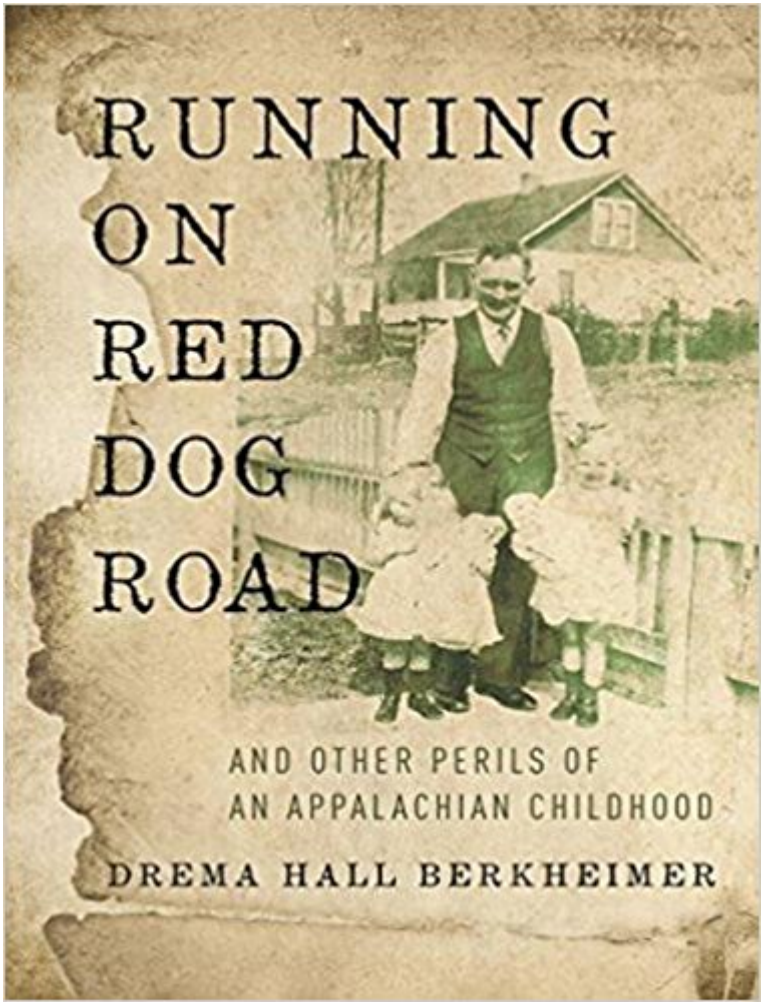
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Running On Red Dog Road: And Other Perils Of An Appalachian Childhood



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Synopsis

Gypsies, faith-healers, moonshiners, and snake handlers weave through Drema’s childhood in 1940s Appalachia after her father is killed in the coal mines, her mother goes off to work as a Rosie the Riveter, and she is left in the care of devout Pentecostal grandparents. What follows is a spitfire of a memoir that reads like a novel with intrigue, sweeping emotion, and indisputable charm. Drema’s coming of age is colored by tent revivals with Grandpa, poetry-writing hobos, and traveling carnivals, and through it all, she serves witness to a multi-generational family of saints and sinners whose lives to defy the stereotypes. Just as she defies her own. Running On Red Dog Road is proof that truth is stranger than fiction, especially when it comes to life and faith in an Appalachian childhood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every once in a while, a voice comes along that makes you yearn for a childhood you never lived. Author Drema Hall Berkheimer invites you to skip along with her, big sis Vonnie, and best friend Sissy into the coal mining hills and hollers of West Virginia, at a time when gypsies and hobos were as common as doctors who made house calls. (Kathleen M. Rodgers, award-winning author of Johnnie Come Lately)Running on Red Dog Road took me away to a time and a family that I will never forget. Drema Hall Berkheimer is a masterful, joyful, humorous storyteller who is just getting started. What a great book. (Fawn Germer, International Speaker and Oprah-featured bestselling author)Time and again I have been carried away by these stories, by the observations of a very shrewd little girl of her elders, both wise and the foolish. But donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t let the sly humor fool

