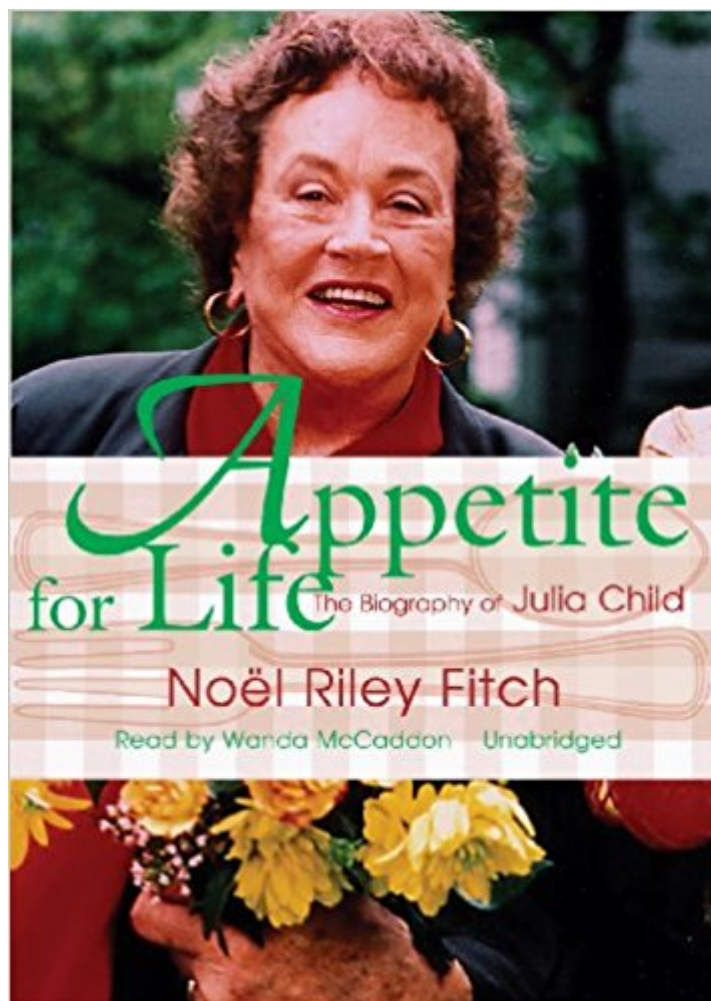


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Appetite For Life: The Biography Of Julia Child



Synopsis

[Read by Nadia May -aka- Wanda McCaddon] A household name, Julia Child has entered the hearts of millions of Americans through their kitchens. Yet few know the richly varied private life that lies behind this icon. Fitch takes us from her exuberant youth through her years at Smith College, where Julia was at the center of every prank and party. When most of her girlfriends married, Julia volunteered with the OSS during World War II and was an integral part of the elite corps. There, she met her future husband, Paul Child, who introduced her to the glories of fine French cuisine, art, and love. Julia invested ten years of learning and experimentation in what would become her first bestselling classic, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Now her career is legend, spanning nearly forty years and still going strong. Hers is a truly American life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Noel Riley Fitch's savory new biography, *Appetite for Life*, reveals a woman as appealing as the good food and serious cooking she popularized. As a California girl and Smith College undergraduate, Fitch writes, Julia McWilliams was notable for her high spirits and voracious appetite. Performing intelligence work in Asia during World War II, she met Paul Child, and their marriage of mutual devotion and affection endured until his death in 1994. His postwar assignment took them to France, where she discovered her true calling. Fitch reminds us that Child championed fresh ingredients at a time when frozen foods and TV dinners dominated American supermarket shelves, and that she demystified haute cuisine with her earthy humor and casual attitude toward mistakes. This affectionate portrait of the remarkable Julia Child reflects her fervent

belief that the pleasures of the table are a natural accompaniment to the pleasures of life. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

