

A Childhood is the unforgettable memoir of Harry Crews earliest years, a sharply remembered portrait of the people, locales, and circumstances that shaped him?and destined him to be a storyteller. Crews was born in the middle of the Great Depression, in a one-room sharecroppers cabin at the end of a dirt road in rural South Georgia. If Bacon County was a place of grinding poverty, poor soil, and blood feuds, it was also a deeply mystical place, where snakes talked, birds could possess a small boy by spitting in his mouth, and faith healers and conjure women kept ghosts and devils at bay. At once shocking and elegiac, heartrending and comical, A Childhood not only recalls the transforming events of Crews youth but conveys his growing sense of self in a world in which survival depended on raw courage, a courage born out of desperation and sustained by a lack of alternatives. Amid portraits of relatives and neighbors, Bacon County lore, and details of farm life, Crews tells of his fathers death; his friendship with Willalee Bookatee, the son of a black hired hand; his bout with polio; his mother and stepfathers failing marriage; his near-fatal scalding at a hog-killing; and a five-month sojourn in Jacksonville, Florida. These and other memories define, with reverence and affection, Harry Crews childhood world: its people and its customs and all its loveliness and all its ugliness. Imaginative and gripping, A Childhood re-creates in detail one writers search for past and self, a search for a time and place lost forever except in memory.

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A Childhood has ratings and reviews. Howard said: UPDATE: Here is a link to a wonderful retrospective look at Crews' book by Dwight Garner in h.

In the opening pages, author Harry Crews offers his readers one reason why he started writing this book -- it was because, as he says, I have.

The world that circumscribed the people I come from had so little margin for error, for bad luck, that when something went wrong, it almost. A Childhood The Biography of a Place. Harry Crews Illustrations by Michael McCurdy. An illustrated gift edition of the classic boyhood memoir. Reviews. A Childhood, the Biography of a Place by Harry Crews, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide.

Posts Tagged: A Childhood Biography of a Place The Rumpus is a place where people come to be themselves through their writing, to tell.

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