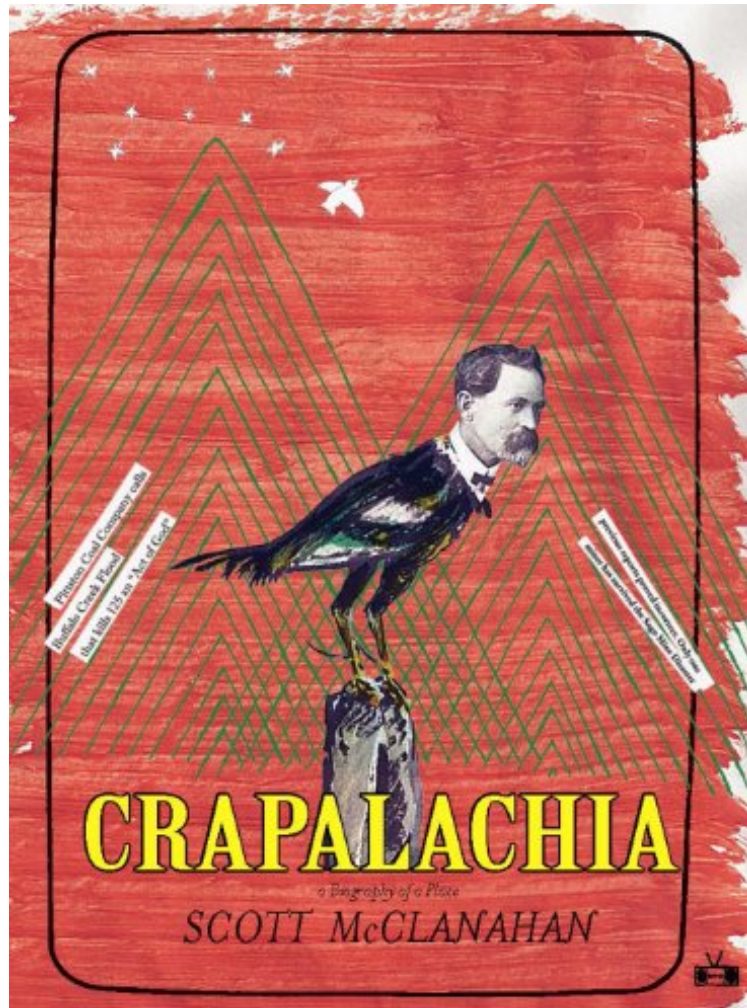


[Download] Crapalachia: A Biography of Place

Crapalachia: A Biography of Place

Scott McClanahan

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Scott McClanahan : Crapalachia: A Biography of Place before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crapalachia: A Biography of Place:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Clock Is Ticking: No CrapBy Phyllis J. MooreFor me, the title "Crapalachia" was off-putting but the cover art invited me in. Was the bird on the front a raven with a head like Edgar Allen Poe's? Why were there quotes about mine disasters sprinkled along the cover?You can decide what is implied by the cover but the work is not at all crappy, nor is its view of Appalachia. It's a warm and fuzzy looking back with love at a time and place that is no more. Most of us have such a place.In this work of fiction blended with nonfiction (a "coming-of-age memoir with privileges" is how I think of it) McClanahan looks back with humor and understanding at an important phase of his life; time he spent visiting his Grandma in Danese, a hamlet in Fayette County, West Virginia.Danese,population 38 people per square mile, was the ancestral home of many McClanahans,including

