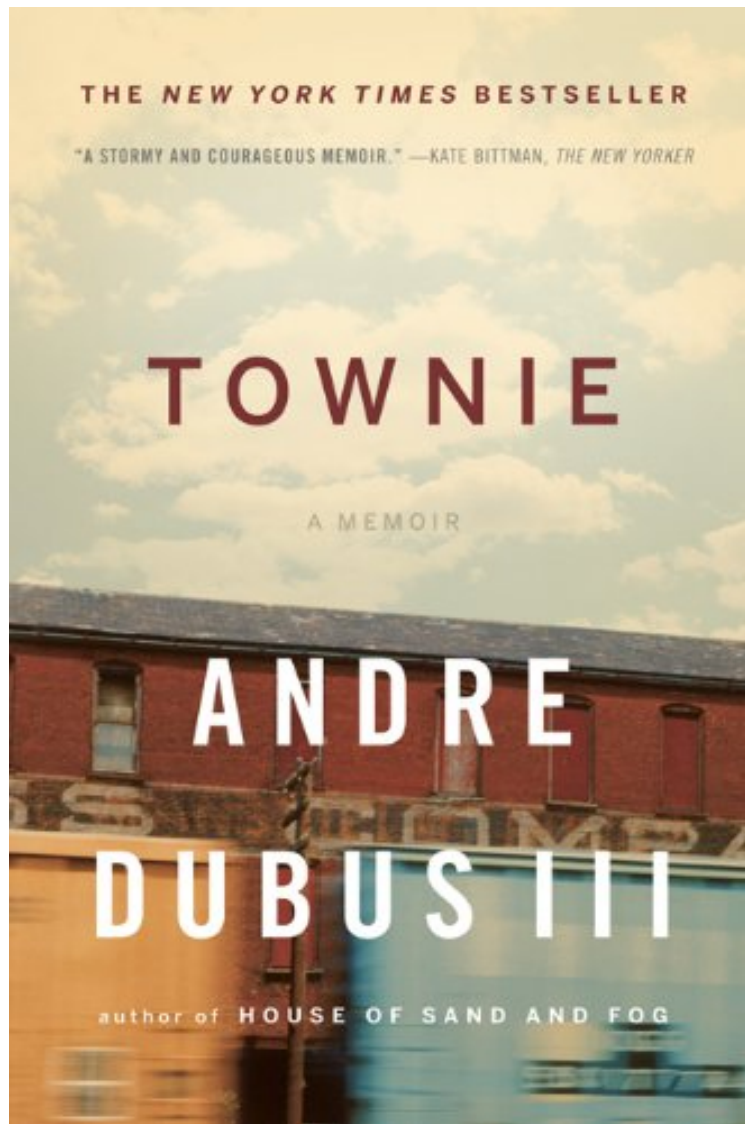


(Read free ebook) Townie: A Memoir

## Townie: A Memoir

Von *Andre Dubus III*  
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**Von Andre Dubus III : Townie: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Townie: A Memoir:

KurzbeschreibungWon Book of the Year Adult Non-Fiction2012 Indie Choice Awards Best Book of the Month

