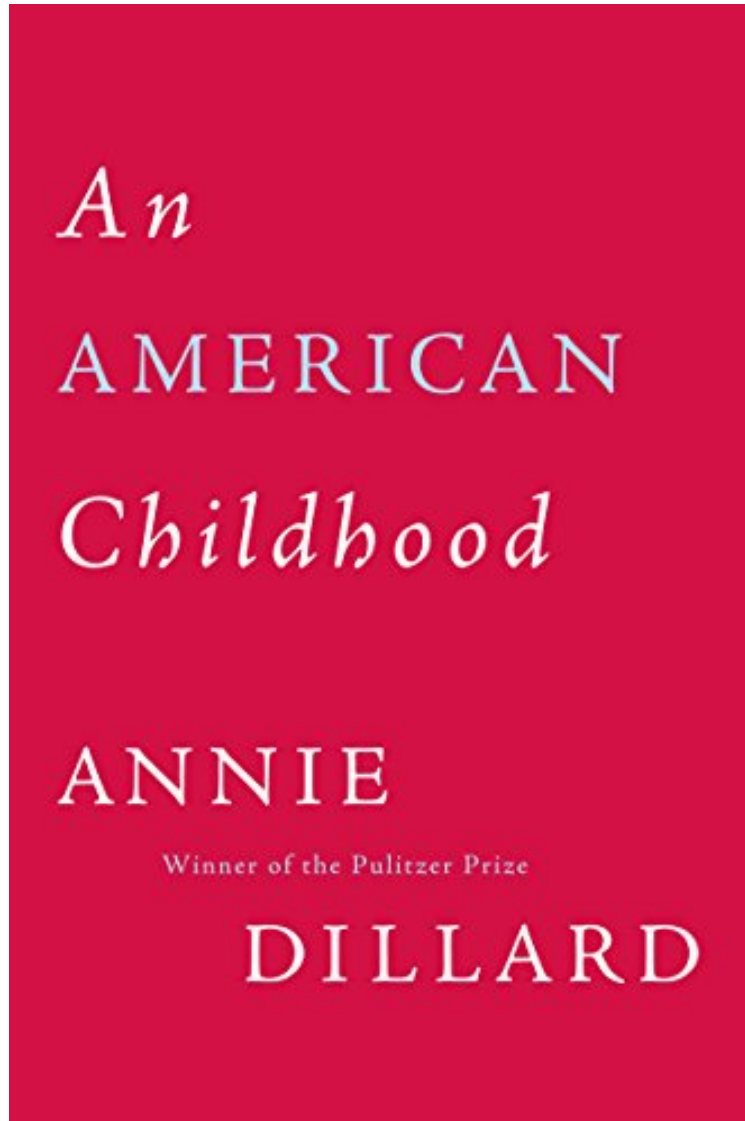


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An American Childhood

Von Annie Dillard

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Von Annie Dillard : An American Childhood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Childhood:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Insight into the author of Pilgrim of Tinker Creek ... butVon Gary SprandelThis provides insight into the author of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, and Holy the First. There are a lot of just fun stories; from a father that boats down the Ohio River to joke telling in the family. Growing up in Pittsburgh, she has a sense of place, a perhaps distorted history that all

