

Body & Soul - Frank Conroy

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As a boy, Claude Rawlings looks up through the grated window of his basement apartment to watch the world go by. Poor, lonely, supported by a taxi-driver mother whose eccentricities spin more and more out of control, he faces the terrible task of growing up on the margins of life, destined to be a spectator of that great world always hurrying out of reach. But there is an out-of-tune piano in the small apartment, and in unlocking the secrets of its keys, as if by magic, Claude discovers himself. He is a musical prodigy. *Body Soul* is the story of a young man whose life is transformed by a gift. The gift is not without price: the work is relentless, the teachers exacting, but the reward is a journey that takes him to the drawing rooms of the rich and powerful, private schools, a gilt-edged marriage, and Carnegie Hall. Claude moves through this life as if he were playing a difficult composition, swept up in its drama and tension, surprised by its grace notes. Music, here, becomes a character in its own right, equaled in strength only by the music of Frank Conroy's own unmistakable and true voice. Bristling with character and invention, *Body Soul* is Dickensian in its range and richness. This is a novel with all the emotional appeal and moral gravity of a classic bildungsroman, but with a tone as contemporary as a jazz riffan: an unforgettable achievement by one of the great writers of our time. Author: Conroy, Frank Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: BODY & SOUL Pages: 00450 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 1993-09-29 SKU-13/ISBN: 9780395519462 Category: Fiction : General

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