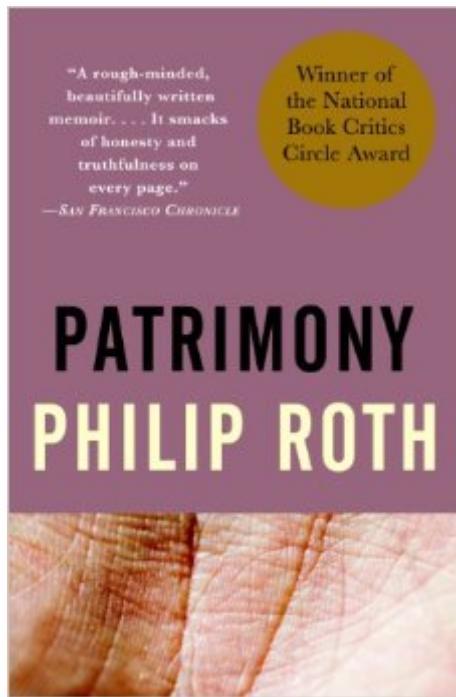


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Patrimony: A True Story



Synopsis

Patrimony, a true story, touches the emotions as strongly as anything Philip Roth has ever written. Roth watches as his eighty-six-year-old father "famous for his vigor, charm, and his repertoire of Newark recollections" battles with the brain tumor that will kill him. The son, full of love, anxiety, and dread, accompanies his father through each fearful stage of his final ordeal, and, as he does so, discloses the survivalist tenacity that has distinguished his father's long, stubborn engagement with life.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (June 3, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679752935

ISBN-13: 978-0679752936

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (57 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The definition of patrimony is an estate inherited from one's father. Philip Milton Roth, in his book PATRIMONY is, in my view, not what he inherited but rather what he bestowed upon his parents, Bess and Herman Roth, first generation Americans, children of Jewish immigrants from Poland. The college educated Roth never looked down at his father, who had to quit school for good at the age of twelve to help support his parents and all their children. He cared for his father while aging and inflicted with many severe health issues. His words and deeds for his father inflicted with a brain tumor evoke inspiration. Despite the tendency of shedding the burden of Jewish traditions and proscriptions, Roth dutifully abided by the Fifth Commandment of the Bible 'Honor your Father and Mother.' He knew how to prioritize principles in a right way; he was emotionally entwined with his father. Any child who respects and cares for his or her parents, especially aging parents merits my admiration; so does Roth, he deemed it to be a moral imperative to help any old person, especially

a father. This usual phenomenon in my generation and in Roth's generation is not as common today's generation as reflected in "Generation Me" by Jean M. Twenge. An extreme case we read in "Patrimony": a cab driver told Roth: "I didn't go to my father's funeral (page 157)" This must have been an emotional agony to the rest of the family and to his father's friends. Roth is a literary power, a prolific and successful novelist; he is one of the most awarded U.S. writers of his generation. He is a possessor of a well stocked-mind and a searing wit. Much of Roth's fiction revolves around semi-autobiographical themes. Patrimony is an autobiographical true story, a personal memoir.

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