



In Mozart's Shadow: His Sister's Story

By Carolyn Meyer

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The acclaimed Carolyn Meyer has written a powerful historical novel about a little-known but gifted musician who never stopped dreaming.

Includes an author's note.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—For many people, knowledge of Nannerl Mozart is confined to the footnotes of her younger brother Wolfgang Amadeus's biography, a fellow wunderkind touring the courts of Europe with her more renowned sibling before fading into the background as an adult. Meyer brings Nannerl to the fore, presenting her as a gifted, sensitive musician whose ambitions for a professional career are thwarted by the restrictions placed on her gender and the demands of her father, who is more interested in promoting his genius son. Her childhood closeness with Wolfgang becomes increasingly strained as his career takes him farther from his family and ultimately to a too-early grave. The narrative occasionally descends into a dry recitation of facts, but Meyer creates interesting portraits of Nannerl, the impudent Wolfgang, and their tyrannical father. Give this one to music students and historical fiction devotees.—*Christi Voth Esterle, Parker Library, CO*
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From [Booklist](#)

What was it like to grow up the older sister of a genius composer? Meyer imagines the life of Nannerl Mozart from the time she is 13 and Wolfgang is 8. They perform together before rapt audiences across Europe until his extraordinary talent and genius as a composer overshadow her musical gifts. The feminist message is not overdone, but the novel is far too long and detailed, with numerous similar scenarios of the siblings growing up under the eyes of their devoted, autocratic father and of Wolfgang's traveling while Nannerl, furious, remains at home (Why must I be left behind again?). In addition, Meyer gives no information about her sources, so it's hard to know how much is based on fact. Problems aside, Nannerl's first-person narrative still makes for universal drama, especially because her anger and jealousy never subsume her enduring love for her brother, their mischievous bond, or their shared love of music as refuge and joy. Grades 7-12. --Hazel Rochman

About the Author

CAROLYN MEYER is the author of more than fifty books for young people. Her many award-winning novels include *Mary*, *Bloody Mary*, an ABA's Pick of the Lists and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults; and *Anastasia: The Last Grand Duchess: Russia, 1914*, a *New York Times* bestseller. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Users Review

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Kenneth Roberts:

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Barbara Butler:

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