February 2011 "Dubus relives, absent self-pity or blame, a life shaped by bouts of violence and flurries of tenderness." Vanity Fair After their parents divorced in the 1970s, Andre Dubus III and his three siblings grew up with their overworked mother in a depressed Massachusetts mill town saturated with drugs and everyday violence. Nearby, his father, an eminent author, taught on a college campus and took the kids out on Sundays. The clash between town and gown, between the hard drinking, drugging, and fighting of "townies" and the ambitions of students debating books and ideas, couldn't have been more stark. In this unforgettable memoir, acclaimed novelist Dubus shows us how he escaped the cycle of violence and found empathy in channeling the stories of others bridging, in the process, the rift between his father and himself. *Pressestimmen* You have to buy Townie. Fans of Dubus' fiction will thrill to reading his muscular, occasionally lyrical prose rendering his own life. In his memoir Townie, Andre Dubus III bravely claims all of the shadows he grew up under his famous writer father, his parents divorce, his newly single mother's impoverishment, the rough streets of the many working-class New England towns he called home. Fighting saved him for a while; then he put down his fists and picked up a pen. Lucky him, lucky us. "This is a memoir both disconcertingly naked and immensely careful; Dubus refrains from bitterness the way a Buddhist monk renounces worldly possessions.... It's tempting to get angry on the author's behalf, but Townie patiently teaches its readers that rage is self-poisoning. --Laura Miller "Dubus III, author of the critically acclaimed novel House of Sand and Fog, relates the story of his childhood and young adulthood with an immediate, raw intensity it's at times difficult to read, but it's almost impossible to turn away. His prose is unaffected in the best way possible; there's never a hint of preciousness or pretentiousness. And his depictions of the northeastern Massachusetts of the '70s are stark and evocative; like his father, Dubus III is a master of setting. --Michael Schaub "Dubus writes compellingly of those trying times. Townie is a poignant coming-of-age story told by a man whose raw determination allowed him to endure a boyhood ruled by violence and emerge talented enough to write about it with brutal honesty. "Write what you know. It's an adage drilled into anyone who's ever put pen to paper or fingers to keys. It's also what makes memoirs such a test for fiction writers. Andre Dubus III passes that test with the highest marks in Townie. It's a searing memoir; a punch in the gut, literally.... [Dubus has] discovered, during a life of enduring and inflicting pain, his voice as a writer. Townie captures the birth and evolution of that voice one worth listening to by anyone who believes in the redemptive power of the written word. "Townie is a better, harder book than anything the younger Mr. Dubus has yet written; it pays off on every bet that's been placed on him.... Mr. Dubus's prose is clear, supple, unshowy.... you'll agree with the boxing coach who said to Mr. Dubus as a teenager, 'I think you got the killer instinct, kid.' "Townie has all the rich texture, lucid characterization, compelling conflicts and narrative momentum of the best fiction. It renders heartbreaking, violent, tender and sometimes absurdly comic scenes without a trace of narcissism or sentimentality. From first sentence to last, Dubus employs a dispassionate yet urgent voice. It allows him to do justice to his past and to the people who populated it. "His ability to describe violence might be unmatched among contemporary writers. He understands the arcane, unspoken vocabulary of how fights start, as well as the bone-crushing details of how they end. But Townie is most memorable for how vulnerable Dubus seems, once he has stripped himself down to the soul for his readers. "This haunting memoir is as explosive as a Muhammad Ali prize fight, as vivid as a Basquiat canvas.... Townie moves with the accelerating momentum of a thriller novel, plumbs the depths of a bittersweet love affair, and rends the reader's heart in two. --Dan Cryer "[A]n unflinching memoir, describing the degrees of darkness and light he found.... Dubus has set a high water mark in this work: He shows us that the son's shadow can also be long, and can change the shape of that which came before it. "You have to buy Townie. "Compelling, riveting, gritty and astonishingly moving, Dubus's memoir Townie achieves that rarest of qualities: it makes us love the boy who becomes the man. --Anita Shreve, author of Rescue "I've never read a better or more serious meditation on violence, its sources, consequences, and, especially, its terrifying pleasures, than Townie. It's a brutal and, yes, thrilling memoir that sheds real light on the creative process of two of our best writers, Andre Dubus III and his famous, much-revered father. You'll never read the work of either man in quite the same way afterward. You may not view the world in quite the same way either. --Richard Russo, author of Empire Falls "The best first-person account of an author's life I have ever read. The violence that is described is the kind that is with us every day, whether we recognize it or not. The characters are wonderful and compassionately drawn. I sincerely believe Andre Dubus may be the best writer in America. His talent is enormous. No one who reads this book will ever forget it. --James Lee Burke, author of the Dave Robicheaux novels "Starred . Dubus chronicles each traumatic incident and realization in stabbing detail. So chiseled are his dramatic memories, his shocking yet redemptive memoir of self-transformation feels like testimony under oath as well as hard-hammered therapy, coalescing, ultimately, in a generous, penetrating, and cathartic dissection of misery and fury, creativity and forgiveness, responsibility and compassion. Starred . His compassionate memoir abounds with exquisitely rendered scenes of fighting, cheating, drugging, drinking and loving. A striking, eloquent account of growing up poor and of the making of a writer. [Dubus] is such a solid writer, he redeems the genre. He shows that truth can be as honest as fiction. Townie has all the rich texture, lucid characterization, compelling conflicts and narrative momentum of the best fiction. It renders heartbreaking, violent, tender and sometimes absurdly comic scenes without a trace of narcissism or sentimentality. From first sentence to last, Dubus employs a dispassionate yet urgent voice. It allows him to do justice to his past and to the people who populated it. Fans of Dubus's fiction will thrill to

reading his muscular, occasionally lyrical prose rendering his own life."Whatever it cost Dubus to bare his soul and write this brutally honest and life-affirming memoir, it is an extraordinary gift to his readers.--Wally Lamb, author of *The Hour I First Believed*[A] harrowing and strange and beautiful book....an important moment in the growing body of Dubus's work.Fans of Dubus's fiction will thrill to reading his muscular, occasionally lyrical prose rendering his own life.In this powerful memoir, Andre Dubus III explores the complicated and intense relationships between siblings, mothers and sons, and fathers and sons. Growing up in hardscrabble old mill towns, Dubus learned to fight and survive and ultimately to find his own glorious voice ... as Dubus finds his redemptive place in the world at last.--Ann Hood, author of *The Red Thread*KurzbeschreibungWon Book of the Year Adult Non-Fiction2012 Indie Choice Awards Best Book of the Month February 2011"Dubus relives, absent self-pity or blame, a life shaped by bouts of violence and flurries of tenderness."Vanity FairAfter their parents divorced in the 1970s, Andre Dubus III and his three siblings grew up with their overworked mother in a depressed Massachusetts mill town saturated with drugs and everyday violence. Nearby, his father, an eminent author, taught on a college campus and took the kids out on Sundays. The clash between town and gown, between the hard drinking, drugging, and fighting of "townies" and the ambitions of students debating books and ideas, couldnt have been more stark. In this unforgettable memoir, acclaimed novelist Dubus shows us how he escaped the cycle of violence and found empathy in channeling the stories of othersbridging, in the process, the rift between his father and himself.