



Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue

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Date : Published August 24th 2004 by Random House (first published January 1st 2004)

ISBN : 9781400061921

Author : Jane Pauley

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Biography, Nonfiction, Biography Memoir

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From Reader Review Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue for online ebook

Zoann says

This was a confusing book. Surprisingly, I found it poorly written. But her life is just interesting enough to make me want to keep reading. She says she feels that life came to her out of the blue and this account certainly makes it seem that way--she just floats through life while good jobs, a great husband, beautiful kids come her way. Surely it wasn't that easy.

Meh.

Louise says

While bi-polarism introduces the book and recurs, the theme is really Jane's career.

Jane was catapulted to fame not by experience, her knowledge of public affairs, or even her rolodex, but by her looks, youth, midwestern charm and ability to make interesting conversation. She tells the story of this unmerited rise in a straight forward fashion. I remember Jane and Bryant as unrehearsed, positive, informed and amazingly entertaining. Despite the lack of a resume, she clearly rose to the occasion.

The photos of her family, childhood house and home made clothes show the simplicity of her roots. The text reveals that she never lost this quality. Despite my enthusiastic read, I didn't give it 5 stars because Jane gives the issues all too light a treatment. Ironically, I held back 2 stars for the very simplicity I admire in Jane.

One of these issues is the zeitgeist of Jane's rise. It illustrates role of women in news in the 70's. A sweet non-threatening personality was preferred over experience not only by the network execs, but also the audiences. She describes the fairy tale but the analysis is inadequate.

Jane gives us some old fashioned values in discussing her style which is not to create gotcha moments or invade an interviewee's privacy. She alludes to the competition to "get". She does not discuss how this change is driving the personalities of today's journalists, and ultimately the character of the news, nor the outlook for a future personalities such as Jane.

I'd like to know more about the issues raised in Jane's "brush" with Princess Diana. The American from the Great Plains and the British Aristocrat indeed had a lot in common. Both were plucked up at young ages and put before cameras with little training or preparation. Jane relates the story and the feeling in her plainspoken way ... and that is that.

It looked like the Today show was to be a marriage of 3. All the signs and rumors were there and there was no straight talk from the execs with Jane. Jane, writes about juggling and guilt of a mom with a career. She did a pleasure/pain calculus and had the resources stay home. With career drop out of successful women being a hot media topic, I'd be interested to know if uncomfortable situations like the one Jane found herself in (Jane, not Bryant, Willard or Gene) are the common trigger for this reported phenomena.

Jane writes of her children, but not of her marriage. This is provocative, because it seems so out of character... or out of the character that I believe her to be. Gerry is not just any cartoonist, but, one of the most controversial ones in my lifetime.

There is more to know about Jane's bout with bi-polarism too. It is the stated theme of the book. It appears as an isolated thing in her life, which it surely could not have been.

Julie says

The only shocking thing about this book is how boring and utterly without insight it is.

Sandra Strange says

In this autobiographical exploration, Jane Pauley, the network news and features commentator, records her memories of the years she spent climbing the ladder to the heights of daily TV. She explores her own psychological problems, as well, including her psychological breakdown and diagnosed bipolar disorder, speculating about the effects of her experiences—her family, childhood, teen years, and career. The narrative is unassuming, and that presents the problem. Her life, a life meeting and interviewing and writing about premier contemporary leaders, both political and cultural, comes across as ordinary, even trivial, because of the way she views herself and her experiences. The narrative is pleasant, and the reading painless, but it is not gripping writing. The story begins with her psychological problems and hints at causes in her childhood, but the beginning is more exciting than the rest, so the book ends up a bit disappointing.

Sydney Avey says

There are many gems in this accessible memoir. From her first reveal--the onset of a bout with bi-polar disorder--to the Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi quote on the last pages--"Many people don't know which elements of their lives cause stress and which they actually enjoy."--there is much the average person can identify with in Jane Pauley's experience. The book is full of hope and points to ponder. She shares words to help us frame our experience (purposeful wandering) and concepts to grapple with as we try to make sense of our own lives. I especially liked her reference to the things that seemingly fall from Heaven at times when we are not looking for them. An easy, satisfying read.

