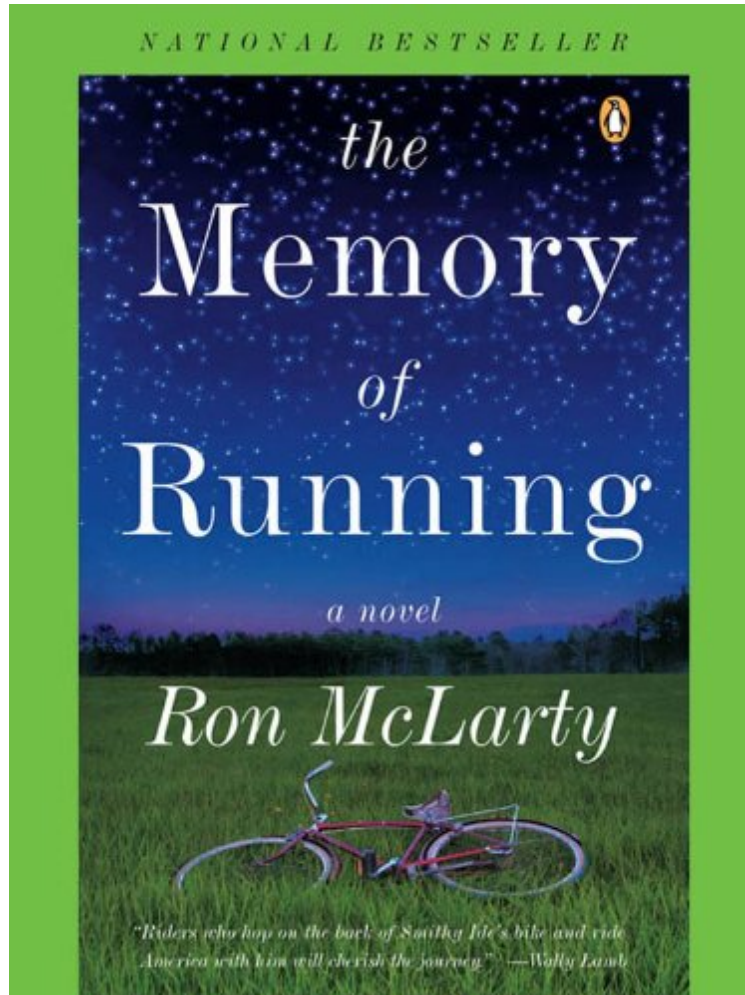


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## The Memory of Running

Von Ron McLarty

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**Von Ron McLarty : The Memory of Running** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Memory of Running:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
unforgettable readVon Tom HenrySmithson Ide is an overweight, forty-three year old bachelor, who indulges in having too many drinks while avoiding any form of physical exercise. His dreary life in a provincial New England town comes to a halt, when he suddenly has to deal with the unexpected death of his beloved parents. In an attempt to regain his inner balance, he remembers his love for cycling and sets off for a ride,which leads him all way to California. The further west he travels, the deeper he delves into his past, trying to come to terms with the mysterious fate of his missing sister Bethany.Ron McLarty delivers a wonderful story about love, companionship and the difficult quest of a lonely man trying to recapture the meaning of life. His pure narrative skills take you far beyond the line

