

(Download free ebook) The War Came Home with Him: A Daughter's Memoir

The War Came Home with Him: A Daughter's Memoir

Cathy Madison

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*

The War Came Home With Him



A Daughter's Memoir

Catherine Madison

DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1395020 in Books 2015-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0816698775232 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Cathy Madison : The War Came Home with Him: A Daughter's Memoir before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The War Came Home with Him: A Daughter's Memoir*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great story
By Robert Wetherille
As a member of the baby boom generation, I was struck by my lack of knowledge of the Korean War. My dad was a WWII vet, and my uncle a Korea vet. Recently I asked my uncle about his military experience- all he could say was that it was the most miserable 2 years of his life. I lost friends and knew people who were POWs in Vietnam, but never knew how horrible the

situation was for prisoners of the Korean conflict. As I read Catherine's book, I reflected on my experiences growing up where nearly every teacher or dad was a vet, some even POWs. Some seemed to have personalities which were troubled by their experience. The behaviors of Doc reminded me of a dysfunctional neighbor who had been a prisoner in the South Pacific. The intelligence of the members of the Boysen family seemed to carry them through to successful lives, despite the tortured life Doc lived and its effect on his family. An inspiring story of a family who seemed to have survived it all.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Harrowing story but lacks reflection by author about what she learned and being able to confront her abuser

By Inquiring Mind
Madison's childhood growing up with a father suffering from internalized trauma/PTSD and a mother who chose not to protect her is at times riveting and confounding. She nails what it is like to be raised by a controlling, authoritarian, abusive father. The parallel story about his time in the Korean War and a participant in the Death March is heartbreaking. I saw her read last year at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis after being nominated for a MN book award (she didn't get it). It compelled me to buy the book.

However, I was left with questions and an unsatisfying conclusion. She has two brothers and their experience with the father is barely touched on. Did her brothers get away with behavior (real or perceived by this paranoid maniac) because they were male? Was there more incestuous behavior? He certainly was guilty of emotional incest and she talks about the total lack of privacy - very common in families where there is incest. My biggest disappointment with the book is her lack of coming to terms with her abusive parents, there is little reflecting back on her experience in a way that shows the reader she has moved on, would not tolerate that behavior today, can confront abuse when she sees it today. Did she ever go to therapy? Did she ever confront her father or mother about the abuse or was she simply reactive? As an adult, she still seemed to be always surprised when he blew up. I am writing a book on father/daughter incest and one of the most important things beyond telling the story of my childhood is what I have learned about myself, my family, and the characteristics of an abusive family that gives some insight to the reader. I guess I wanted Madison to stand up to her father and mother. The whole thing about her first pregnancy and their uber control over her wedding is a case in point. Perhaps she wasn't in a place to be that strong and honest at that time, but there was opportunity later. Writing letter(s) to the offender is a great place to start naming the abuse. What they do with that is something the survivor cannot control, but the very act of putting words down and stating examples of the abuse is a powerful thing to do.

I also wondered about a story she told of living in Minneapolis and two black men coming to her door (she had just given birth to her daughter) asking to look at an apartment for rent. This story goes nowhere except twice she writes about the neighborhood being questionable. One thing I get from reading a lot of memoirs is what not to do as a writer. This is one of them. This story seemed mildly racist (I am a white 66 years old woman) and did nothing to drive the narrative. I am surprised an editor didn't catch this.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring Look at a Cruel War, as Unspoken Questions are Answered

By Hunter Brumfield
As a child of a Korean War Army vet I shared so many of the feelings with this author. Her vivid description of what happened to her father who was a POW in extremely cruel and challenging conditions helped me understand how lucky we all were to have come out of that terrible war with heads held high and backs unbowed. Thank you, Catherine, for the cathartic release your book can give to several generations of military vets and their offspring. This book goes a long way to answering questions we never knew to ask, but fortunately you did.

During his years as a POW in North Korea, "Doc" Boysen endured hardships he never intended to pass along, especially to his family. Men who refused to eat starved; his children would clean their plates. Men who were weak died; his children would develop character. They would also learn to fear their father, the hero. In a memoir at once harrowing and painfully poignant, Catherine Madison tells the stories of two survivors of one man's war: a father who withstood a prison camp's unspeakable inhumanity and a daughter who withstood the residual cruelty that came home with him. Doc Boysen died fifty years after his ordeal, his POW experience concealed to the end in a hidden cache of documents. In *The War Came Home with Him*, Madison pieces together the horrible tale these papers told—of a young captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps captured in July 1950, beaten and forced to march without shoes or coat on icy trails through mountains to camps where North Korean and Chinese captors held him for more than three years. As the truth about her father's past unfolds, Madison returns to a childhood troubled by his secret torment to consider, in a new light, the telling moments in their complex relationship. Beginning at her father's deathbed, with all her questions still unspoken, and ending with their final conversation, Madison's dual memoir offers a powerful, intimate perspective on the suppressed grief and thwarted love that forever alter a family when a wounded soldier brings his war home.

"A mesmerizing page-turner. Catherine Madison has written a captivating, beautifully crafted tale of the horrors her father endured as a prisoner of war and her lifelong quest to unravel the mystery of his tortured soul."—Hugh Delehanty, coauthor of *Eleven Rings: The Soul of Success*

"I loved this book, not only for the knowledge gained concerning a war I knew so little about but for Catherine Madison's skill in relating both sides of this complex and difficult story. She is truly a reliable narrator, and her interweaving of her father's ordeal as a prisoner of war with her own growing up in a household with a broken and damaged man is honest and generous and truly moving."—Judith

Guest, author of Ordinary People