



Brando: Songs My Mother Taught Me

By Marlon Brando

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An honest, revealing self-portrait by the critically acclaimed, fiercely independent actor, discusses his early life, career, world travels, social activism, and profiles of friends, lovers, and professional colleagues.

Please note: this edition does not include photos.

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Brando: Songs My Mother Taught Me By Marlon Brando Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The publisher reportedly paid \$5 million for this book but expects to recoup its investment; after all, this will be the only Brando autobiography available. Lindsey, who authored the prize-winning *The Falcon* and the *Snowman*, also helped Ronald Reagan when he faced writer's block over his autobiography. A 500,000-copy first printing.

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From [Booklist](#)

When Marlon Brando, playing Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*, bemoaned the fact that he "coulda been somebody," audiences hung onto his words, but according to Brando, the role "was actor-proof, a scene that demonstrated how audiences often do much of the acting themselves in an effectively told story." Brando's evaluation of his acting and that of other celebrated actors, e.g., Olivier in *Wuthering Heights*, mark this rumination on his life. In his analysis of his films, from *Streetcar* to *The Freshman*, the master tries hard to demonstrate hubris and to provide public lessons. At the same time, he claims that luck, physical desires, and the need to make money motivate him. The book, which the publisher would not release in galleys, strikes the reader as a confession, an attempt to set the record straight, to circumvent "a carrion press that has an insatiable appetite for salaciousness and abhors being denied access to anyone, from pimps to presidents." Is it coincidence that Manso's unauthorized *Brando* and this book are being published a month apart? Whatever its *raison d'être*, *Songs My Mother Taught Me* has much to offer. First, it's beautifully illustrated, beginning before the text with 24 pages of photographs covering Brando's early life, continuing with a number of well-placed photos documenting various film shoots, and concluding with 32 pages of photographs near the end. Brando's account of his early years rings true as he records the frailties of his alcoholic parents. His anecdotes about work and play are entertaining and memorable, and he addresses the many social causes he has championed. It's an interesting, albeit incomplete, work: according to coauthor Lindsey, Brando promised to "hide nothing . . . except his marriages and his children." (So many marriages, so many children.) Readers of Manso can't come here to find Brando's side of his marital troubles or the perplexing murder of his daughter's husband at the hands of his son. But they will find insight into the life of a man who was definitely a contender. *Bonnie Smothers*

Users Review

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Sharon Rowe:

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