McClanahan's widowed Grandmother Ruby and her twelve progeny. It is just just down the road from the author's childhood home, Rainelle. Back then, Grandma Ruby was the caregiver for an adult son, Nathan. Nearly bedridden with cerebral palsy, Nathan is full of life and dreams. He endures the stares and comments of strangers but is full of hope for a miracle cure and a big fat wife. The young Scott aids and abets him in his attempts to write to the radio preacher, place matrimonial ads in the newspaper, wear more appropriate clothes...not sweat shirts with teddy bears on the front...and get some beer. There are some embarrassing public moments with Nathan and his various tubes, but Scott has Nathan's "back". Scott shows an understanding of his various kin, especially some of the wacky ways of Grandma Ruby. Ruby likes to photograph the dead in their caskets and decorate and photograph her own tombstone. Her grandchildren roll their eyes but comply. The book reminds us the clock is ticking and we should relish the moment. I could feel the love, the loss, and the regrets. I'd read "Crapalachia" again and I'd use it in a high school or college course. Good stuff and a unique voice. More, please. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get a copy of this brilliant, heartbreaking book. McClanahan is exquisite vulnerability, knowledge, and love! By Meg Tuite McClanahan is brilliant, heartbreaking, and speaks from the heart in a deep way! LOVE all of his work! Get a copy of everything he writes. You will be thankful! And changed! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and so true. By Jacob SI always read reviews before I buy books on my kindle and I'm glad I didn't listen to the negative ones about this book. If you love Appalachia and its people and know much about them, you'll know how true this book really is. If you don't know Appalachia, read this and you'll get a pretty good idea. One reviewer commented on the language in the book being over the top with profanity. There is a lot of it but when I read something like this (a biography or sort of biography) I figure I'm hearing the true voice and language of the person I'm reading about. The strong language, while not language I would recommend that you use, reflects a reality being lived in the story. And I can handle that. And I'm an evangelical Pastor...so you probably can too.

When Scott McClanahan was fourteen he went to live with his Grandma Ruby and his Uncle Nathan, who suffered from cerebral palsy. *Crapalachia* is a portrait of these formative years, coming-of-age in rural West Virginia. Peopled by colorful characters and their quirky stories, *Crapalachia* interweaves oral folklore and area history, providing an ambitious and powerful snapshot of overlooked Americana. Scott McClanahan is the author of *Stories II* and *Stories V*! His fiction has appeared in *BOMB*, *Vice*, and *New York Tyrant*. His novel *Hill William* is forthcoming from Tyrant Books.

"McClanahan's prose is miasmic, dizzying, repetitive. A rushing river of words that reflects the chaos and humanity of the place from which he hails. [McClanahan] aims to lasso the moon... He is not a writer of half-measures. The man has purpose. This is his symphony, every note designed to resonate, to linger." *New York Times Book* "*Crapalachia* is the genuine article: intelligent, atmospheric, raucously funny and utterly wrenching. McClanahan joins Daniel Woodrell and Tom Franklin as a master chronicler of backwoods rural America." *The Washington Post* "The book that took Scott McClanahan from indie cult writer to critical darling is a series of tales that read like an Appalachian Proust all doped up on sugary soft drinks, and has made a fan of everybody who has opened it up." *Flavorwire* "McClanahan's deep loyalty to his place and his people gives his story wings: 'So now I put the dirt from my home in my pockets and I travel. I am making the world my mountain.' And so he is." *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* "[*Crapalachia* is] a wild and inventive book, unquestionably fresh of spirit, and totally unafraid to break formalisms to tell it like it was." *Vice* "Part memoir, part hillbilly history, part dream, McClanahan embraces humanity with all its grit, writing tenderly of criminals and outcasts, family and the blood ties that bind us." *Interview Magazine* "A brilliant, unnerving, beautiful curse of a book that will both haunt and charmingly engage readers for years and years and years." *The Nervous Breakdown* "McClanahan's style is as seductive as a circuit preacher's. *Crapalachia* is both an homage and a eulogy for a place where, through the sorcery of McClanahan's storytelling, we can all pull up a chair and find ourselves at home." *San Diego City Beat* "Epic. McClanahan's prose is straightforward, casual, and enjoyable to read, reminiscent at times of Kurt Vonnegut. *Crapalachia* is one of the rare books that, after you reach the end, you don't get up to check your e-mail or Facebook or watch TV. You just sit quietly and think about the people of the book and how they remind you of people you used to know. You feel lucky to have known them, and you feel grateful to McClanahan for the reminder." *Rain Taxi of Books*