you. Like the West Virginia coal country Drema Berkheimer writes about so affectionately and beautifully, there is always something going on here just beneath the surface, something grave, firmly rooted, even eternal. (Bill Marvel, author of The Rock Island Line and (with R. V. Burgin) Islands of the Damned)Drema Hall Berkheimer is a pure storyteller, one of the most wonder- fully gifted IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve ever read. As they make their way through Running on Red Dog Road, readers will smile continually, laugh out loud occasionally, and turn misty-eyed at times of joy or sadness as this child of Appalachia shares so lovingly her growing-up experiences with her cherished family and friends. Her phrasing is so exquisite and her words so perfectly chosen that her writing is a mixture of prose and poetry. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best read in private, so there will be no distractions as the reader travels hand in hand with the author from beginning to end. (Dr. George T. Arnold, Professor Emeritus, W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Marshall University)Running on Red Dog Road is an American treasure. Echoes of Mark Twain resonate in Ms. BerkheimerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tales of life in West Virginia in the care of loving and wise grandparents while her widowed mother helps save the world as a Rosie the Riveter. This family is an icon of what we should wish to be. Truly a needed voice in our world. (Julianne McCullagh, author of The Narrow Gate)I love this memoir. The voice is masterful. Berkheimer layers into a perceptive child narrator an understated love of her family, a sassy streak that dodges consequences, and a precocious questioning of the society that surrounds her. (Robin Underdahl, coauthor with Anshel Brusilow of Shoot the Conductor: Too Close to Monteux, Szell, and Ormandy)A competent historian could get the details right about mid-century Pentecostal Appalachian culture, but only Drema Hall Berkheimer could set us right in the middle of it. Through the eyes of a little girl who doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t miss a thing, we experience spicy stew in the gypsy camp, and creative avenues to intoxication, and river baptisms. If the child DremaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s observations could not always be shared with her grandparents, they are now shared with us. That will be to the delight of every reader. (Dr. Douglas M. Gropp, member, International Team of Editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls; Academic Dean, Redeemer Seminary)A sweet, whimsical, and often touching account of the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s childhood during a kinder, gentler era. It triggered great nostalgia during my reading. (Dr. William L. Grose, retired NASA scientist and Assistant Director of Atmospheric Sciences, NASA Langley Research Center)In this gem of a book, Drema digs deep into her memory pool to bring forth images of well-developed places, characters, and things. In this highly technological age, we need this story to understand how ordinary people survived, thrived, and endured. (Njoki McElroy, PhD, storyteller, performance artist, and author of 1012 Natchez: A Memoir of Grace, Hardship and Love) --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Drema Hall Berkheimer's tales of hobnobbing with gypsies, moonshiners, snake handlers, hobos, and faith healers, are published in numerous online and print journals. She is a member of West Virginia Writers, Salon Quatre, and The Writer's Garret.Bailey Carr is a New York City-based audiobook narrator. She graduated with a BFA in acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Bailey has narrated audiobooks for multiple New York Times bestselling authors.

I chose a five star rating for this book because I enjoyed the stories and memories in this book so much. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania I could relate to Drema Hall Berkheimer's recollections of her childhood. Her descriptions of her grandparents remind me of my grandmother who shaped so much of my life. We are fortunate to have such great memories to recall of the people who made us who we are today.

I started this book expecting to learn some tidbits about early Appalachian life. I ended this book sad that I didn't have any more pages to read about the characters I had unexpectedly grown so fond of. Great historical novel we both truly approachable characters.

This heart warming story recount the growing up years of the author, who is a great story teller. The way she interjects her take on the particular scene she is sharing makes the reader feel as if they are sharing an intimate tale on the front porch swing with the author. Her story is very sweet and you really come to feel as if you have met her family as she shares the nuances of their every day life.

My dad liked this book. He said there were some references that seemed to be very localized to the time and setting of the book, so he felt like he would have gotten even more out of it if he had been born a decade earlier (40s) and had lived in the West Virginia area. It's a short read but he was happy with it so I am happy.

I really enjoyed reading this book. In fact, I felt I was not reading it but that Ms. Berkheimer was just telling me her stories about growing up in Appalachia. I chuckled, I,smiles, I felt sad , , , , , as it we were having a conversation. If you are looking for a pleasant, warm read, this is the book for you.

I just finished reading the fascinating book Running on Red Dog Road. I found it delightful to read

and loved Ms Berkheimer’s descriptive style of writing. One can picture the scene from her descriptions. I found myself smiling broadly and chuckling out loud while reading of her experiences. While you may not have grown up in the Appalachian Mountains, you will certainly relate to many of her childhood experiences with your own tales told. Why sometimes I thought, "Did she know MY mother or grandmother?" and I’m betting you will too. This was a thoroughly entertaining book and I already am eagerly awaiting her sequel to it.

This was a wonderful tribute to a strong family, with strong women. It captured the essence of a childhood filled with sturdiness and love. It made me wish for the strong values and love to be present again. Talk about making America great again!What was missing in this book were the "perils." Maybe the title was intended as a play on words, but the perils described here were so mild it made me long for those kind of problems for every child growing up.

This book was not what I expected, but I still enjoyed it. I expected stories about the rough lives of Appalachian miners. It’s more of a "coming of age" bio of a more middle class girl. Well written and gives some interesting and humorous stories about life in the 40s and 50s.

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