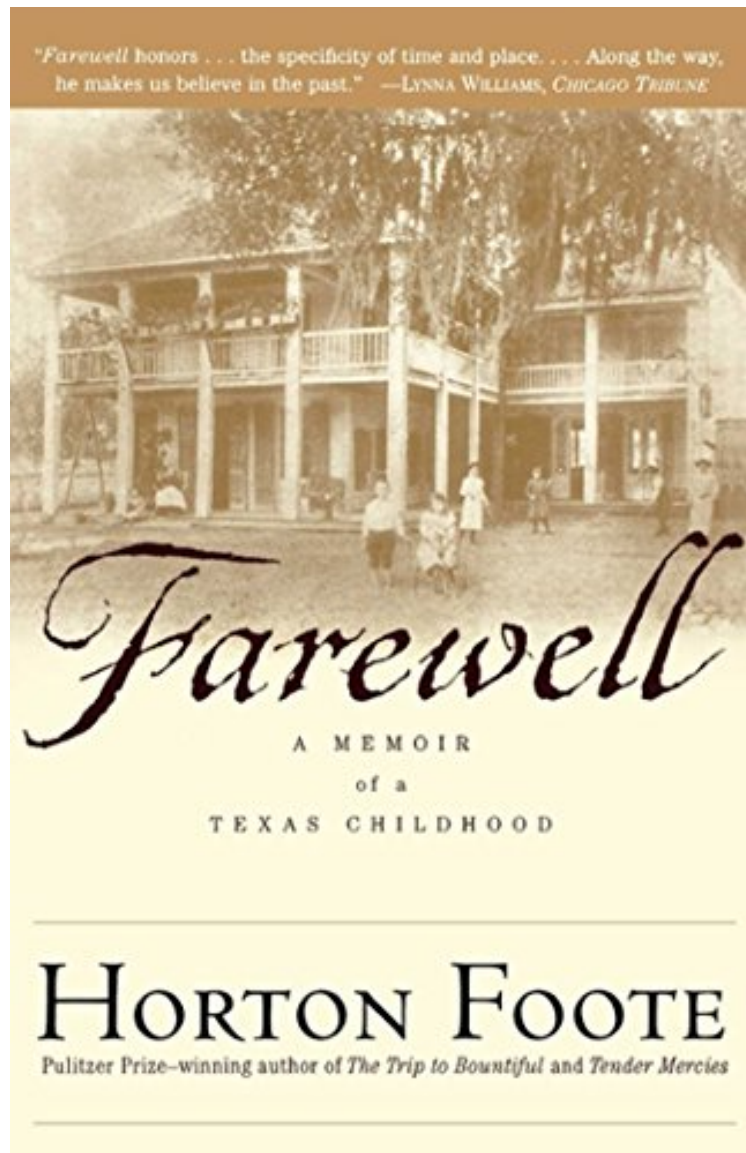


[PDF] Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood (English Edition)

Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood (English Edition)

Von Horton Foote

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Von Horton Foote : Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Time Travel to the First Half of the 20th Century Von Ein Kunde Three nights ago I had the pleasure of meeting Horton Foote when he spoke and signed at an Austin bookstore. One hears his clear, distinctive voice in the cadence of his

prose. Mr. Foote doesn't romanticize the past; he just tells the story of his childhood, leaving the reader with a vision of life in a time when family counted for all and people spoke in whispers about the same types of violence, bigotry, and family secrets that now assail us in the media. For an established playwright, Foote meets the challenge of prose writing successfully. Readers of this book will want a sequel--to know what happened to the teenage Foote who says "Farewell" to small town Wharton, TX and travels by bus to Pasadena, CA intending to launch a career as an actor. Including a genealogy page would have helped this reader. I found myself drawing a scribbled graphic of Foote's multi-branched family tree to keep all the "greats" and uncles and cousins under control. Overall, this was a delightful read putting me back in touch with the world of my parents and grandparents.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Childhood RememberedVon Ein KundeI just finished re-reading this book, and enjoyed it more this time than previously, probably because I literally devoured the first read. I come from a rather limited circle of family and was enchanted by the seemingly endless supply of relatives and their stories. To be embraced by such an environment as a child and to relate this to the reader is to share a very precious gift. Thank you Mr. Foote, and please give us a sequel.