No one person in the U.S. improved the nation's standard of eating more than Julia Child. Her celebrity stems less from her masterwork, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, than from her perennially popular PBS television series, *The French Chef*. Born into a wealthy Southern California home, Julia McWilliams led a lively but pampered existence until she met Paul Child in wartime India. These two eager esthetes, for whom the worst possible sin was being boring, bonded into an extraordinarily strong marriage that helped the husband survive McCarthy's purges and gave the wife a decade to focus on her revolutionary book. Although the Childs crossed paths with dozens of political, artistic, and literary notables in postwar Paris, Marseille, Bonn, Oslo, and Washington, biographer Fitch does little but catalog names. But he does make both Childs' personalities come alive, from Paul's meticulousness to Julia's exuberant, even bawdy, gusto. Uneasy yet productive relationships among Julia and her coauthors fed off both professional and cultural differences. Fitch recounts in mortifying detail one of publishing's great gaffes: Houghton Mifflin let *Mastering* slip away to Knopf. Julia's evolution from author into television personality and food guru began in her fifties; now in her eighties, she continues to reshape the food world she transfigured. Mark Knoblauch --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The idea of learning more about Julia Child seemed fascinating, given what little I knew of her cooking shows and OSS background (what an interesting mix!) At first it seemed great that the author had so much access to Julia's letters and diaries-surely this would be a wonderful read! I soon learned that this was a disadvantage, because the author seemed to think that readers would be terribly interested in learning countless details about dates, dinner guests, menus, vacation itineraries, and eventually, it seemed, every single expressed thought Julia Child ever had. After awhile the incessant drone was like a fly buzzing in my ear. I stopped reading about halfway through, tried several times to pick the book up again, and finally donated it half unread. Far, far too much detail about some of the less than interesting events in the life of an otherwise remarkable woman!

I loved this book and I loved Julia Childs. I watched her on TV during most of my adult life and I always wanted to know her life story. I decided to read this book now because I wanted to get more out of the new movie that has just recently been released.If I had to offer one or two words about

Julia's life that impressed me, one word would be integrity; she was her own person and never sold out to corporate interest. Also, her books and her talent were the real thing, the product of very hard work. Another word would be fun. She was very passionate and had a strong determination but she took time out to have fun along the way. The author tries to include all of the people in Julia's life but I found trying to keep up with all of the names confusing at times. I would like to have read a little more about Julia's co-author Simca, but I must admit what is in the book is more than adequate. This is a very good book and will keep your interest from the first page to the last. I miss Julia.

An enjoyable read. As many have stated, there's a lot of detail in this book. I skimmed over the first couple of chapters which talk about JC's parents & grandparents and where they came from. Stunning photo of Julia's maternal grandparents' home. Once into her early 20's, the book picks up steam and I found it fascinating. My copy was signed by both Fitch & Julia Child, which was not advertised but was a neat surprise! A keeper I will re-read.

I recently read "My Life In France" about Julia Child's years in France, her marriage and learning to cook in Paris and the many years of writing her first cookbook. It was so interesting I wanted to know about her and ordered this book. Although there is some repetition it is keeping me thoroughly entertained. I am more than half way through it and keep trying to find time each day to read more. I have been calling my brother (another Julia fan) when I find one of her remarks or something she did that I know he would love to hear about. She is one of the most interesting people of her generation and the current events of that era are brought to life - from the low expectations for women to the McCarthy Witch Hunt to the change in the American lifestyles of a black and white television in the living room and Swanson frozen dinners. She lived a very colorful life and it is greatly detailed in this book. After the first few chapters I also ordered the two volumes she wrote in the 60's - "Mastering The Art of French Cooking". Now I want to find dvd's of her PBS series "The French Chef" to add to my Julia collection. If you are a Julia fan, you will love the book and find yourself quoting her as you cook - just make sure there aren't children in the room!

You will enjoy this book of revelations; about where Julia found her beloved husband, he being the equivalent of a lucky hand for her at cards in life's game. Her fame and fortune were the results of his tireless and clever efforts to enhance her natural inclination to enlarge and perfect her pursuits. Their happy choices of homes and places to go and things to do throughout the World; and perhaps a notch higher than most aspire to. Life was for lusty pursuits but should also be a chance to attain

excellence for oneself and for others. Julia aspired to be a teacher, finally, rather than a cook only, however gourmet for guests and family. Why can't everyone enjoy the best by learning how....? What a great concept - and then to follow through in an exhaustive and finally successful effort to bring forth the books, the appearances, the teaching. My generation is so lucky to have known about her. This book just puts the creme fraiche on the berries! A grand read.

This book was filled with names, dates, locations, and endless other details so it's easy to see all the extensive research and hard work that was put into it. However, it seems to me that it "jumps around" in time and is hard to follow in a chronological format. The sentence structure and grammar also makes it read as through it has been translated (not very well) from French or another language. (Is this so? I don't know...I haven't investigated that possibility as yet.) Anyway, while being very appreciative of it's complete coverage, I didn't enjoy the actual reading of the book.

This is a BIG book crammed with information. I have been reading alot about Julia Child lately, but this is probably the LAST one I will have to read. The author has the book sectioned in readable sections within each chapter, so picking up where you left off is easy. There are actual quotes from the author's interviews with friends and family. Julia's husband Paul's thoughts are documented also especially through the letters to his twin brother. As we approach the anniversary of her 100th birthday, "Appetite for Life" is the definative work on Julia Child.

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