of learning a complex new skill as an adult, when enthusiasm meets the necessary repetition of tedious scales at the end of a twelve-hour workday. Lingerin in the background, like a subtle bass line, are the quiet concerns of how we spend our time and how our priorities shift as we proceed...



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