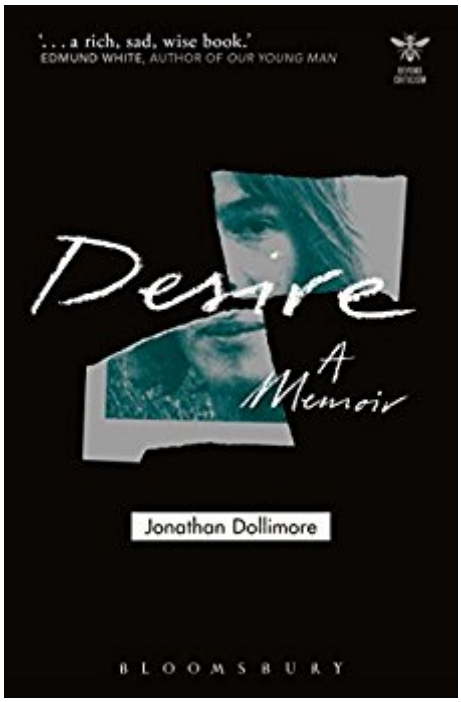
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Desire: A Memoir (Beyond Criticism)



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Synopsis

Fifty years after the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 decriminalised homosexual acts, Jonathan Dollimore explores, in, through and beyond the gay sub-cultures of cities like New York, Brighton and Sydney, what the new freedoms meant for him and others in the following decades. He writes honestly and movingly about his teenage attraction to risk and danger; of accidents and escapes; of curiosity as a flight from boredom; of suicidal depression and ecstasy; and, beneath all, of the life of desire haunted and torn by loss.For more than thirty years Jonathan Dollimore has been one of contemporary culture’s most influential critics of politics, literature, and sexuality. Desire: A Memoir, a hybrid of autobiography, meditation and philosophical reflection, explores the existential sources of his writing.

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Customer Reviews

This is a remarkable memoir - poignant, funny and unflinching. The author records episodes from his life with a mixture of tenderness and acerbic wit that is a perfectly judged counterpoint to his reflections on their tangled threads of desire and loss. What’s at the heart of this generous book is

perhaps suggested in its dedication to someone supremely beautiful encountered only once - loved, looked for again, lost to all but memory. The focus on gay culture that's central to the book does not at all limit the reach of its melancholy wisdom. Like the best memoirs - like the best literature - it explores another life in ways that throw disturbing shafts of light into our own.

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