

[PDF] The Velveteen Father: An Unexpected Journey To Parenthood

Jesse Green - pdf download free book

Books Details:

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Description:

Journalist Jesse Green's delightful memoir makes it quite clear that the pleasures and perils of parenting are always the same--even for a gay 37-year-old man who stumbles into it by falling in love with a person who has an adopted son. As Green puts it in a typically well-turned phrase, "fatherhood trumps gayness," which is to say that heterosexual parents at the playground sometimes find it easier to relate to Green, his boyfriend, Andy, and son, Erez (soon joined by baby brother Lucas), than do the well-buffed, perennially youthful male guests at a Fire Island party--they flinch at the sight of diapers and baby bags. As the author searchingly and intelligently considers what it means to gay people to become parents, and the ways in which it does and does not pull them closer into the mainstream, his narrative is often extremely funny. (Joking about Erez's apparently

heterosexual inclinations, Green deadpans, "We tried our best: We played him Judy Garland records and showed him tapes of *West Side Story*.") A very moving examination of identity and the making of a meaningful adult life that resonates profoundly for people of every sexual orientation. --*Wendy Smith*

From Publishers Weekly In his late 30s, award-winning journalist and novelist Green (O Beautiful) became a father to two boys after he fell in love with their adoptive father. In this memoir, he offers a moving series of meditations on what it means to be a child, a parent, a gay man and a Jew in a culture that often avoids complicated discussions of these identities. Drawing on his own childhood experiences as the second son of a Jewish mother and Catholic father in Philadelphia and those of his partner, Andy, he probes the social fears around gay men and children, the conflation of parenthood and adulthood and the role that Jewish family traditions played in his desire to create a family. Green is clearheaded and unsentimental in analyzing how he gave up his orderly, work-centered "Mary Richards" sort of life and replaced it with fatherhood. He also makes a number of astute observations, such as when he suggests that gay men's desire to parent is a reaction to the AIDS epidemic or when he assesses the initially negative reactions of both his and his lover's parents to gay men raising children. While the bulk of this memoir is intensely personal, Green maintains a chatty style that can give way to glib generalizations ("This is what gay men did instead of having children: they had houses") or easy moralizing. But more often, Green's opinions hit home, and are likely to challenge both gay and straight readers. Agent, Cynthia Cannell.
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