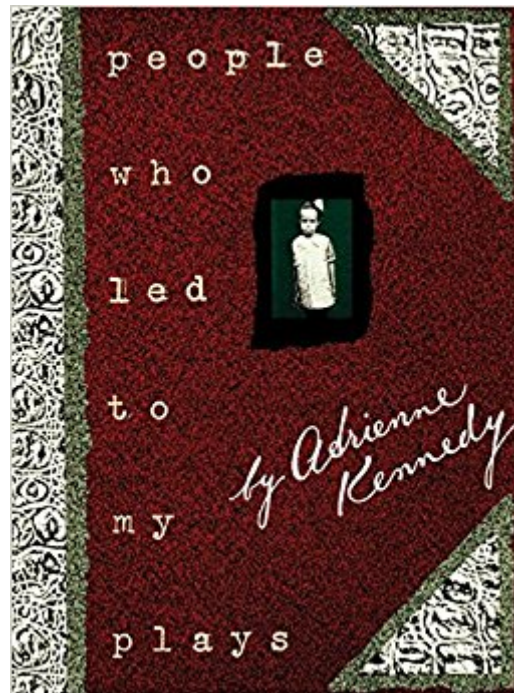




The book was found

# People Who Led To My Plays



## Synopsis

In this remarkable memoir, Adrienne Kennedy charts her life from growing up in Cleveland in the 1930s and 40s in a middle-class black family through marriage and motherhood and her eventual move to New York City in the 50s. Out of a sequence of deceptively spare statements emerges a complex portrait of the artist as a young woman as she examines the people and events that compelled her to be a writer.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Theatre Communications Group (September 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559361255

ISBN-13: 978-1559361255

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #128,743 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Theatre](#) #32 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Play & Scriptwriting](#) #45 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Playwriting](#)

## Customer Reviews

As the bittersweet recollections of a young black growing up in Ohio in the 1940s, aspiring to be a famous writer, this scrapbook suffers from its deliberately fragmented format. Kennedy, whose *Funnyhouse of a Negro* won a 1964 Obie Award, seems to be adapting here the nonlinear style of her avant-garde plays. Hundreds of very short, titled entries ("Junior High," "My Father," "Paul Robeson," "Frank Sinatra") add up to a jumbled self-portrait of a writer slowly finding her direction. She also presents a compendium of creative artists, famous people, friends and relatives who in any way influenced her work. We get scores of brief entries on Bette Davis, Marlon Brando, Beethoven, Richard Wright, Jackson Pollock, Chopin, Duke Ellington, Socrates and dozens more. Readers with an abiding interest in Kennedy's dramatic output may find this encyclopedic approach worth the effort. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"People Who Led to My Plays has served as a model for me in considering how one's artistic practice is rooted and thrives in the soil of the past and how an artist uses history (with a small and a large 'h') as the raw material for one's practice, molding and transforming and bringing it into the present. I thank you for your extraordinary work in unpacking black life on the stage and showing us how truly rich and strange it is." --Glenn Ligon "I have been reading and teaching People Who Led to My Plays since its first publication in 1987. At once collage, diary, memoir and annotated scrapbook, it felt miraculous then and still does. With fearless imagination and formal daring, Adrienne Kennedy has given us A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman and an American literary classic." --Margo Jefferson "Adrienne Kennedy has introduced a new form of black autobiography, one that, like her plays, will be widely imitated. Like most great artists in whose work different cultures and styles converge, she is unique." --Ishmael Reed "Just as her brilliant plays changed what was possible on the stage, Adrienne Kennedy's autobiography transformed the form. Written with a poet's insight and a dramatist's sense of form, Kennedy's autobiography is a classic--one that not only illuminates her singular work, but the world and politics that made her." --Hilton Als