which separates good books from literature.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sympathischer Selbstfindungstrip Von \_Buchliebhaber\_ "The Memory of Running" erzählt die Geschichte von Smithy Ide, einem 43-jährigen Einzelgänger wider Willen, der zu viel trinkt, zu viel isst und insgesamt plan- und ziellos durchs Leben geht. Als seine Eltern bei einem Unfall sterben und er vom Tod seiner seit über 20 Jahren vermissten Schwester Bethany erfährt, steigt der angetrunkene Smithy spontan auf sein altes Fahrrad und macht sich auf eine Reise quer durch die USA. Die Geschichte wechselt immer wieder zwischen Gegenwart und Vergangenheit. In der Gegenwart erzählt Smithy von seinen Erlebnissen auf der Reise, den Menschen, die er unterwegs kennenlernt und seinen Telefonaten mit Norma, die ihn als Kind angeheimelt hat und zu der er nun zaghaft eine (Fern-) Beziehung aufbaut. Die Episoden aus der Vergangenheit handeln hauptsächlich von Bethany, deren psychische Erkrankung über die Jahre seine Familie immer wieder auf harte Proben gestellt hat. "The Memory of Running" ist ein eher ruhiges Buch, bei dem echte Spannung selten aufkommt. Selbst die an sich dramatischen Episoden aus Smithys Vergangenheit werden so zurückhaltend erzählt, dass sie aus dem ruhigen Erzählfluss kaum herausstechen. Dennoch ist das Buch nie langweilig und wirklich schön zu lesen. Es ist sehr gut geschrieben, und man findet sehr leicht und schnell in die Geschichte. Smithy ist eine ausgesprochen gelungene Figur: Ein durch und durch netter Kerl, der immer das Richtige tun will, aber in vielen Situationen unbeholfen und berfordert reagiert. Er sieht sich selbst (über-)kritisch und kommt erst im Laufe seiner Reise auf den Gedanken, dass es noch nicht zu spät ist, sein tristes Leben zu ändern. Er ist ein sehr liebenswerter Mensch, und als Leser begleitet man ihn gern auf seiner Reise zu sich selbst und gönnt ihm jeden kleinen Moment der Freude. Vielleicht kein Buch, das einen zu Begeisterungsstürmen veranlasst, denn dafür ist es zu unspektakulär. Trotzdem eine wirklich lesens- und liebenswerte Geschichte, die mir sicher noch länger im Gedächtnis bleiben wird. "The Times" wird auf dem Cover zitiert mit "Simply a good book well written". Dem ist eigentlich nichts hinzuzufügen.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wie eine Reise einen Menschen verändert Von Peer Sylvester Smithy Ide ist ein Loser: Anfang 40, stark übergewichtig, oft betrunken, keine Freunde, kein Liebesleben und ein stumpfer Job. Dann sterben seine Eltern und er bekommt beunruhigende Nachrichten über seine verschollene, geistesgestörte Schwester. Mehr zufällig setzt er sich auf sein altes Fahrrad und beginnt zu fahren - quer durch die USA von Rhode Island nach L.A. Dabei verarbeitet er seine Vergangenheit. Das ist wunderbar geschrieben, je weiter er fährt, desto mehr erfährt man auch selbst. Hinzu kommen die vielen kleinen Geschichten, die vielen kleinen Begegnungen, die er unterwegs hat. Dabei ist das Buch zwar in einem locker-leichten Tonfall gehalten, die Geschichten selbst sind aber oft melancholisch und nachdenklich. Nach langsamem Beginn hat mir das Buch daher sehr gut gefallen - es ist unterhaltsam und regt zum Nachdenken an. Das einzige was mich persönlich stört ist der Hauptdarsteller. Es liegt natürlich in der Geschichte begründet, dass er einflüchtig und ein bisschen dumm ist - mich stört das aber immer wieder. Wenn jemand so offensichtlich falsche Entscheidungen trifft, wie der Hauptdarsteller (der nicht umsonst angefangen hat, zu trinken...), nervt mich das einfach. Aber das ist eben eher eine persönliche Vorliebe und sollte einen nicht vom Lesen abhalten!

Kurzbeschreibung Every decade seems to produce a novel that captures the public's imagination with a story that sweeps readers up and takes them on a thrilling, unforgettable ride. Ron McLarty's *The Memory of Running* is this decade's novel. By all accounts, especially his own, Smithson "Smithy" Ide is a loser. An overweight, friendless, chain-smoking, forty-three-year-old drunk, Smithy's life becomes completely unhinged when he loses his parents and long-lost sister within the span of one week. Rolling down the driveway of his parents' house in Rhode Island on his old Raleigh bicycle to escape his grief, the emotionally bereft Smithy embarks on an epic, hilarious, luminous, and extraordinary journey of discovery and redemption. deRon McLarty has joined the ranks of writers of the quirky hero with *The Memory of Running*. His hero, Smithy Ide, is in the grand tradition of Ignatius J. Reilly of *A Confederacy of Dunces* and Quoyle of *The Shipping News*. What these gentlemen have in common is their lumpen-loser looks, their outsider status and their general befuddlement about the way the world works and their place in it. Smithy rises above them because of his self-effacing nature, his great capacity for love, his inability to show it and his endless willingness to forgive. Smithy is a 279-pound, hard-drinking, chain-smoking, 43-year-old misfit who works in a G.I. Joe factory putting arms and legs on the action heroes. (How did McLarty come up with that?) He is also the most beguiling anti-hero to come into view in a long, long time. McLarty, an award-winning actor and playwright best known for his many appearances on TV in *Law Order*, *Sex and the City*, *The Practice*, and *Judging Amy*, has added another star to his creative crown with this novel. The first sentence of the book is: "My parents' Ford station wagon hit a concrete divider on U.S. 95 outside Biddeford, Maine, in August 1990." This tragic accident eventually claims both their lives. It is on the day of their funeral that Smithy finds a letter to his father about Bethany, his beloved and deeply troubled sister, stating that, "Bethany Ide, 51, died from complications of exposure... and she has since that time been in the Los Angeles Morgue West." Beautiful Bethany, given to taking off her clothes in public places, holding impossible poses for long periods of time, responding to voices that only she can hear, and disappearing for no known reason. This time, she has been gone for many years and now Smithy knows that she died destitute and alone. When he reads the letter, he is drunk, grief-stricken and, despite a house full of people, he is alone. He goes out to the garage to smoke and have

another drink and spies his old Raleigh bicycle. He sits on it, flat tires and all, wheels it to the end of the driveway--and--Smithy doesn't know it yet, but he is going to ride a bicycle from Maine to Los Angeles to claim his sister's remains. On the road he meets the good, the bad, and the really bad. He frequently calls Norma, the Ides' across-the-street neighbor, confined to a wheelchair for years, and always in love with him. He has never acknowledged nor returned her ardor, but he starts to count on her friendship during his travels. Their conversations are sweet and revelatory. McLarty has done a superb job of showing us who Smithy is and who he is becoming. It's a wonderful story told with great poignancy and humor. --Valerie Ryan.com

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