Ice says

This beautiful and surprising memoir, in which beloved broadcast journalist Jane Pauley tells a remarkable story of self-discovery and an extraordinary life, from her childhood in the American heartland to her three decades in television.

Encompassing her beginnings at the local Indianapolis station and her bright debut—at age twenty-five on NBC's Today and later on Dateline—Pauley forthrightly delves into the ups and downs of a fantastic career. But there is much more to Jane Pauley than just the famous face on TVs.

In this memoir, she reveals herself to be a brilliant woman with singular insights. She explores her roots growing up in Indiana and discusses the resiliency of the American family, and addresses with humor and depth a subject very close to her heart: discovering yourself and redefining your strengths at midlife. Striking, moving, candid, and unique, *Skywriting* explores firsthand the difficulty and the rewards of self-reinvention.

Scott says

I always liked her and did a wikipedia search because i was wondering whatever became of her. Didn't know she wrote a memoir about depression/bipolar so i'm adding it to my reading list

from wikipedia:".

Pauley is known for revealing very little, if anything, of her private life, which made the disclosure of her bipolar disorder all the more unexpected. The timing of her announcement coincided with the release of her autobiography, *Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue* (2004) and the launch of her daytime talk show.

In October 2006, Pauley and her lawyers filed a lawsuit against The New York Times for allegedly duping her into lending her name and likeness to an advertising supplement popular with drug companies. Pauley maintains she believed she was being interviewed by a Times reporter.

Pauley is married to Doonesbury cartoonist Garry Trudeau, and they have three children: twins Ross and Rachel, born in 1983, and Thomas, born in 1986."

Christine Fay says

Well, it's helpful to know that one of America's most normal-appearing television sweethearts suffers from BPD. The beginning of the book starts off with her diagnosis, and what happened during the course of her treatment for hives, and how a course of steroids put her into a full-blown mania, buying houses for people, writing a book, etc.. The rest of the novel is an informal recollection of childhood events, but without any seeming cohesion to them. When she says that she is not known for being the best writer, she speaks the truth as it shows in her memoir. I read this book in one sitting on a plane to Florida, and was really unimpressed with the style, and the story was a bit lackluster. Perhaps with an assistant, she could have put together a better, more cohesive story. Not really recommended reading. There are better memoirs out there.

CJ says

I like Jane Pauley, always have. I thought it might be interesting to learn a little more about her. She's the only other person I know of who has suffered from the same thing I have for almost my whole life - chronic idiopathic urticaria (unexplained hives).

Sometimes when I read a biography of someone, I end up liking them less. I actually like Jane Pauley more. She seems a bit baffled about why she's so well-liked/respected. Jane - people like you because you seem like someone who could live next door. You're one of us and we can connect to that.

It's a quick read and entirely enjoyable.

Debbie says

The story was good but just wasn't what I thought. This about the life of Jane Pauley from her childhood thru her adult life. She tells how it was growing up in her family. She also tells how she got into her career in television. She also gets us into her life after children all the while she is trying to learn to live with depression and bipolar disorder.

~mad says

This has been sitting on my shelf since 004 when published.

Very interesting person account of bipolar disorder and Jane Pauley's career.

Mental illness interests me - if it doesn't you, don't bother.

Huguette Larochelle says

A lady we see so many times on TV, she can write beautifully too.
a personal view of her private life.
a memoir about growing up, a candid story of self discovery,
of one television's most beloved figure

Cyndy says

I was kind of disappointed...she seemed to allude to a revelation about her family that never really happened.
It was ok.

Lucimar says

Loved this very honest account of her life and finally realizing she was bipolar. I totally appreciate the fact this book debunks a lot of myths about what living with that diagnosis means.

Rick Ludwig says

Having suffered from severe, suicidal depression myself, I found great resonance in Jane's experiences. Her ability to view things with a writer's detachment while still clearly conveying the impact on her life made this a very compelling read and should help others to face their own issues with depression.