"People Who Led to My Plays has served as a model for me in considering how one's artistic practice is rooted and thrives in the soil of the past and how an artist uses history (with a small and a large 'h') as the raw material for one's practice, molding and transforming and bringing it into the present. I thank you for your extraordinary work in unpacking black life on the stage and showing us how truly rich and strange it is." --Glenn Ligon "I have been reading and teaching People Who Led to My Plays since its first publication in 1987. At once collage, diary, memoir and annotated scrapbook, it felt miraculous then and still does. With fearless imagination and formal daring, Adrienne Kennedy has given us A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman and an American literary classic." --Margo Jefferson "Adrienne Kennedy has introduced a new form of black autobiography, one that, like her plays, will be widely imitated. Like most great artists in whose work different cultures and styles converge, she is unique." --Ishmael Reed "Just as her brilliant plays changed what was possible on the stage, Adrienne Kennedy's autobiography transformed the form. Written with a poet's insight and a dramatist's sense of form, Kennedy's autobiography is a classic--one that not only illuminates her singular work, but the world and politics that made her." --Hilton Als

This is an excellent book! If you have read any of Adrienne Kennedy's plays, you will appreciate the content. Other than reading the plays over and over, I believe this book is the most helpful in understanding her work and the sources for her inspiration. As an autobiography of sorts, it reads

more like a journal, with her memories written throughout in the form of short sentences, pictures, and phrases. The form itself is fascinating- fragmented, like her plays. This book is so much more than it's content, which of course provides the insight you seek if you want to know about the people (and places and events...) that led to her plays. It is more because of the unique form- you can see how Ms. Kennedy shapes her stories through her collage of memories.

Superficial to put it superficially. Of no purpose or value I could discern.

"People Who Led to My Plays" by Adrienne Kennedy is one of the most engaging autobiographical works I have ever read. Kennedy walks her reader through her life up to when she wrote her first play "Funnyhouse of a Negro," and lists the many things that have influenced who she is and what she writes. Whether you're reading Kennedy's plays or not, this work will not only move you, but make you think about what has influenced and shaped your life. If you are studying Kennedy, this book is crucial to understanding her plays -- it is as though you are reading her life diaries. Her passion for experiences and the honesty with which she relates both the good and bad in life made me love reading every anecdote.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

People Who Led to My Plays Baby-Led Weaning: A simple step by step guide to baby-led weaning  
A Complete LED Grow Book: How To Grow Plants Indoor With LED Lights The Mammary Plays:  
Two Plays Hard Plays Stiff Parts: The Homoerotic Plays of Robert Chesley Youth Volleyball Drills,  
Plays, and Games Handbook Free Flow Version (Drills and Plays 7) The Vermont Plays: Four Plays  
Ten-Minute Plays for Middle School Performers: Plays for a Variety of Cast Sizes Three  
Renaissance Travel Plays (Revels Plays Companion Library MUP) Best Monologues from The Best  
American Short Plays, Volume Three (Best Monologues from the Best American Short Plays) Moses:  
When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Caldecott Honor Book) Escaping the Fire: How  
an Ixil Mayan Pastor Led His People Out of a Holocaust During the Guatemalan Civil War The Real  
Dance Fever, Book One: My story: a tribute to the 1980s and the people who made a  
difference in our lives. (AND THE MUSIC PLAYS 1) Plays from Hispanic Tales: One-Act,  
Royalty-Free Dramatizations for Young People, from Hispanic Stories and Folktales National  
Theatre Connections 2011: Plays for Young People (Play Anthologies) National Theatre  
Connections 2015: Plays for Young People: Drama, Baby; Hood; The Boy Preference; The  
Edelweiss Pirates; Follow, Follow; The Accordion ... Remote; The Crazy Sexy Cool Girls' Fan Club  
National Theatre Connections 2011: Plays for Young People: Frank & Ferdinand; Gap; Cloud

Busting; Those Legs; Shooting Truth; Bassett; Gargantua; Children ... Manifesto; Too Fast (Play Anthologies) "Fitness for Middle Aged People: 40 Powerful Exercises to Make People over 40 Years Old Healthy and Fit!" (Diets and fitness for people over 40 years old) How To Analyze People: How To Read People And Master Human Psychology In Less Than One Day (Body Language, People Skills, Human Mind Book 1) How to Analyze People: Human Psychology Read People Instantly, Read Body Language and Know What People Want, How to Read Minds

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)