

Clear Pictures: First Loves, First Guides

Reynolds PRICE

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Reynolds PRICE : Clear Pictures: First Loves, First Guides before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clear Pictures: First Loves, First Guides:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My favorite book EVERBy Josephine G. ThomasNo book has ever meant as much to me as this one. In addition to grasping and describing a child's understanding of love and its link to the feelings of security and safety that we now know children must have to grow up to be healthy adults, Price, in his exquisite prose, paints a picture of the South in the first half of the 20th century that is both loving and brutal. Those of us who know the South intimately--especially during this time period--have found ourselves gasping at the clarity of the picture he paints. Talking about the two worlds inhabited by Afridan American and whites is difficult and delicate for most writers--but not for Price. His work is so honest and so honorable that you can enter the world without fear. If you were raised as a liberal in this period, as I was, you have a tendency to cringe at some of the Southernisms that memoirs of the South in this period tend to emply. Again, not true in Clear Pictures. Not only do you come to love the picture that he paints of the South and his journey, you come to love and admire him--his gentleness, his faith, his acceptance of, even gratitude for, the challenges life have given him makes him unforgettable. It is no wonder that his students over the years, including the Baltimore novelist Ann Tyler, and his collaborators, such as music great James Taylor, speak of him adoringly. He appears to be--as Clear Pictures attests--one of those few people who deeply and always loves life on its terms and welcomes the adventures of each new day. The epiphanic moment in the book when he realizes that he is loved is all the more powerful when one realizes that today, many decades later, he remains beloved, by many who have never met him but share the spirit to which he has provided a passageway. When the

world seems unstable to me, I always return to this book and relish in the joy of his *Clear Pictures* and the mastery of his other compelling works. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. if you are a lover of art, this is wonderful

By Robert J. Crawford OK, this is yet another great autobio by a writer that I admire: it displays a fabulous power of memory - one of the traits that Nabokov said was a sign of creativiity - and is written in a secure and elegant style. Its portraits are sharp and unlike any that I have ever read, leavened with enormous subtlety and humor. This makes it a truly unique read. Interestingly, not a whole lot happens in this autobio outside of personal growth, ambition, and his father overcoming alcoholism. Instead, the author muses over a rich life that started with an average family. There are deep relationships and a great deal of love, ruminations over the racism and sensitivity of his southern upbringing, and the outlines of his concerns with art. It is a bit annoying that he plays the pronoun game with those he loved: obviously, they were either men or men and women, so why not say it? If you like a measured and calm set of vivid recollections by an individual of great literary talent, you enjoy this very much. Very very much.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Small Town, Big City

By kworkman@email.unc.edu Reynolds Price was born in North Carolina. He has lived here his whole life, excluding four years in Europe. He is rooted in Southern ways and Southern life. With *Clear Pictures*, we understand how his rural beginnings shaped the life that he has made. We begin to understand the basis of all the wonderful characters he has shown us.