



Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Valerie Raleigh Yow

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Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* captured the imagination of readers in 1943. Now, over sixty years since its publication, thousands of readers of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* still enter its world and identify with Francie Nolan, growing up in a tenement in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Betty Smith admitted that Francie was herself and that her mother, father, grandparents, aunts, and uncles were the inspiration for the book's characters. Here, in the first published biography of Betty Smith, their real-life stories are told. The heroes in Smith's novels, all working-class women—Francie in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, the office worker Margy in *Tomorrow Will Be Better*, the housewife Maggie in *Maggie-Now*, the aspiring writer Annie in *Joy in the Morning*—become self-directed and confident. These novels present an insider's view of a blue collar world, of complex characters and psychological dynamics. Smith's vision in her fiction was an unusual combination of no-holds-barred realism and hope. *Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, carefully researched and precisely documented, is written in a warm, conversational voice. This tale of three cities—Brooklyn, Ann Arbor, and Chapel Hill—is wise, funny, and at times sad, a life of a writer but also of a daughter, lover, mother, and grandmother. AUTHOR Valerie Raleigh Yow, a former history professor, is a psychologist and playwright who lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She has authored several books, including *The History of Hera: A Woman's Art Cooperative* and *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, chosen by the American Library Association for its list, "Outstanding Academic Titles of 2006." Her first biography, *Bernice Kelly Harris: A Good Life Was Writing*, was described as "a wonderful biography that involves her reader in Harris's life."—*Florida Historical Quarterly*. Growing up I read and reread, and loved Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. I was Francie Nolan. Valerie Yow's biography is like being there all over again. Beautifully written, Francie and Betty live in every word. —Ruth Moose, poet and short story writer; *Rules and Secrets* and other books; professor, English Department, University of North Carolina.

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Charles Tebo:

Now a day people that Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not demand people to be aware of each facts they get. How individuals to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specially this Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Gary Lane:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The actual Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Mary Barker:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Jacob Smith:

This Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this guide already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs.

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