

A Treat for the Ears

The tale of an extraordinary friendship in a new audio book by Heidelberg-based author Juliane Sophie Kayser and actress Julika Jenkins.

How I Met Your Grandfather or Why It Makes Sense to Wear High Heels will be available for download on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, and Audible and at all music stores and shops for €5.99 – as of August 12, 2020.

Successful Heidelberg-based author Juliane Sophie Kayser never fails to create an unforgettable experience for the eyes and ears. Now, in collaboration with the well-known actress Julika Jenkins and the outstanding pianist Zhana Minasyan, she is releasing her latest literary hit in English: the audio book *How I Met Your Grandfather or Why It Makes Sense to Wear High Heels*. The German version of the audio book has been out since September 11, 2017 and is readily available in retail stores as a CD and as a download.

The audio book tells the true story of an extraordinary friendship between the author, Juliane Sophie Kayser, and Fred Raymes, who became famous through the autobiographical film, *Menachem and Fred*. Their inspiring story touches the heart and moves us to think about the important things in life. While the story addresses profound questions, such as whether God died in Auschwitz or still exists, it is also suffused with warmth and humor. Both regionally imbedded and transcending national borders, the story brings together the lives of two people in a conversation that never ends. It all starts when Juliane Sophie Kayser meets Fred at a film screening of *Menachem & Fred* in Heidelberg. In 1940, Fred was deported with his parents and younger brother Heinz to the Gurs concentration camp and was separated from his family shortly afterwards. 60 years later, he was reunited with his brother Menachem. Fred's touching documentary film approaches the fate of these two Jewish brothers with sensitivity and shows how they found their way back to each other.

"Fred taught me many things, especially to look where it hurts," notes the author Juliane Sophie Kayser. "The time we spent together was very intense. This audio book brings together everything that was important to us: dialogue, music, literature, history, and friendship."

Knowing that this sensitive project required especially talented artists, Kayser engaged the worldwide performing concert pianist Zhana Minasyan to musically accompany the story. The two levels – literature and music – interweave to form a tapestry of associative spaces, enabling listeners to enjoy a harmonious work of art that exceeds the sum of its parts. Juliane Sophie Kayser also brought on board the well-known actress Julika Jenkins, who reads the second story included in the audio book, *The Scent of Shadowy Waters*. Set in New York City in the late 1960s, this historically-based tale also has a child of the Holocaust as its protagonist; this aspect is what connects Kayser's two stories.

The result is not only a sensual ode to friendship and a delight for the ears that makes literary and musical hearts beat faster, but also a piece of (contemporary) history that has come to life.

The audio book *How I Met Your Grandfather. Or Why It Makes Sense to Wear High Heels* is a moving story about the magic of friendship, about reconciliation and coming to terms with the past, and about the love of God.

How I Met Your Grandfather or Why It Makes Sense to Wear High Heels

Publisher: Tomorrow's Classics

Price: €5.99

Release date: August 12 , 2020

A narrative and a short story. Read by the author, Juliane Sophie Kayser, and by Julika Jenkins

Musical accompaniment by Zhana Minasyan

Music: F. Mompou (1893–1987) Impresiones intimas; C. Debussy (1862–1918) Arabesque; F. Chopin (1810–1849) Nocturne Op. 27 No. 1

Total running time: 56 minutes

Available for download on iTunes, Audible, Amazon, and at all major music stores and shops for €5.99

Bibliography

Juliane Sophie Kayser is a German-American author who made her debut in 2009 with her book for young adults, *Malchen und die vergessene Zeit*, which was published in German, and then in English under the title *Hannah's Fantastic Journey into the Past*. Her latest children's book, *Das Sandwichkind* (*The Sandwich Child*) was published in March 2018. Kayser's social engagement includes work with the human rights organization IJM, which is dedicated to the fight against modern slavery. Kayser also teaches creative writing workshops. The author lives with her husband and three children in Heidelberg. www.julianekayser.de

Julika Jenkins is known for her numerous roles in film and television, especially in the film adaptations of the *Nele Neuhaus* crime series, numerous episodes of the crime series *Tatort*, and her current role in the Netflix series *Dark*.

Zhana Minasyan is a pianist from Georgia. She first studied solo piano, accompaniment, chamber music, and piano pedagogy at the Tbilisi Music Conservatory, then vocal accompaniment and chamber music in Mannheim.

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