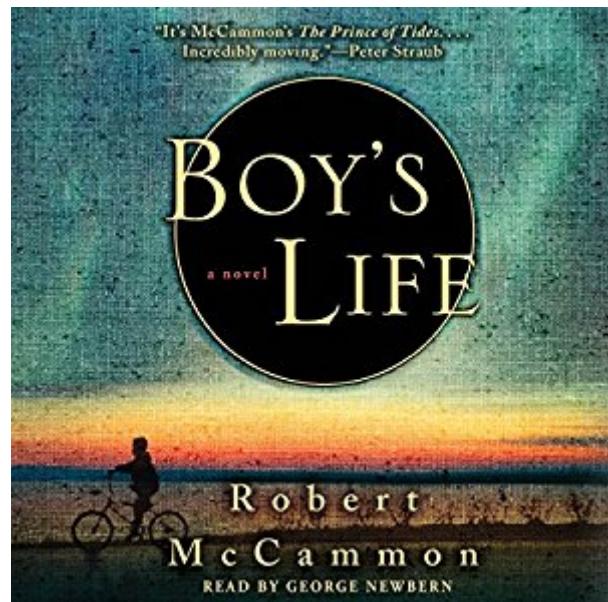


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Boy's Life



Synopsis

In me are the memories of a boy's life, spent in that realm of enchantments. These are the things I want to tell you.... Robert McCammon delivers "a tour de force of storytelling" (BookPage) in his award-winning masterpiece, a novel of Southern boyhood, growing up in the 1960s, that reaches far beyond that evocative landscape to touch listeners universally. Boy's Life is a richly imagined, spellbinding portrait of the magical worldview of the young - and of innocence lost. Zephyr, Alabama, is an idyllic hometown for 11-year-old Cory Mackenson - a place where monsters swim the river deep and friends are forever. Then, one cold spring morning, Cory and his father witness a car plunge into a lake - and a desperate rescue attempt brings his father face-to-face with a terrible, haunting vision of death. As Cory struggles to understand his father's pain, his eyes are slowly opened to the forces of good and evil that surround him. From an ancient mystic who can hear the dead and bewitch the living, to a violent clan of moonshiners, Cory must confront the secrets that hide in the shadows of his hometown - for his father's sanity and his own life hang in the balance....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful tale about family ties, friendship and loyalty told by a man remembering his life and times at the edge of adolescence. There is a good deal of nostalgia that is touching rather than maudlin because the book is so well-written and the boy turned man is truly ardent. It covers civil rights issues and characters from WWII hiding behind new identities after they committed horrific acts of violence. There is a good deal of mystery about a death that directly affects the boy's family

and shapes his destiny. This is a novel that can be enjoyed by anyone from 12 and beyond. It is a fine balance of mystery and the realities of life in the mid-60's South, the harsh realities of loss tempered by humor. A touch of the supernatural adds flavor to this wonderful story.

I was born and raised on a farm in Illinois, south of Chicago. All of my grade school was in a one room school house. Our little town was exactly like Zeffor(?). My family was exactly like his. I had 2 younger brothers. We had a railroad track that went through our farm. This book took me back in time.

Best book I have read in a long time. The author has that ability to describe his characters and the scenes in such a great way that you can see it all. I can't remember the last book I read that made me feel like I was experiencing what the story was portraying. Right now my wife is reading it and has the same feeling as I had, just a great story teller. Robert McCammon uses an abundance of words to tell his story, but unlike, say, Dean Koontz, you never feel overwhelmed or that you are just plodding through the dialogue.

My favorite book about the magic of childhood is King's It, but I think Boy's Life may be my second. It is to be fair, southern and boomy, but there is still a lot here for everyone. I felt like the end was a bit rushed, but maybe that is because I didn't want it to end. This one is going into the hardcopy library for my boys. Very well done.

This author is a true storyteller that can spin a good 'ol yarn with truth and fantasy intertwined into a moral "quilt of life" that is heartbreakingly sentimental. It's not an encyclopedia of life in the southern U.S.A in 1964, it is a magical tale of a young boy's memories, both good and bad, woven into a parable of how we face life, the fine line between what's real and imagined and what we allow ourselves to accept and learn. If you don't care for sentimentality or childhood remembrances, then perhaps you should move on. But, if you never tire of stories regarding the strangeness of life, that all things are connected, that justice always waits in the shadows, then this one is for you. And, for those of us who actually were alive in 1964 and remember the plastification of America and the world, we know that home milk deliveries in glass jugs by the mid 60s had faded away like cherry blossoms on a windy day. The carton and plastic containers had begun their grip on the food industry.

Boys life is a story told from the point of view of boy on the cusp of puberty and understanding the real world and will bring you back to growing up regardless of time period you did. I really enjoyed the book although it did turn out to be quite different than I expected, its truly a story of daily experiences and life in a small town with a twist of magic and wonderment all boys have at the age of 12-13. Its a good, easy read and, one of enjoyment and discovery for both the reader and character.

Boy's Life is one of those books where you get to know the characters and the town they live in. Corey Mackelson lives in the town of Zephyr, Alabama. His bike is his treasure and his friends are everything. Through thick and thin they get beat up, endure hideous teachers, unwanted crushes, and soar in the summertime. The way you get to know the town and the characters reminded me very much of the Stephen King books I used to devour. This book isn't a horror story but it definitely smacked of him in the way McCammon can draw the reader into the town and make you feel like a part of it all. Even better, the ending more than lives up to the story! The town of Zephyr in 1964 has many characters including an old Wild West hero (my most favorite character), a man who runs around in the nude, a few members of the KKK, a moon man, a creature named Moses who lives in the river, a very special lady, and many others who you will grow to love or dislike as you immerse yourself in this great, big, wonderful book with a magical, mystical side as well as realistic slants. Corey's father can't sleep at night due to a man he saw go down in a car in a lake. It's eating him alive because the lake is so deep that the man in the car, nor the car will ever be recovered. Being an inquisitive child, Corey wants to get to the bottom of how a man got to be in a car that plunges into a lake in the early morning. A found feather is the only clue he has to go by as he was with his father during a milk run when the accident occurred, but in the interim, plenty of things happen. I thought this book was wonderful. I love horror films, Ray Bradbury, Vincent Price, Lon Chaney Jr., summertime and the South. When I was young my bike had a name and of course we had a dog as we do now (a couple actually). I may not have flown as high as Corey in the summertime, and I may be a girl but my imagination was very active. I can relate to this story and I am sure most will if you were born in the fifties or sixties, but not even that. I plan to give this to my 14 year old daughter and I hope she will enjoy it as much as I did. I am sure it will give her a taste other the vampire or teen angst novel she may be reading now, and we lived in the South for eight years when she was younger. I must say that the South has produced some fine writers for sure. Take the plunge into this book. You will love it.

I generally love coming of age stories, especially if they are set in the 60s. However, this one was good in some chapters and not of interest in others. I think adolescents are the target audience and I am far beyond that. The author seems to have put every idea he ever had for a story in this book. What results is that a 12 year old boy encounters every sort of crisis you can imagine in one year. It was really not a realistic story at all. Too much fantasy was in it to interest me.

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