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Lust & Wonder: A Memoir



Synopsis

The instant New York Times bestseller Lust: 1. intense sexual desire or appetite2.a passionate or overmastering desire or craving3.ardent enthusiasm; zest; relish.Wonder: 1. something strange and surprising; a cause of surprise, astonishment,or admiration2. the emotion excited by what is strange and surprising; a feeling of surprised or puzzled interest, sometimes tinged with admiration3. a miraculous deed or event; remarkable phenomenonFrom the beloved #1 New York Times bestselling author comes an intimate look at the driving forces in one man's life. With Augusten's unique and singular observations and his own unabashed way of detailing both the horrific and the humorous, Lust and Wonder is a hilariously frank memoir that his legions of fans have been waiting for. His story began in Running with Scissors, endured through Dry, and continues with this memoir, the capstone to the life of Augusten Burroughs. Funny, sweet, alarming, and ultimately, moving and tender, Lust & Wonder is an experience of a book that will resonate with anyone who has loved and lost and loved again.

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Customer Reviews

Thank goodness that the Augusten Burroughs of Dry is back in his latest memoir. *Wolf at the Table*, his last memoir, was all about his father, and was one of his weakest books. *Running with Scissors* was his most celebrated book, but it was perhaps more because of the shock value of his childhood experiences. Dry touched my heart a little more as he searched for love and self-affirmation and wasn't afraid to expose his innermost feelings. *Lust and Wonder* brings back that Augusten I like best - the caustic wit, brutal honesty, and his endearing neurosis. He lays his soul bare for all to see, and though we may have not gone through the same experiences, we empathize, for we all know what it is to be human, a little narcissistic, and struggle to find the relationships that we hope will complete us. This book is divided into 3 main sections, and he delves into his 3 significant relationships since Dry, and also tells us a little more about his relationship with George, that he first shared with us in Dry. Going into them in depth would mean giving out some spoilers, so I'll just say, that he goes through some hits and misses until he realizes what was staring him in the face. There has been a little hiatus between his memoirs, but I am happy to discover Augusten at 50 is just as brilliant as he was in his late 20s when he probably wrote Dry (it was the first book he wrote, but it was published 3rd). This book shows us a more mature side of Augusten, as he seems to examine his motivations more deeply and dare I say, despite his sarcasm, he seems kinder to his partners. To be honest, the book did seem to drag in parts, especially as he's stuck in relationships that seem to be going no-where, but he manages to get himself, and us, out of that quagmire of failed relationships by the end. This novel definitely ends on a more hopeful note than some others he's written, and he gives us hope too, having survived the worst of experiences to be where he is today. If you've loved some of this previous works, you'll enjoy *Lust and Wonder*.

Having read all of Burroughs, I've enjoyed the journey through his psyche. Reading this last one, you can hear the peace he is finding. Having a dysfunctional childhood more often than not leads to a dysfunctional adulthood. Within this book the reader will find that learning to live in a healthy relationship is challenging to the mind of a self destructive individual. As usual there were times I actually giggled aloud. Occasionally when reading the healthy direction his life is heading, one will forget the crewed writing that represented the catastrophic life he once experienced, then suddenly a sentence slaps you in the face (in regards to the size of someone's dick) and you remember, "Oh yeah this is Burroughs." The impending doom he describes is depicted so accurately that as the book is wrapping up, the reader expects something devastating-at least for the reader who can relate. Look forward to future memoirs. - Angela Hastings

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Ëœs memoir. It put me in a good mood before going to sleep. Although it kept me awake longer because I couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢t put the book down I was laughing so hard. Seriously I havenÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢t had an LOL moment with a book in a long time. I finished Lust & Wonder in three nights. So relatable and so funny, Augusten has a way of boiling people, emotions and scenes down into a perfect sentence or metaphor. There were quite a few that made me laugh out loud. Like this one: ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“The cleft in MitchÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s chin that I previously admired and considered one of his best features suddenly became an a-hole on his face.ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• Or when he described another boyfriend as being emotionally unavailable: ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“He was like a vending machine that swallowed my change and wouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢t give me my f-ing M&Ms.ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• I also loved how he'd characterize his BFÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s boring friends by giving them nicknames (ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“I could never remember her name, so I dubbed her TediaÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å•). AugustenÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s story telling is the perfect balance of honesty, self-deprecation and humor. He has a knack for dialogue and as an ad guy myself, I appreciate its "realness" and how it brings his characters to life without having to resort to formal descriptions. An entertaining read overallÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã âœone that will have you evaluating and re-evaluating your own previous relationships. Highly recommend!

I am now addicted to Augusten Burroughs and have bought nearly all his books. He's hilarious, raunchy, poignant, a survivor and a good one. He's also an amazing writer. Proving that being well-read is sometimes even better than a formal education, and for that, Sir, I thank you. Keep up the good fight and keep writing until you are done. May that be never. Peace!

Augustan Burroughs certainly has a way with words. I had read his books so long ago that I had forgotten why I loved them so much. Lust & Wonder is a older full continuation of his memoirs. I imagine there will be at least one more someday.

The best thing about this book is that love found Augusten Burroughs. Thankfully, he saw fit to share the raw, heartwarming, beautiful story. His voice is one of my enduring favorites. Another great read.

Ahhh, Augusten... as always thought-provoking and eye opening, deeply honest and real. I read it

fairly slowly, there is a lot to mull over. For me at any rate. The insights caught me off guard and made me actually stop and gape in astonishment at how clear something suddenly became to me about my own relationships and approach to life. Love the sense of resigned humor. Am so glad you found your place at last.

The transparency that we know and love from Augusten is bountiful in his latest work. I felt like a voyeur or a close friend getting the personal details of challenges that you only share on accident, or in complete confidence. He does an amazing job of painting the men in his life with his perspective while retaining that they have their own perspective as well. Towards the end, the shorter stories seemed to be unrelated from the story we cared about.. I figured they were potential throw aways that made the cut, but they ended up informing the reader of important musings for a very beautiful ending. Like all of Augustens work, you can only admire his bravery in sharing such devastating, lovely honesty.

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