



 Get Print Book

Running with Scissors: A Memoir

By Augusten Burroughs



Download



Read Online

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs

Now including an excerpt from *Lust & Wonder*, a new memoir coming in March 2016.

Running with Scissors is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her psychiatrist, a dead-ringer for Santa and a lunatic in the bargain. Suddenly, at age twelve, Augusten Burroughs found himself living in a dilapidated Victorian in perfect squalor. The doctor's bizarre family, a few patients, and a pedophile living in the backyard shed completed the tableau. Here, there were no rules, there was no school. The Christmas tree stayed up until summer, and Valium was eaten like Pez. And when things got dull, there was always the vintage electroshock therapy machine under the stairs....

Running with Scissors is at turns foul and harrowing, compelling and maniacally funny. But above all, it chronicles an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances.



[Download Running with Scissors: A Memoir ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Running with Scissors: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

Running with Scissors: A Memoir

By Augusten Burroughs

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs

Now including an excerpt from *Lust & Wonder*, a new memoir coming in March 2016.

Running with Scissors is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her psychiatrist, a dead-ringer for Santa and a lunatic in the bargain. Suddenly, at age twelve, Augusten Burroughs found himself living in a dilapidated Victorian in perfect squalor. The doctor's bizarre family, a few patients, and a pedophile living in the backyard shed completed the tableau. Here, there were no rules, there was no school. The Christmas tree stayed up until summer, and Valium was eaten like Pez. And when things got dull, there was always the vintage electroshock therapy machine under the stairs....

Running with Scissors is at turns foul and harrowing, compelling and maniacally funny. But above all, it chronicles an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #37969 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-04-01
- Released on: 2010-04-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Running with Scissors: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Running with Scissors: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

There is a passage early in Augusten Burroughs's harrowing and highly entertaining memoir, *Running with Scissors*, that speaks volumes about the author. While going to the garbage dump with his father, young Augusten spots a chipped, glass-top coffee table that he longs to bring home. "I knew I could hide the chip by fanning a display of magazines on the surface, like in a doctor's office," he writes, "And it certainly wouldn't be dirty after I polished it with Windex for three hours." There were certainly numerous chips in the childhood Burroughs describes: an alcoholic father, an unstable mother who gives him up for adoption to her therapist, and an adolescence spent as part of the therapist's eccentric extended family, gobbling prescription meds and fooling around with both an old electroshock machine and a pedophile who lives in a shed out back. But just as he dreamed of doing with that old table, Burroughs employs a vigorous program of decoration and fervent polishing to a life that many would have simply thrown in a landfill. Despite her abandonment, he never gives up on his increasingly unbalanced mother. And rather than despair about his lot, he glamorizes it: planning a "beauty empire" and performing an a capella version of "You Light Up My Life" at a local mental ward. Burroughs's perspective achieves a crucial balance for a memoir: emotional but not self-involved, observant but not clinical, funny but not deliberately comic. And it's ultimately a feel-good story: as he steers through a challenging childhood, there's always a sense that Burroughs's survivor mentality will guide him through and that the coffee table will be salvaged after all. --*John Moe*

From Publishers Weekly

"Bookman gave me attention. We would go for long walks and talk about all sorts of things. Like how awful the nuns were in his Catholic school when he was a kid and how you have to roll your lips over your teeth when you give a blowjob," writes Burroughs (Sellelevision) about his affair, at age 13, with the 33-year-old son of his mother's psychiatrist. That his mother sent him to live with her shrink (who felt that the affair was good therapy for Burroughs) shows that this is not just another 1980s coming-of-age story. The son of a poet with a "wild mental imbalance" and a professor with a "pitch-black dark side," Burroughs is sent to live with Dr. Finch when his parents separate and his mother comes out as a lesbian. While life in the Finch household is often overwhelming (the doctor talks about masturbating to photos of Golda Meir while his wife rages about his adulterous behavior), Burroughs learns "your life [is] your own and no adult should be allowed to shape it for you." There are wonderful moments of paradoxical humor Burroughs, who accepts his homosexuality as a teen, rejects the squeaky-clean pop icon Anita Bryant because she was "tacky and classless" as well as some horrifying moments, as when one of Finch's daughters has a semi-breakdown and thinks that her cat has come back from the dead. Beautifully written with a finely tuned sense of style and wit the occasional cliché, ("Life would be fabric-softener, tuna-salad-on-white, PTA-meeting normal") stands out anomalously this memoir of a nightmarish youth is both compulsively entertaining and tremendously provocative.

Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This memoir by Burroughs is certainly unique; among other adventures, he recounts how his mother's psychiatrist took her to a motel for therapy, while at home the kids chopped a hole in the roof to make the kitchen brighter. Not all craziness, though, this account reveals the feelings of sadness and dislocation this unusual upbringing brought upon Burroughs and his friends. His early family life was characterized by his parents' break-and-destroy fights, and after his parents separated, his mother practically abandoned Burroughs in hopes of achieving fame as a poet. At 12, he went to live with the family (and a few patients) of his mother's psychiatrist. At the doctor's home, children did as they wished: they skipped school, ate

whatever they wanted, engaged in whatever sexual adventures came along, and trashed the house and everything in it, while the mother watched TV and occasionally dusted. Burroughs has written an entertaining yet horrifying account that isn't for the squeamish: the scatological content and explicit homosexual episodes may limit its appeal. Recommended for the adventurous seeking an unsettling experience among the grotesque. Nancy R. Ives, SUNY at Geneseo
Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gertrude Call:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book *Running with Scissors: A Memoir* seemed to be making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The guide *Running with Scissors: A Memoir* is not only giving you more new information but also for being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship together with the book *Running with Scissors: A Memoir*. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Eddie Horton:

Now a day people who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources included can be true or not demand people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this *Running with Scissors: A Memoir* book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Dallas Richardson:

Reading a book to become new life style in this year; every people loves to study a book. When you read a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The *Running with Scissors: A Memoir* provide you with a new experience in reading a book.

Nancy Stever:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart or real their passion. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and also can't see

colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Running with Scissors: A Memoir can make you truly feel more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online Running with Scissors: A Memoir By
Augusten Burroughs #LZFIU32YNJA**

Read Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs for online ebook

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs books to read online.

Online Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs ebook PDF download

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs Doc

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs Mobipocket

Running with Scissors: A Memoir By Augusten Burroughs EPub