children have, of the Carnegies and Mellons, of steel and the Allegheny River. Throughout these threads, is the expansion of the interior life. There is also a discovery of her own intelligence, and her declaration as "Intelligensia". At times this is overdone in the book, seemingly ingenuine, a projection of her adult intelligence onto her own life as a girl.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Annie Dillard revisits her childhood.Von G. MerrittAnnie Dillard is among my favorite writers. With the exceptions of "Tickets for a Prayer Wheel" (which is now apparently out of print) and "The Living," I have read all of her books. Some, "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek," "Teaching a Stone to Talk," and "For the Time Being," I have read more than once, and will read again. I recommend all of Dillard's books, especially these three. Annie Dillard is a fine writer."An American Childhood" is not one of my favorite Dillard books, but it is worth reading. In this memoir, Dillard revisits her childhood. We see young Annie as an inquisitive, bookish girl, hanging out in the library, and studying, among other things, her parents and grandparents, rainwater with her microscope, a long-buried coin, insects, and a robin's nest. "One took note," Dillard writes, "one took notes." We also witness young Annie pondering the mysteries of life and death, subjects she will be writing books about later as an adult.Apparently Dillard was blessed with a happy childhood, for there is not an unhappy memory to be found here. Still, her writing in this memoir is honest, poetic, and insightful.G. Merritt1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Dramatic ComedyVon Holly and AshleyIn our English class, we had to pick a book for an independent reading project. Our teacher gave us a list in which An American Childhood was one of the choices. We chose this book thinking it was going to be easy to read but not knowing how descriptive it was. We recommend An American Childhood for anyone who grew up in the 1950 time period. The author, Annie Dillard, uses descriptive words to help you get a sense of what her childhood was really like. The words that are used also make the book more understandable and more alive. She describes what it is like to grow up when a war is going on. For example, she explains how she had to go through bomb drills nearly every day. So if you are interested in reading a dramatic comedy and you grew up during the 1950's, then this book is definately for you. Even if you didn't grow up during that time, you should still read this book because you will learn more about life.

KurzbeschreibungA book that instantly captured the hearts of readers across the country, An American Childhood is Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard's poignant, vivid memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950s..deAnnie Dillard remembers. She remembers the exhilaration of whipping a snowball at a car and having it hit straight on. She remembers playing with the skin on her mother's knuckles, which "didn't snap back; it lay dead across her knuckle in a yellowish ridge." She remembers the compulsion to spend a whole afternoon (or many whole afternoons) endlessly pitching a ball at a target. In this intoxicating account of her childhood, Dillard climbs back inside her 5-, 10-, and 15-year-old selves with apparent effortlessness. The voracious young Dillard embraces headlong one fascination after another--from drawing to rocks and bugs to the French symbolists. "Everywhere, things snagged me," she writes. "The visible world turned me curious to books; the books propelled me reeling back to the world." From her parents she inherited a love of language--her mother's speech was "an endlessly interesting, swerving path"--and the understanding that "you do what you do out of your private passion for the thing itself," not for anyone else's approval or desire. And one would be mistaken to call the energy Dillard exhibits in An American Childhood merely youthful; "still I break up through the skin of awareness a thousand times a day," she writes, "as dolphins burst through seas, and dive again, and rise, and dive."Pressestimmen"A remarkable work...an exceptionally interesting account." --New York Times""Loving and lyrical, nostalgic without being wistful, this is a book about the capacity for joy." -- "Los Angeles Times""["An American Childhood"] combines the child's sense of wonder with the adult's intelligence and is written in some of the finest prose that exists in contemporary America. It is a special sort of memoir that is entirely successful...This new book is [Annie Dillard's] best, a joyous ode to her own happy childhood." -- "Newark Star-Ledger""The reader who can't find something to whoop about is not alive. "An American Childhood" is perhaps the best American autobiography since Russell Baker's "Growing Up." -- "Philadelphia Inquirer""By turns wry, provocative and sometimes breathtaking...This is a work marked by exquisite insight." -- "Boston Globe""Every paragraph Dillard writes is full of information, presenting the mundane with inventive freshness and offering exotic surprises as dessert...[Annie Dillard] is one of nature's prize wonders herself--an example of sentient homo sapiens pushing the limits of the creative imagination. She deserves our close attentions." -- "St. Louis Post-Dispatch""An American Childhood" shimmers with the same rich detail, the same keen and often wry observations as her first book ["Pilgrim at Tinker Creek"]." -- "Charlotte Observer""A vivid and thoughtful evocation of particular personal experiences that have an exuberantly timeless appeal." -- "Chicago Sun-Times""An American Childhood" does all this so consummately with Annie Dillard's 50s childhood in Pittsburgh that it more than takes the reader's breath away. It consumes you as you consume it, so that, when you have put down this book, you're a different person, one who has virtually experiences another childhood." -- "Chicago Tribune"