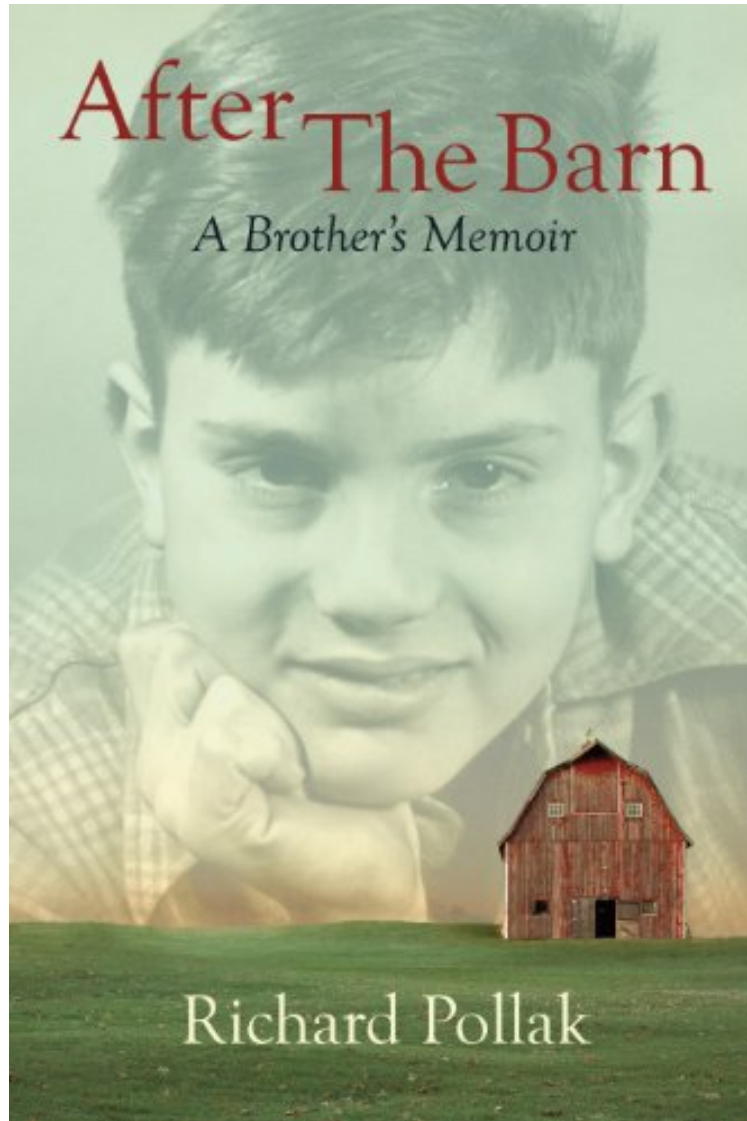


[Free] After The Barn: A Brother's Memoir (English Edition)

After The Barn: A Brother's Memoir (English Edition)

Von Richard Pollak

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Von Richard Pollak : After The Barn: A Brother's Memoir (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After The Barn: A Brother's Memoir (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. moving, interesting, a great read!Von FloIn After the Barn, Richard Pollak tells the story of his life in America. He was a journalist and uses journalists' tools on his own life, telling his own story in a well-researched way, while being very charming and entertaining as well. This is a great combination and makes for a great read!The death of his autistic younger brother in an accident was a tragedy for the author and his family, and his own epilepsy was a burden. As I

was reading *After the Barn*, I was struck by how ignorance and malice in society is so destructive for the individual. During the author's childhood, epilepsy and autism were hardly understood and were severely stigmatized. Eugenics was socially acceptable and medical treatments for psychiatric maladies were most often cruel and ineffectual. Richard Pollak's family was preyed upon by the so-called "Dr." Bruno Bettelheim, who was not a physician, although he falsely claimed to be an expert in the treatment of autism. By the way, Mr. Pollak also wrote a wonderful biography of Bruno Bettelheim, *The Creation of Dr. B.*, which I highly recommend as well!

Kurzbeschreibung On that fateful day in the barn, Richard Pollak angrily shouted down to his parents, Tell him you'll punish him if he doesn't stop hiding! Moments later he was sucked into a maelstrom of hot straw. He has no memory of how he managed to extricate himself and get down from the loft, or of anything else on that summer day, when his 11-year-old mentally disturbed brother, with whom he had been playing hide-and-seek, slipped through the same hole and fell thirty-five feet to his death. Only a few months later, the author, then fourteen, lost consciousness and also fell: down a flight of stairs, awakening to learn that he suffered from the falling sickness, epilepsy. Twenty-five years on, he was still coping with the unnerving disorder and the depressive side effects of anticonvulsant medication, when his mother fell through a hole and nearly died much as his brother had. *After the Barn* is a gripping account of this traumatic family history, at once a penetrating exploration of the medical, psychological and literary worlds of epilepsy, mental illness, and early death, and a deeply personal rumination on grief, sibling guilt, and the elusiveness of memory. Richard Pollak, the author of four previous books and a contributing editor of *The Nation*, has given us a memoir that concludes with redemptive revelations that will likely surprise the reader as much as they did the author.

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