



## Auerbach Will

*Stephen Birmingham*

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In *The Auerbach Will*, the novel by America's most renowned chronicler of the rich, ambitious young Essie Litsky defies a rigid upbringing by immigrant Russian Jewish parents to achieve wealth and success.

But her children tear Essie and her husband Jack Auerbach's family apart in fights over their fortune, and Essie finds that money will not mend broken lives.

Stephen Birmingham concludes this complex family saga, set in the Park Avenue world he first portrayed in the bestselling *Our Crowd*, with a surprise revelation. The story of Essie Auerbach and the *Auerbach Will* is unforgettable.

## Auerbach Will Details

Date : Published March 1st 1987 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425100202

Author : Stephen Birmingham

Format : Paperback 432 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review Auerbach Will for online ebook

### Allison says

It's a bit of a combination of The Royal Tannenbaums and The Great Gatsby except Jewish. I enjoyed the family sagas and hearing about the wealthy life during the 20th century. I also liked the way Birmingham intertwined the stories, past and present, from multiple character's points of view, together to keep you guessing. An enjoyable and easy read, but not total fluff as I felt that it was well-written.

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### Christina says

I started reading the currently popular "Swans of Fifth Avenue" about socialites, Capote, Babe Paley, New York, 1960's glamour, then to The Dakota by this author, dishy non-fiction, written while the Lençons lived there and about 2 months before he was shot in the doorway. Well written, a bit dated, but still, I liked his style and an interesting note is that when I was looking on the interweb for pictures of the interior of the Dakota interiors there was a sketch of Babe Paley. So I was intrigued. I read The Auerbach Will and loved the plot and the characters! 10+ hours and not once was I bored. I'm reading Shades of Fortune now which uses many elements of The Auerbach Will or the other way around, not sure which came first but still enjoyable and I'm puzzled by the lack of reviews and comments about his books. He is frankly a much better writer than much of the dribble on the best-sellers list. Yes, they are dated, but they are still, well written, interesting and fun stories. Please try.

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### Julia A. McDonald says

#### Facebook

Family saga with lots of characters. I really enjoyed this book as it covered not only the history of the era but how it affected one family.. would recommend this to anyone who likes family sagas as the characters are well developed and you feel as if you know them. A good read.

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### Davney Stahley says

Typical family dynasty type book, but an interesting twist in the end.

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### Catherine Mustread says

Essie escapes from her rigid Jewish upbringing when she marries Jake Auerbach who goes on to fame and fortune. Late in her eighties, Essie thinks back over her life and still worries about her four remaining children and their bickering over their inheritance.

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## Yvette says

Great story!

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## Kent Miller says

**A poignant and unforgettable rags-to-riches family saga following three generations of a remarkable clan from downtown ghetto to Park Avenue opulence**

Marrying Jack Auerbach was Essie Litsky's salvation, enabling her to break free of her strict Russian-Jewish immigrant parents and escape New York's poor, dirty, overcrowded Lower East Side. Together with her husband, Essie amassed a fortune that dwarfed their wildest dreams: She was living in a grand mansion on Park Avenue, collecting priceless art, even conferring with a US president.

But money could never buy the affection of family or compensate for the true love Essie let slip away. And now, as she nears the end of her life, she must contend with blackmail and heartless legal assaults coming at her from all sides, the result of the ugly, persisting greed of her own children and grandchildren. But Essie is not dead yet, and those who underestimate the remarkable old woman are in for a shocking and powerful surprise.

In this *New York Times* bestseller, Stephen Birmingham, acclaimed chronicler of the lives of the super-rich and author of "*Our Crowd*", introduces three generations of a singular family as it moves from poverty to privilege over the course of a cataclysmic century, led by one of the most endearing and unforgettable heroines in modern American fiction.

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## About the Author

Stephen Birmingham (1929–2015) was an American author of more than thirty books. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he graduated from Williams College in 1953 and taught writing at the University of Cincinnati. Birmingham's work focuses on the upper class in America. He's written about the African American elite in *Certain People* and prominent Jewish society in *Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York*, *The Grandees: The Story of America's Sephardic Elite*, and *The Rest of Us: The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews*. His work also encompasses several novels including *The Auerbach Will*, *The LeBaron Secret*, *Shades of Fortune*, and *The Rothman Scandal*, and other non-fiction titles such as *California Rich*, *The Grandes Dames*, and *Life at the Dakota: New York's Most Unusual Address*.

### **Susan Timmons says**

#### **Highly Recommend**

I found the writing easy to read and the story to be thoroughly enjoyable. It was an intriguing tale well told.

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### **Donna Hulsey says**

I did enjoy this book very much. It is set in New York City, and starts on the lower east side when a young girl becomes enamoured of a young man who wants to "do good" to the less fortunate. When her strict Jewish father arranges a marriage for her, she sets her sights on Jacob Auerbach. Covering three generations of a family business, it stressed the passions and secrets of the family.

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### **Leslie says**

I really enjoyed this book. It spanned 3 generations of Jewish Americans. Esther came from a religious background, was born in Russia, and moved to the United States at approximately 1 year. Her family settled in the tenements of the lower East Side, where most families were like hers. Her mother was the one that worked to support the family, while her father studied Torah all day. She Met Abe, who was a few years older, and from a very different background than hers. Abe lived on the Upper East Side, and his family had been Americans for 3 generations. They were not very religious, and did not keep kosher. Esther's father forbid her to marry Abe, but she disobeyed him, and they married and had a family. Her father disowned her, and sat Shiva for his only daughter. It was an entertaining book, and I would read more of Stephen Birnbaum's books going forward.

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### **Janet says**

This book is a multigenerational family saga, rags to riches, tale from late 1800s to 1960s or so. Thoroughly loved the well-developed characters. I would definitely recommend this book.

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### **Angela says**

I can do this...almost done. Rags to riches saga with greed, deceit and envy. Enjoyable read.

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### **Dark-Draco says**

I really couldn't get into this one. I quite like historical/saga type fiction, but somehow this didn't appeal. I found the writing style a bit annoying, as if the author was being quite a sarcastic observer of his characters

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rather than an unbiased narrator. With so many books to read, I decided not to muddle on with it.

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### **Cathryn Conroy says**

Delicious! Juicy! Oh, so yummy! No, this isn't a review of a dessert, but this book is a lot like dessert for your brain. Best of all, this book by Stephen Birmingham is not just empty calories; it is intelligently-written with a carefully-crafted plot and colorful characters, albeit some of them are somewhat one-sided. An ingenious structure that is perfectly executed catapults the plot back and forth in time.

Taking place primarily in New York and Chicago, this is a multi-generational family saga beginning in the early 1900s. Jake and Essie Auerbach marry against the wishes of both their families. They are ostracized by Jake's extremely wealthy family to Chicago, where eventually Jake becomes a huge business success, due in no small part to his wife. Yet with this spectacular, showy wealth comes searing heartbreak. Years later, their ungrateful and greedy children want to change their mother's will as Essie approaches her 90th birthday. And divisive secrets long buried, hurtful family tensions, intense rivalries and the destructive power of money come bubbling to the surface, threatening to destroy everything the Auerbach family has attained, including each other.

"The Auerbach Will" is the perfect escapist read!

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### **Carobe says**

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