

**LEAH CHASE**  
Listen, I Say Like This



# LEAH CHASE

## Listen, I Say Like This

By Carol Allen



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*To our daughters,  
Robin Lynn Jones*



*Stella Chase Reese  
and Leah Chase Kamata*

*To my mother, Coy Hart Allen, another woman who changes lives  
around her*

*And to the memory of Emily Chase Haydel*

*Memory, in short, is engraved not merely by the  
life we have led but . . . by the lives of others, which can cut  
into ours every bit as sharply as our own experience.*

—Anthony Lane

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# Introduction

When Carol Allen asked me who was writing my life story, I said, "Now, there would be a tale." When she asked me to consider letting her write it and we started our interviews, I laughingly told my friends she might get three pages on me. Now, she's actually written an entire book.

Carol and I have spent hours and hours and HOURS together. She has sat in my kitchen while I've worked, followed me around when I've been invited to do various things, met and talked with just about everybody in my family, traveled to Madisonville where I was born, and met my family who still lives there. She has talked to friends, reviewed old taped television shows, and even came to one of my family reunions. We've had a lot of fun working on this together.

As one is living one's life, one doesn't have time, really, to reflect on all that has passed. In reading the words Carol has written, I have been able to relive some of my experiences. Some have made me laugh; some have made me cry. Many have made me reminiscent of moments I had forgotten.

Carol asked me more than once, "Can I use that?" I told her, "Anything I tell you, you can use. I have nothing to hide from anybody." I believe my feelings, words, joys and sorrows, and hopes and disappointments have been captured in this book. I recognize myself and my life in these pages, and I am happy they reflect my love for my family, my love for the people who have helped and supported me, and my love for New Orleans.

My hope now is that someone will read this book and say, "Leah did it like this. I think I can do it better."

Leah Lange Chase



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