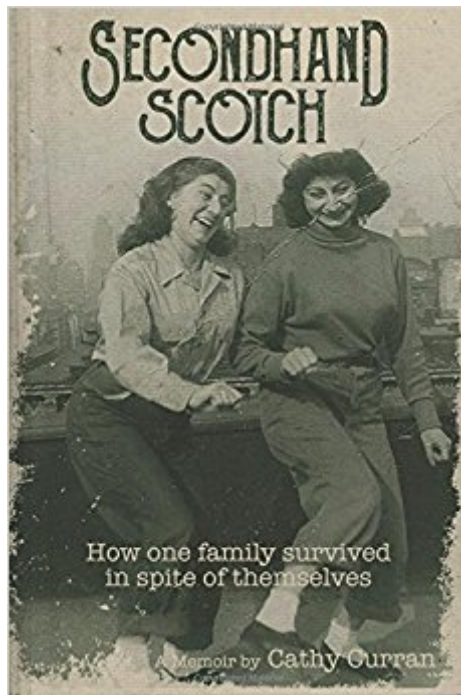




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Secondhand Scotch: How One Family Survived In Spite Of Themselves



Synopsis

When your grandparents make bathtub gin and go shopping with funny money, and your dad flaunts his degree from the school of hard knocks, you grow up learning that âœlife ainâ™t no got-dem picnic.â• These lessons are handed down to Cathy Curran by Eastern European immigrants who learned how to survive, caring little for aestheticsâ”âœif it worrrks, who gives a got-dem what da hell it looks like.â• Lucky for Curran, her mother is a gentle soul with a dry wit. Lillian Lowâ™s homespun valuesâ”people come in all flavors just like ice creamâ”bring joy and humor into the Low house. When restless Joe Low ditches one suburb for another because he wants a do-over, Lillian tells him, âœHow the hell many do you need? Donâ™t you know that wherever you go, youâ™ve got to take yourself with you?â• Along for the ride is the colorful, extended Low clan, who turn up to celebrate the arrival of Joe and Lillianâ™s army of kids. They eat, sing, Joe gets plastered, and all too often, scotch-fired arguments lead to some good old-fashioned fistfights. The mayhem that actually started the brawl gets swept under the carpet, and when Curran finally pulls it up, pandemonium emerges from hell with a vengeance. Through the vision of a sensitive young girl with a wickedly funny voice, âœSecondhand Scotchâ• uncorks some harsh realities, but never ceases to warm and entertain.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition (February 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1523709391

ISBN-13: 978-1523709397

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ• See all reviewsÂ• (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,564,758 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 inÂ• Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Extended Families #339 inÂ• Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Grandparenting #379 inÂ• Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Abuse

Customer Reviews

Written over a ten year period, this extraordinarily well-researched memoir tells the story of the authorâ™s Eastern European family from the late 1800s when, as immigrants, they settle in the

United States. With very little money but an uncompromisingly tough attitude, and great resourcefulness to back them up, her great grandparents survive and create decent lives. But it is hard, especially for the children. Each family member is expected to pull their weight and failure to do so results in a summary beating. This is the culture that Cathy's father, Joe, is born into. Rather than learning from the mistakes of his Russian father, Joe adopts the same approach in his own life. Joe marries Lillian, a beautiful young lady of Armenian and Greek descent who has a personality that combines a dry wit with a strong sense of family traditions. Both coming from large families, they follow suit and produce nine children of their own. Cathy is one of these. We learn through her young eyes about their turbulent upbringing with a father who works hard, drinks hard and often vents his violent passions on his wife and family. She also gives us an insight into her sibling relationships, one sister of whom is plagued by jealousy and treacherous inclinations which leads to dreadful consequences. But the book is not solely an account of family abuse. Cathy gives an insight into the riotous experiences they have with other family members at clan reunions. With a multitude of eccentric cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents it's a time for socialising and fun. It's time for singing, dancing, eating and telling stories. But it's also a time for drinking. All too frequently they end up in a fistfight as Joe succumbs once again to the excesses of scotch whisky.

I was offered a beta copy of this book by a third party, to read prior to publication. The opening sentence of Chapter 1 "I was born wanting to live, but I lived wanting to die, and now that most of my life is gone, I want to live again." makes an interesting opening. It is suggestive of the content of the book, with greater understanding evolving for the reader as they begin to vicariously live the life of the author. As an adult, the author has learned to make sense of the inter-generational family violence she witnesses, both the physical and emotional. Rising above the many negative experiences, Cathy Curran writes with empathy and understanding of her family and their history, and in the process, finds her own place within that history. While there is violence, there is humour within this story, some of it comical and some of it black humour. Fortunately this helps to lighten the experience for the reader, given the abusive nature of many family members. This book is a well-documented inter-generational family history of negative behaviours. This is not a "poor me" story, but one of the struggles the author's forebears endured in their own homelands and also in their emigration and settling in the USA. Her own struggles as a child seeking love and approval but more frequently receiving rejection, are also documented. In the midst of such a large extended family full of love for one another, it seems to be a contradiction in the midst of the emotional and physical abuse that frequently erupts amongst the adults. The same abuses regularly exist between

the author and her father, and the author and her older sister, which invariably involves further punishment for the author, from her father.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Secondhand Scotch: How One Family Survived In Spite Of Themselves How to Raise a Healthy Child in Spite of Your Doctor: One of America's Leading Pediatricians Puts Parents Back in Control of Their Children's Health Cooking for One: 365 Recipes For One, Quick and Easy Recipes (Healthy Cooking for One, Easy Cooking for One, One Pot, One Pan) North of Normal: A Memoir of My Wilderness Childhood, My Unusual Family, and How I Survived Both The Making of Modern Colombia: A Nation in Spite of Itself In Spite of the Gods: The Rise of Modern India How to Boil an Egg: Poach One, Scramble One, Fry One, Bake One, Steam One Butter & Scotch: Recipes from Brooklyn's Favorite Bar and Bakery Michael Jackson's Complete Guide to Single Malt Scotch, 7th Edition Whiskey Women: The Untold Story of How Women Saved Bourbon, Scotch, and Irish Whiskey Scots on Scotch: The Book of Whisky Underwood, Scotch, and Wry Craps & Roulette: A Brief Primer and a Few No BS Betting Strategies That Just Might Improve Your Performance* (*Just as boringly as the casinos do for themselves.) The Cleanest Race: How North Koreans See Themselves and Why It Matters Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772 They Thought for Themselves: Ten Amazing Jews Set Free to Live Free: Breaking Through the 7 Lies Women Tell Themselves How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves, Taking Advantage of Early Conditioned Learning The Wrecking Crew: How Conservatives Ruined Government, Enriched Themselves, and Beggared the Nation Confessions of a Depressed Christian: How a Pastor Survived Depression & How You Can Too

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)