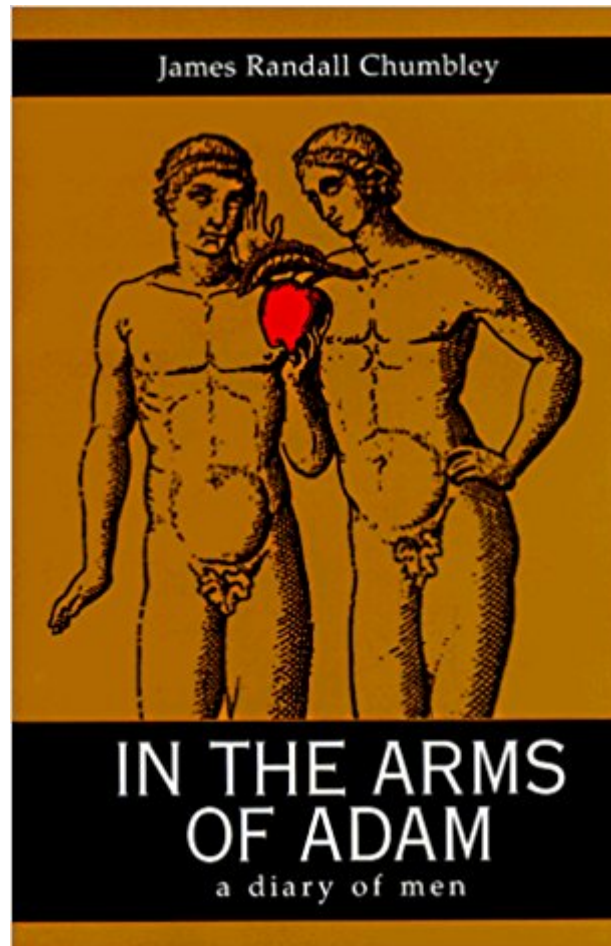




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In The Arms Of Adam: A Diary Of Men



Synopsis

A deeply passionate, sensitive and personal story of one man's journey through a painful childhood of abuse, alcoholism and suicide. This book will touch all your emotions, from heartbreak to arousal, as you follow Randy's depiction of a troubled relationship with his father and its parallels to relationships with men in his life's search. A classic story that will move you. Gay or not, there is something in this book for many of us to take to heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Extraordinary work of self-discovery through an abusive childhood to coming to terms with his homosexuality as an adult. -- Phil hall, New York Resident Magazine, November 25, 2002

Also by James Randall Chumbley, "Before the Last Dance"

While recently looking for a new anthology to read for the summer, I discovered James Randall Chumbley's "In the Arms of Adam: A Diary of Men" which recounts the author's life experiences, beginning with a disturbing and physically abusive childhood and progressing to a blossoming sense of sexuality and romantic adventures with other gay men who entered his life during the period from young adulthood to his mid-thirties. Chumbley's writing creates a series of imaginative visual images of his own as well as public experiences during this period that are particularly poignant, especially to those of us who, as gay men, grew up and lived through the dark times of the AIDS crisis during the '80s. Some of his experiences surely must have been emotionally difficult for

Chumbley to recount as he was writing them, but these passages also reveal his individual courage in searching for -- and finding -- an acceptable resolution at the time he lived them. I enjoyed reading "In the Arms of Adam" and would recommend it to anyone; I finished the book in four days and have started reading it a second time.

When I found this review I was so surprised that 28 people had given it a 5 star rating. I'm not sure if I've ever seen any other book rated here at given such high marks. I thought for sure it would be a book shelf keeper and totally wonderful book. But I have to say I didn't find it THAT wonderful. The first chapter about his childhood and abusive father went on for way too long I think. I got the message very quickly and didn't think we needed to hear as much as we did. And just when I was thinking it was an epic story of a regular gay man.... he surprised me by letting himself be "kept" by an older, rich man who he never loved and also got involved in an abusive relationship. So much for normal, and I suppose it doesn't exist. So--not particularly a happy ending, but he does pull out of everything fairly unscathed and I guess that is all we can ask for in life.

First I have to say, it was a difficult story to read because is very raw story, but is worth completing the book, I was moved and touch by this beautiful true story, I congratulate the writer for being so open and honest about his life. The book has a powerful self respect and love message. I encourage everyone to read this book it doesnt matter if you are, gay or straight, the story has a universal language and has a lot teach us. Again praise to the Writer for this story. JosuÃ©

Randy Chumbley has written a book that will pull at your heart like nothing you have ever read. I was totally mesmerized at the gut wrenching honesty that comes forth in his story. This is a book that will give you a big lump in your throat and one you won't desire putting down until you read it all.

In the Arms of Adam: A diary of men has truly been a book that has opened my eyes, influenced my life and has made me realize the most important thing you can do in this life is to be true to yourself and follow your heart no matter what. As an 18-year-old young man who not so long ago realized and is still coming to terms with the fact that he is gay this read has hit very close to home. Although this book came out a year after I was born in 1997 I can relate in so many ways to the fear, confusion and even joy that the realization of your sexuality can bring. This book has guided me and in a way helped me accept myself, which is not the easiest thing to do being raised as a Mormon. Reading this unimaginable recollection of the events that took place in Randy's life made

me almost feel his pain, helplessness and fear. My heart broke for all of Todd's friends and family. As a young gay man today if you want to learn about the AIDS crisis you have to research it. It is just not something stressed or remembered in the main stream like it should be. I don't understand why so many innocent lives were taken. Randy gave a look into the reality of how horrific the AIDS epidemic truly was. Thank you for your selflessness and bravery in sharing your life with me. You have made me proud to be who I am and follow my heart wherever and to whomever it may take me.

I found this book recently upon moving to the author's city of Atlanta. I was starting a new chapter in my life, and much like the author expressed early on in the book, I was running away from a horrible childhood. The graphic details in which he displays his experiences forced me to relive similar situations of my own. Eventually, I was able to even talk with a past abuser with more confidence than I had ever previously had. Before reading this book I used to laugh at my visible bravery as an activist on my college campus and my cowardice at home. For me his stories were like looking into a mirror of my past and a crystal ball of my possible future. I have come to terms with my sexuality very early in my teens, but like the author many of my friends did not make that leap until later in their lives. His life story helped me to feel as though true manliness is not a measure of masculinity, but a measure of what contributions one makes to this world in how he lives or more importantly how he loves. A few of my friends have commented that it seems as though everyone they know has had some similar experiences or knows someone who has as well. I recommend this book to anyone and everyone looking for a good read. But I mostly think this book will offer rays of hope into the lives of other men with similar experiences when they see the eloquence and maturity with which he expresses his past and the lessons he has taught and continues to teach. I have shared this book with my siblings and friends by loaning or purchasing this book for them, and I'm certain you will love this book as much as I did.

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