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Von Richard Rhodes

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A HOLE IN THE WORLD

An American Boyhood

RICHARD RHODES

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author

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Von Richard Rhodes : A Hole in the World: An American Boyhood (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Hole in the World: An American Boyhood (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brutal, honest, heart-breaking. It made me angry. Von Mary C. Kilgour I read Hole in the World while writing the story of my own dismal childhood. It made me realize that mine wasn't as bad as I had thought, even though it was pretty bad. This

is a shocking book, one that causes tears to fall thinking about this boy suffering at the hands of a stepmother while his father did nothing, abandoning his responsibilities as a father. It is shocking that school officials and neighbors didn't intervene. Hurray for Stanley's courage in going to the police. Most shocking of all is to know, from volunteer work I do now as a retiree, that this kind of abuse continues and, if anything, society is even less able now to stop it or cope with the effects on its victims.

Kurzbeschreibung In his powerful and tragic childhood memoir, Richard Rhodes offers reflections on the physical and emotional abuse he and his older brother faced at the hands of their cruel stepmother and negligent father. This is a book that unmasks the lasting effects of child abuse—the denial and emotional displacement that survivors experience, and their tireless effort to rise up and overcome their pain. *Pressestimmen* "A Hole in the World" must be read through tears—the reader's and the writer's—and it must be acknowledged as powerful a bearing of witness, as dark a story of cruelty, as redemptive a proclamation of the soul's strength as we have been given in a very long time. Nothing by the prolific and talented Rhodes prepares us for this shattering testimony."—Frederick Busch, "Los Angeles Times" "A Hole in the World" must be read through tears the reader's and the writer's and it must be acknowledged as powerful a bearing of witness, as dark a story of cruelty, as redemptive a proclamation of the soul's strength as we have been given in a very long time. Nothing by the prolific and talented Rhodes prepares us for this shattering testimony." Frederick Busch, "Los Angeles Times" "The deepest significance of Rhodes's prose is its spring-fed clarity. He writes: 'My unconscious early prose—it was largely unconscious in those days because I thought the only way I could write was to get drunk first—screens a predicament I struggled desperately to steady at [school] and continue to work forty years later to resolve: how to calm and to rescue the lurching monster of overwhelming, intractable, involuntary rage that my mother's suicide, my father's neglect and my stepmother's violence installed in me.' To judge from the simplicity with which he has woven his memories into narrative, and from it constructed his identity, the monster of rage has been laid to rest."—Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *New York Times* "A Hole in the World must be read through tears—the reader's and the writer's—and it must be acknowledged as powerful a bearing of witness, as dark a story of cruelty, as redemptive a proclamation of the soul's strength as we have been given in a very long time. 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To judge from the simplicity with which he has woven his memories into narrative, and from it constructed his identity, the monster of rage has been laid to rest.---Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *New York Times*—Unlike too much of what is offered for public edification (and titillation) in this our age of confession, *A Hole in the World* comes straight from the heart with no apparent self-serving motives. Richard Rhodes is here to tell us three things, all of them important and useful. The first is that it is dangerous and self-deluding to sentimentalize a myth of idyllic American childhood. The second is that a child caught in a hell not of his own making must devise strategies for survival and must cry out for help; there are others, outsiders, ready to provide it. The third—and to those caught in their own torment the most important—is that it is possible to escape, to rise above hurt and rage, to live a life that is useful and good. A timely contribution to the literature of a problem we are only beginning to understand.---Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post*—*A Hole in the World* must be read through tears—the reader's and the writer's—and it must be acknowledged as powerful a bearing of witness, as dark a story of cruelty, as redemptive a proclamation of the soul's strength as we have been given in a very long time. Nothing by the prolific and talented Rhodes prepares us for this shattering testimony.---Frederick Busch, *Los Angeles Times*—Unlike too much of what is offered for public edification (and titillation) in this our age of confession, *A Hole in the World* comes straight from the heart with no apparent self-serving motives. Richard Rhodes is here to tell us three things, all of them important and useful. The first is that it is dangerous and self-deluding to sentimentalize a myth of idyllic American childhood. 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