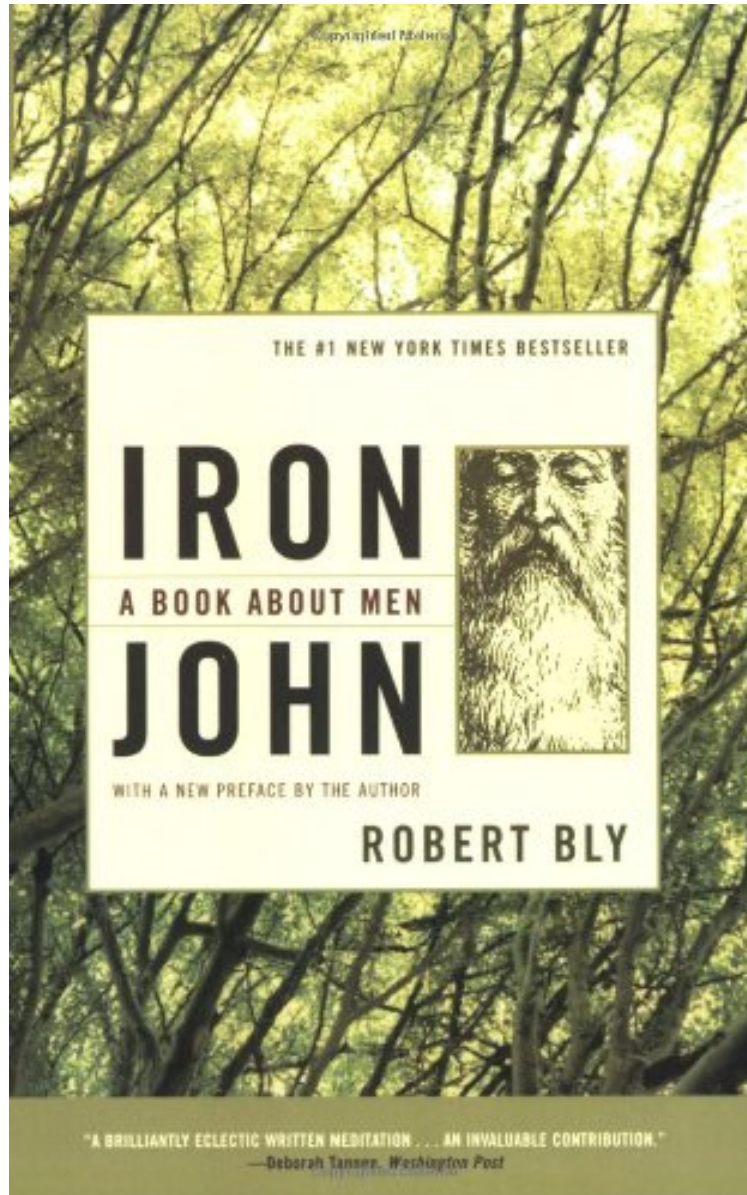


(Download free ebook) Iron John: A Book About Men

Iron John: A Book About Men

Robert Bly

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Robert Bly : Iron John: A Book About Men before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Iron John: A Book About Men:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Profoundly insightfulBy James BeckerThere were times reading this book that Bly would communicate an idea which rang so true to me that Id literally get physical shivers up and down my spine. It is that powerful and resonant. This book has made me see my own life and history with an illuminating

radiance, and I've been able to discover bits and pieces of myself that were lying in dark corners. This book is not for those who live purely on a rational plane. If you despise poetry, for instance, you may find the book tedious, boring and difficult. If, on the other hand, you can read between the lines, visualize abstract metaphors, and appreciate poetic language, then this book will offer you a treasure trove of insight about yourself. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. So much more than a story teller. By Hawaii Marine I think the story of Iron John and the author Robert Bly should be a part of story telling to all ages, especially to the young and impressionable. So many different meanings behind the words. I enjoy Robert's interpretation of every story he touches. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Definitely enjoyed it. By S. N. Rivera Burgos This is a prose poem where the author opens his heart and intellect to us. Sometimes I skip chapters or paragraphs from my readings but this I read from first line to last. And was sorry it ended. Lots of insights into our lives as magic beings and also some belly laughs. I'll soon re read it. There are quite a few videos of him in YouTube which I intend to watch. Thanks for writing it Robert Bly, you're a beautiful person. Joy to you!

In this deeply learned book, poet and translator Robert Bly offers nothing less than a new vision of what it is to be a man. Bly's vision is based on his ongoing work with men and reflections on his own life. He addresses the devastating effects of remote fathers and mourns the disappearance of male initiation rites in our culture. Finding rich meaning in ancient stories and legends, Bly uses the Grimm fairy tale "Iron John," in which the narrator, or "Wild Man," guides a young man through eight stages of male growth, to remind us of archetypes long forgotten—images of vigorous masculinity, both protective and emotionally centered. Simultaneously poetic and down-to-earth, combining the grandeur of myth with the practical and often painful lessons of our own histories, Iron John is a rare work that will continue to guide and inspire men—and women—for years to come.

From Publishers Weekly Today's sensitized male may be in touch with his "feminine" side, but, writes poet Bly, this "soft male" possesses little vitality and is hobbled by grief and anguish. To achieve real masculinity, Bly argues, men must cultivate a fierce tenderness to be found neither in the macho/John Wayne model nor in the "interior feminine." Taking as his starting point the Grimm fairy tale "Iron John," the author sets forth an eight-stage initiatory path whose steps include remembering one's psychic wounds, communion with a mentor or "inner King," becoming a lover, reviving one's inner warriors and receiving a "second heart." Bly avoids cant as he ransacks Jung, Freud and Reich; referents include Greek, Egyptian and Celtic myths, the Parsifal legend, Blake and Amerindian ritual. A wise and healing book full of fresh insights, Bly's odyssey will help men grapple with identity, fatherhood, relationships and such crises as addiction and divorce. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Bly, a major American poet who won a National Book Award in 1968, appears regularly at workshops for men. The book's title refers to a mentor-like figure in a Grimms fairy tale who serves as Wild Man, initiator, and source of divine energy for a young man. This marvelous folktale of resonant, many-layered meanings is an apt choice for demonstrating the need for men to learn from other men how to honor and reimagine the positive image of their masculinity. Bly has always responded to Blakean and Yeatsian intensities, preferring to travel the path lit by mythic road signs. His intent here is to restore a lost heritage of emotional connection and expose the paltriness of a provisional life. For many men capable of responding imaginatively to allegory and myth this will be an instructive and ultimately exculpatory book. Others may regard it as an inscrutable attempt, intuitive at best, to find merit in male developmental anxieties. For all collections emphasizing family or gender studies. — William Abrams, Portland State Univ. Lib., Ore. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A 'classic' of sexual politics...[Bly's] heartfelt analysis of the Iron John story [is] a delight to read and an inspiration." — Curled Up with a Good Book 7/25/05 "A brilliantly eclectic written meditation...an invisible contribution to the gathering public conversation about what it means to be male-or female." — Deborah Tannen, Washington Post "Important and timely" — New York Times