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First Spring Grass Fire



Synopsis

Transgender indie electronica singer-songwriter Rae Spoon has six albums to their credit, including 2012's *I Can't Keep All of Our Secrets*. This first book by Rae (who uses "they" as a pronoun) is a candid, powerful story about a young person growing up queer in a strict Pentecostal family in rural Canada. The narrator attends church events and Billy Graham rallies faithfully with their family before discovering the music that becomes their salvation and means of escape. As their father's schizophrenia causes their parents' marriage to unravel, the narrator finds solace and safety in the company of their siblings, in their nascent feelings for a girl at school, and in their growing awareness that they are not the person their parents think they are. With a heart as big as the prairie sky, this is a quietly devastating, heart-wrenching coming-of-age book about escaping dogma, surviving abuse, finding love, and risking everything for acceptance. Rae Spoon lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press (September 18, 2012)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.4 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #516,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Transgender #205 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Transgender #903 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > LGBT Studies

Customer Reviews

"Rae Spoon is definitely more than a songwriter to swoon for; I predict that *First Spring Grass Fire* will be a curative for all the heartbroken kids in small towns trying to fight for their right to be who they are. This collection of tender-hearted coming-of-age stories is an impressive literary gem."

—Zoe Whittall, author of *Holding Still for as Long as Possible* "*First Spring Grass Fire* will be meaningful to anyone who has struggled to fit in; and who hasn't? By telling these stories of being different, queer, raised in a rigid belief system you didn't choose, trying to be yourself within circumstances you can't control; Rae Spoon illustrates

the triumph in reclaiming and controlling your own identity. This moving collection is a story of what we do to find a place, physical or intangible, that we can call home."#151;National Post"A heartbreaking, fictionalized, short-story memoir." #151;Ms. Magazine"Transgender indie musician Rae Spoon has six albums under the belt, but this raw and beautifully lyrical new memoir-meets-novel about growing up queer in a strict Pentecostal family with a schizophrenic father is the best contribution yet." Ã¢ââ•The Advocate

Rae Spoon: Rae Spoon is a transgender musician/writer/workshop facilitator from Calgary, Canada. Rae has been nominated for a Polaris Prize, toured internationally, and released six solo albums. They were recently published in the Arsenal Pulp Press anthology Persistence and composed the instrumental score for the National Film Board film Dead Man.

Great condition! I really hope this book was read! I read it!! It was bound with a large chunk of it upside down but I couldn't stop reading it and just turned it upside down! I've featured Rae's music on my radio shows and love knowing more about them!

Gritty short memoir stories that speak to your soul and tug on your heart strings. Now that I read their book I will listen to their music, maybe you should give them a try too.

What there is of it, is well written, but it seems incomplete. I get the impression each chapter was written as Rae traveled from one singing gig to the next and not necessarily in the order presented. Ends just when you think there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

Just started reading, already hooked.

This was great. I have nothing more to say about it than that, but I'm required to write more words.

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