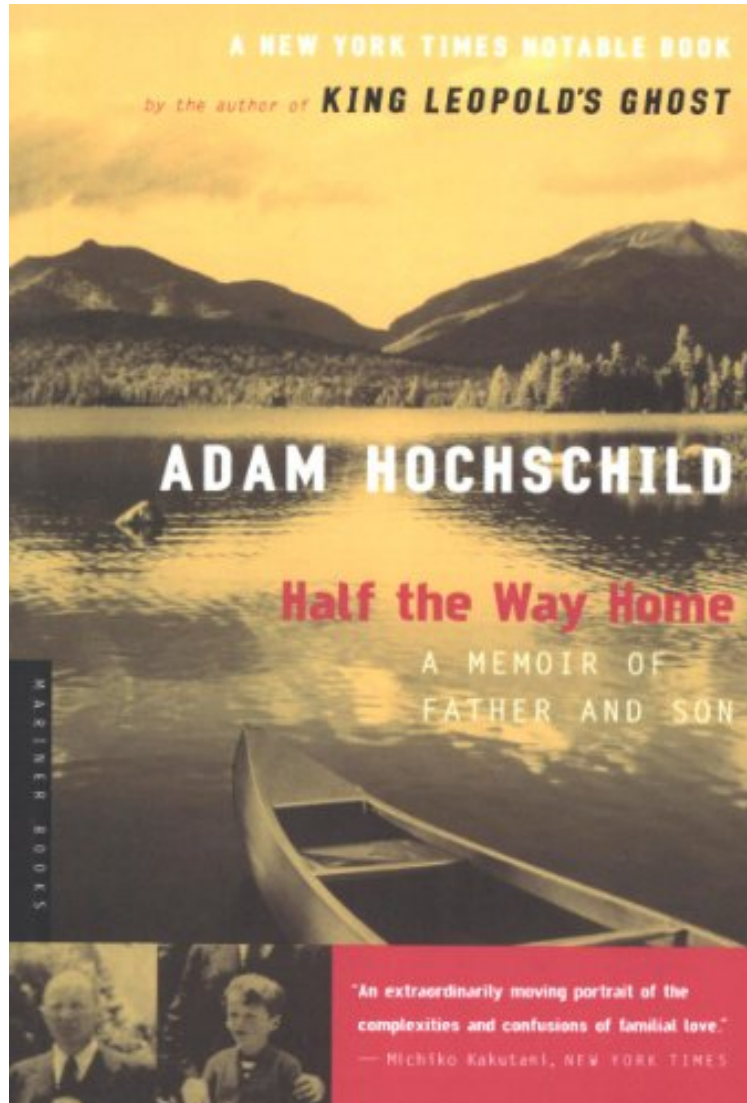


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Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son

Adam Hochschild

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Adam Hochschild : Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Raed it and Pass it aroundBy James S. DoyleI found this book in the wonderful Morristown, NY library marked "Overdue Fines Apply" which means folks have been keeping it beyond the due date to reread it and pass it around. As soon as I finished it I went on and bought my own copy to pass around my family and north country friends. It is crafted as superbly as a St. Lawrence River skiff and portrays the contradictions of idyllic summers in the Adirondacks, suffocating but sublimated tensions between "Father"--that's what he was always called throughout the boy's life!--and this only-child author, who wondered early on what it could

mean that his family, the scions of a copper-mining fortune, could be so privileged in a world where mineral wealth was more valued than human life. It is a great story, a great read, and casts shadows not so unlike those we all see in our own lives and families. The Thousand Islands and the Adirondacks are places of lower and middle class economic struggle with scores if not hundreds of places where the monied families of the Gilded Age spent their fortunes and created mythic lifestyles. Nobody has caught the results better. Now excuse me, but I've got to back to to get what I was looking for in the village library--Hochschild's latest in a terrific line of historic portrayals of colonial Africa, colonial slavery, Stalin and, now, World War I To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918 Jim Doyle 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. thoroughly enjoyable By John E. Drury From Ivan Turgenev to Geoffrey Wolfe to Alexander Waugh, dissection of the complexities of the tortured relationships between fathers and sons has been a staple of good writing. Adam Hochschild, a historian of high achievement (King Leopold's Ghost, Bury the Chains, To End All Wars) pens a brutally honest explication of his chilly relationship with his father, the wealthy mining industrialist, Harold Hochschild. The canvas for the book is Eagle Nest, the Hochschild's vast summer retreat on Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondacks on which the author paints an impressionistic portrait of his German Jewish and Russian relatives, his privileged American upbringing and the beauty of the rural life in this thankfully protected sanctuary. These father son depictions tend to be one sided born of juvenile insecurities and Hochschild is honest enough to admit his fears at the time working through them and finishing, to his credit, with frankness and an evocation for his talented and successful father. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... tumultuous years of the 60s in a family of great wealth and privilege By Sheila Myers What a lovely story about a young boy and then man growing up during the tumultuous years of the 60s in a family of great wealth and privilege. The cadence was especially good. The whole book flowed well for me. I never was bored. The author's descriptions of the Eagle Nest - the family summer home in the Adirondacks is very interesting and entertaining - a throw-back to an era lost. The author's relationship with his father is sad, touching, and in the end heat-warming as the author makes peace with all of the confusion his upbringing wrought.

From the author of the best-selling King Leopold's Ghost, this haunting and deeply honest memoir tells of Adam Hochschild's conflicted relationship with his father, the head of a multinational mining corporation. The author lyrically evokes his privileged childhood on an Adirondack estate, a colorful uncle who was a pioneer aviator and fighter ace, and his first explorations of the larger world he encountered as he came of age in the tumultuous 1960s. But above all this is a story of a father and his only son and of the unexpected peace finally made between them.