



From Our House: A Memoir

By Lee Martin

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From Our House is the luminous and uniquely American memoir of Lee Martin, born into a farming family the same year his father unexpectedly lost both hands. Lee's father, once known for "doing a good turn for his neighbors," changed that afternoon in the cornfields, becoming an embittered, hardened man. "All our lives have private truths," Martin writes, "and the truth about my father was that after his accident he brought a deep and abiding rage into our home. I knew his hooks as intimately as I ever knew anything about my father."

"How easily our bodies become us, our souls bound to the material, to the joy or grief or pain we feel through our skin," Martin muses. Ultimately it is his mother's quiet compassion that accounts for the grace that Lee and his father finally discover both within themselves and within their small family. Learning to live by the seasons and to fall asleep to the rumble of his father's tractor, braving snowstorms to sell hogs or to visit an ailing grandmother, playing basketball, listening to baseball games, and stealing records, Lee endures the anger and shame that haunt his family—yet grows up to tell his tale with rare beauty and remarkable forbearance.

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From Our House: A Memoir By Lee Martin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Relentlessly honest, Martin's account of growing up with an abusive parent is wise and healing. In 1956, when the author was a year old, his father lost both hands in a mechanical corn-picker on their Illinois farm. That tragic accident transformed Roy Martin into a bitter man who harbored a deep, corrosive rage that he vented on his son in sadistic beatings. Generous and friendly with neighbors and relatives, Roy was a strict and hypercritical parent. Though father and son enjoyed small pleasures together, Martin remained timid and fearful that he would never measure up, and he desperately tried to love and connect with the father whom he frequently despised. He walked a tightrope between his father's brutality and the abiding compassion of his soft-spoken, gentle mother, a schoolteacher who "lacked the courage to confront my father's rage or to escape it." While Martin never calls his mother an enabler or his father an abuser, by age 16, years of family dysfunction had turned him into a shoplifter, burglar and arsonist, putting him close to "becoming ruined beyond return." Martin, whose story collection *The Least You Need to Know* (winner of the Mary McCarthy Prize for short fiction) explored troubled father-son relationships, taps directly into his own psychic pain in this understated memoir. Both his parents are now dead, yet this moving family album, suffused with forgiveness and reconciliation, binds up the wounds. (June) FYI: Martin teaches creative writing at the University of North Texas and edits the *American Literary Review*.

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From Library Journal

The author of a book of short stories (*The Least You Need To Know*), Martin has written a memoir to read slowly and savor. He is born to an older couple. His father has hooks instead of hands owing to a farm accident, and his elementary-school teacher mother has trouble disciplining her students and soon loses her job in their rural community. They move to a more urban locale so that she can continue to teach and bring in money but eventually return to the area of their farm and families. Martin's father feels shame and rage over losing his hands, and Martin, who lacks the athletic and mechanical skills his father once possessed, is embarrassed by his own and his parents' physical shortcomings. Over the course of the memoir, Martin shows how he and his father learn to overcome their shame and control their rage. The honest and straightforward description of their relationship and their obvious affection for each other completely involve the reader. Highly recommended for all libraries.

-Gina Kaiser, *Univ. of the Sciences, Philadelphia*

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Review

"Wise and healing."—*Publishers Weekly*
(*Publishers Weekly*)

"Martin has written a memoir to read slowly and savor. . . . Over the course of the memoir, Martin shows how he and his father learn to overcome their shame and control their rage. The honest and straightforward description of their relationship and their obvious affection for each other completely involve the reader. Highly recommended."—*Library Journal*
(*Library Journal*)

"A lyrical, finely wrought memoir of grief, pain, and joy."—*Chicago Tribune*
(*Chicago Tribune*)

“Martin’s memoir evokes the secrecy of family violence and the isolation of growing up in a rural community. . . . This is a touching and honest portrayal of family life, violence, disappointment, and coming of age.”—*Booklist*
(*Booklist*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Parker:

This From Our House: A Memoir book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That From Our House: A Memoir without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry From Our House: A Memoir can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This From Our House: A Memoir having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Michael Albright:

Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading through a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specifically this From Our House: A Memoir book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Kathleen Blackwood:

The particular book From Our House: A Memoir has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. This specific book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

Hoyt Knapp:

Precisely why? Because this From Our House: A Memoir is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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