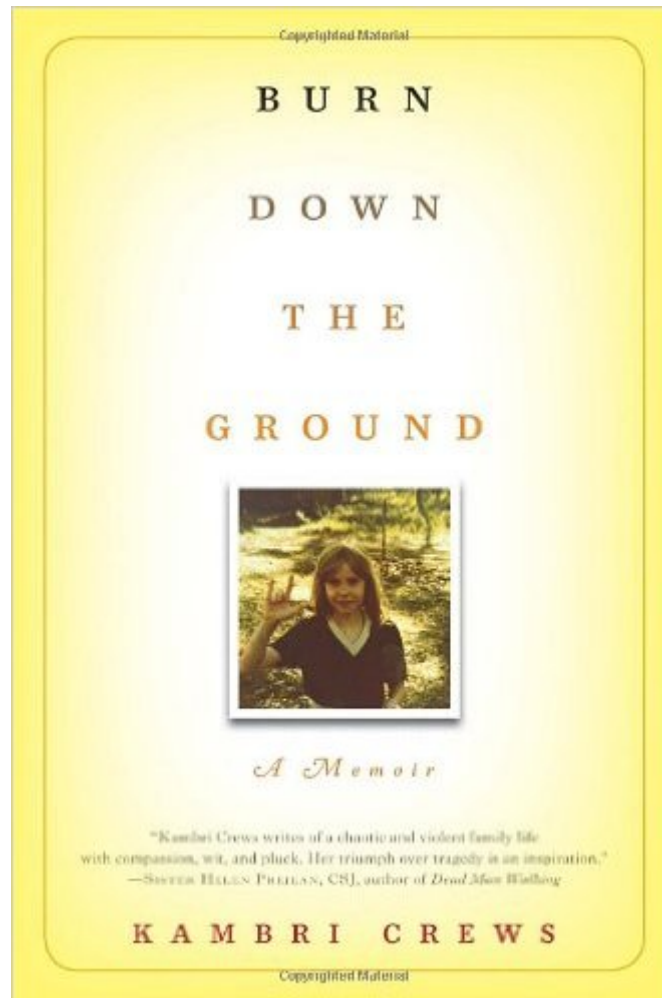


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Burn Down The Ground: A Memoir



Synopsis

In this powerful, affecting, and unflinching memoir, a daughter looks back on her unconventional childhood with deaf parents in rural Texas while trying to reconcile it to her present life—a one in which her father is serving a twenty-year sentence in a maximum-security prison. As a child, Kambri Crews wished that she'd been born deaf so that she, too, could fully belong to the tight-knit Deaf community that embraced her parents. Her beautiful mother was a saint who would swiftly correct anyone's notion that deaf equaled dumb. Her handsome father, on the other hand, was more likely to be found hanging out with the sinners. Strong, gregarious, and hardworking, he managed to turn a wild plot of land into a family homestead complete with running water and electricity. To Kambri, he was Daniel Boone, Frank Lloyd Wright, Ben Franklin, and Elvis Presley all rolled into one. But if Kambri's dad was Superman, then the hearing world was his kryptonite. The isolation that accompanied his deafness unlocked a fierce temper—a rage that a teenage Kambri witnessed when he attacked her mother, and that culminated fourteen years later in his conviction for another violent crime. With a smart mix of brutal honesty and blunt humor, Kambri Crews explores her complicated bond with her father—which begins with adoration, moves to fear, and finally arrives at understanding—as she tries to forge a new connection between them while he lives behind bars. *Burn Down the Ground* is a brilliant portrait of living in two worlds—one hearing, the other deaf; one under the laid-back Texas sun, the other within the energetic pulse of New York City; one mired in violence, the other rife with possibility—and heralds the arrival of a captivating new voice.

Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (91 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #438,213 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Hearing Problems #258 in Books > Biographies &

Customer Reviews

About halfway through this book I had to ask myself why I read so many memoirs. One reason might be that I am looking for the comfort of reading about someone with a similar background to my own. Crews satisfied that need for me. Although she is 13 years younger than I am, her formative years were very similar to mine - living in meager circumstances in a family with little communication of consequence. She lived a somewhat sheltered life, spending most of her time with her family and with few, if any, close friends. She read, swam, played games with her family, played basketball and ran around the countryside where they lived. She was isolated from our parents, because they were deaf. If you call out in the middle of the night when you were scared, no one can hear you to come comfort you. At first, Crews' writing was humorous in a surprising way, and I read passages out loud to my husband. The writing is clear, simple and well-paced, but a little uneven. The surprising humor gave way to a matter-of-fact telling of growing up uncertain of where they would be living the next year. Violence enters their family life, and Crews conveys her fear well, but I felt that the writing changed again at that point. Crews' experiences reflect what happens to many families when the violence is hidden or when it is connected to psychological problems. Of value in this book is Crews' description of what happens if we don't recognize the trauma that victims of violence experience. I was most interested in this book because of the child's view of the Deaf community. I learned some things I hadn't known before, like that deaf people can be loud neighbors because they don't realize they are making noise.

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