

**Title: Liner Notes**

**Subtitle: On Parents & Children, Exes & Excess, Death & Decay & a Few of My Other Favorite Things**

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Loudon Wainwright III, the son of esteemed *Life* magazine columnist Loudon Wainwright Jr., is the patriarch of one of America's great musical families. He is the former husband of Kate McGarrigle and Suzzy Roche, and father of Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, Lucy Wainwright Roche, and Lexie Kelly Wainwright. With a career spanning more than four decades, Wainwright has established himself as one of the most enduring singer-songwriters who emerged from the late 1960s. Not only does he perform regularly across America and in Europe, but he is a sought after actor, having appeared in many movies and TV series.

There is probably no singer-songwriter who has so blatantly inserted himself into his songs. The songs can be laugh-out-loud funny, but they also can cut to the bone. In this memoir, Wainwright details the family history his lyrics have referenced and the fractured relationships among generations: the alcoholism, the infidelities, the competitiveness—as well as the closeness, the successes, and the joy. Wainwright reflects on the experiences that have influenced his work, including boarding school, the music business, swimming, macrobiotics, sex, incarceration, and something he calls Sir Walter Raleigh Syndrome.

Wainwright writes poignantly about being a son—a status that dominates many of his songs—but also about being a parent, a brother, and a grandfather. His lyrics are featured throughout the book, amplifying his prose and showing the connections between the songs and real life. Wainwright also includes selections from his father's brilliant *Life* magazine columns—and, in so doing, re-establishes his father as a major essayist of his era. A funny and insightful meditation on family, inspiration, and art, *Liner Notes* will thrill fans, readers, and anyone who appreciates the intersection of music and life.

**Loudon Wainwright III** is a singer songwriter and actor. In 1968 he began to write songs and in 1969 recorded his first album. Wainwright has recorded twenty-seven albums, including his 2010 Grammy Award winning *High, Wide, & Handsome*. His songs have been covered by Johnny Cash, Mose Allison, Rufus Wainwright, Bonnie Raitt, and Earl Scruggs among others. As an actor he has appeared on TV (*M\*A\*S\*H*, *Ally McBeal*, *Undeclared*), in movies (*Big Fish*, *The Aviator*, *Knocked Up*), on Broadway (*Pump Boys and Dinettes*) and Off (*Hot Lunch Apostles*, *Surviving Twin*). “Mr. Wainwright wrings more human truth out of his contradiction than any other songwriter of his generation.” (*The New York Times*, Stephen Holden)

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