KurzbeschreibungFor more than five decades, Horton Foote, "the Chekhov of the small town," has chronicled with compassion and acuity the changes in American life -- both intimate and universal. His adaptation of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and his original screenplay *Tender Mercies* earned him Academy Awards. He received an Indie Award for Best Writer for *The Trip to Bountiful* and a Pulitzer Prize for *The Young Man from Atlanta*. In his plays and films, Foote has returned over and over again to Wharton, Texas, where he was born and where he lives, once again, in the house in which he grew up. Now for the first time, in *Farewell*, Foote turns to prose to tell his own story and the stories of the real people who have inspired his characters. He was the first child of his generation of Footes, born into an extended family of aunts, great-aunts, grandparents and dozens of cousins once removed, all of whom discovered that even as a young boy Foote was an avid listener with an uncanny ability to extract a story -- including those deemed unfit for children. Foote's memories are of a time when going down to meet the train was an event whether or not you knew someone on it, when black and white children played together until segregation forced them apart at school-age. Foote beautifully maintains the child's-eye view, so that we gradually discover, as did he, that something was wrong with his Brooks uncles, that none of them proved able to keep a job or stay married or quit drinking. We see his growing understanding of all sorts of trouble -- poverty, racism, injustice, marital strife, depression and fear. His memoir is both a celebration of the immense importance of community in our earlier history and evidence that even a strong community cannot save a lost soul. In all of Foote's writing, he reveals the immense drama behind quiet lives, or as Frank Rich has said, "the unbearable turbulence beneath a tranquil surface." *Farewell* is as deeply moving as the best of Foote's writing for film and theater, and a gorgeous testimony to his own faith in the human spirit..deThe marvelous second chapter of *Farewell* sets the mood for everything to come in the noted playwright's memoir of his childhood in tiny Wharton, Texas. As a young Horton Foote questions his parents about their "elopement"--they had to go five blocks across town to be wed by a Baptist minister because his mother's Methodist parents didn't approve of the match--the intricate web of kinship, friendship, and local geography that shapes small-town life is hilariously yet touchingly revealed in each of their asides and elaborations. Foote's birth in 1916 healed the family rift, and he grew up in a cozy environment where everyone knew everyone else and more or less accepted their eccentricities. He doesn't gloss over the harsh realities of racial prejudice and segregation, but his tone is nonetheless elegiac, glowing with the magic of the characters' storytelling. Southerners have always been famous for their ability to spin yarns, and Foote captures that in extended passages of conversation. Direct quotes are generally cause for suspicion in a memoir, but when the dialogue has the same vigor and subtlety found in the author's screenplays and plays (*A Trip to Bountiful* and *The Young Man from Atlanta* among them), you're willing to give Foote the benefit of the doubt. --Wendy SmithFrom BooklistAs anyone who has seen a Horton Foote play, such as *The Man from Atlanta*, or a movie made from one of his screenplays, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Tender Mercies*, and *A Trip to Bountiful*, can attest, he is a sneaky storyteller. His tales, most of them set in the Texas of his childhood, unfold with the slow, easy grace of a flower opening to the sun. But this languor is deceptive, because before each story ends, it shakes its audience to the roots. The same can be said of his memoir. The loose collection of reminiscences of his childhood and family, from before his birth to his high-school graduation, loops back and forth in time with the relaxed air of after-dinner chat. But by the end of the all-too-brief, beautifully written volume, Foote's relations feel like our family, and Foote's memories of life in the segregated South before and during the Great Depression seem more vivid than any of our own. Jack Helbig