



## A Childhood: The Biography of a Place

By Harry Crews

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### A Childhood: The Biography of a Place By Harry Crews

*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 sharecropper's 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's 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 father's death; his friendship with Willalee Bookatee, the son of a black hired hand; his bout with polio; his mother and stepfather's 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's 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 writer's search for past and self, a search for a time and place lost forever except in memory.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Crews is, obviously, a unique southern raconteur. . . . It's easy to despise poor folks. *A Childhood makes it more difficult*. It raises almost to a level of heroism these people who seem of a different century. *A Childhood* is not about a forgotten America, it is about a part of America that has rarely, except in books like this, been properly discovered.

(New York Times Book Review)

It is Crews' great gift that he can show us how absolutely cursed, and absolutely beautiful, we are. . . . Crews burns through the easy ways in which we would like to regard ourselves; what he leaves behind is something better, something touched by the refiner's fire.

(New York Newsday)

#### From the Back Cover

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#### About the Author

Harry Crews is the author of eighteen novels, including "The Mulching of America." He teaches at the University of Florida. Michael McCurdy is an internationally known illustrator and designer whose work has appeared in the books of over thirty publishers and in such magazines as the "New Yorker," "Esquire," and "Field and Stream." He lives in Massachusetts.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Pauline Mueller:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a book, we give you this *A Childhood: The Biography of a Place* book as beginner and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

### **Margaret Honig:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual A Childhood: The Biography of a Place is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

### **Raymond Littlefield:**

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### **Carolyn Hoar:**

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