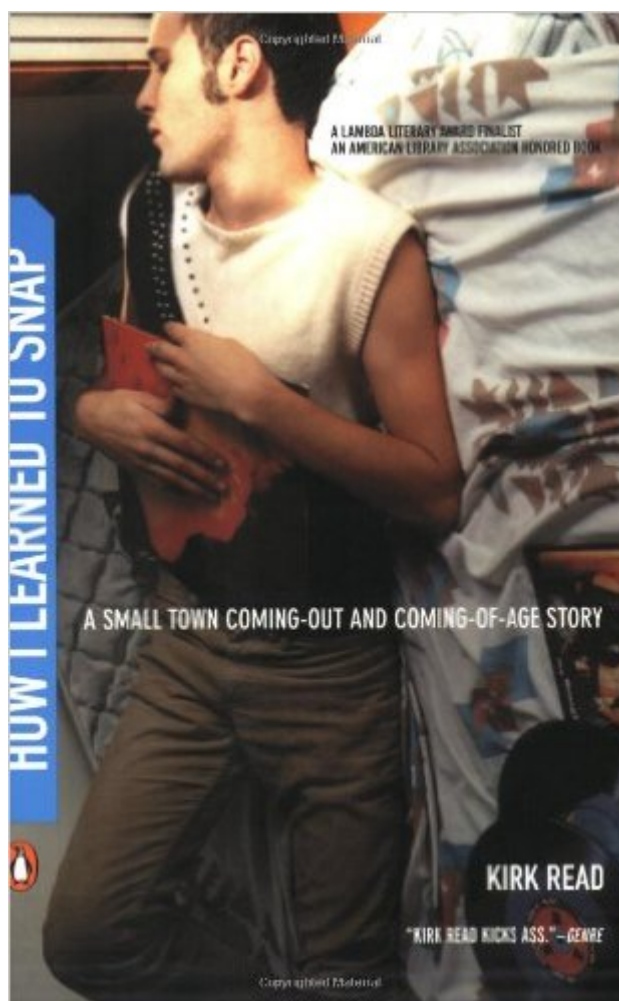


The book was found

How I Learned To Snap: A Small Town Coming-Out And Coming-of-Age Story



Synopsis

With bold Southern humor, journalist and performer Kirk Read takes readers on a guided tour of his precocious and courageous adolescence. Recalling his years as an openly gay high school student, Read describes how he navigated the hallways with his sense of humor and dignity intact. He fondly recalls his initiations into sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, as well as his "shy as neon" acts of rabble rousing during high school. *How I Learned to Snap* is a refreshingly victim-free story in which queer teenagers are creative, resilient, and ultimately heroic.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #641,345 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Coming Out](#) #41 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Gay](#) #997 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage](#)

Customer Reviews

"If I had read something like this as a teenager, I'd have had a much easier time." "Read navigates his adolescent minefield of snap queens, rednecks, love, sex, family, booze, and punk rock with an astute eye for detail and a stunning capacity for compassion."

Kirk Read is a nationally syndicated journalist and performer whose work has appeared in more than one hundred publications, including *Out*, *Genre*, and *Christopher Street*.

Kirk Read is a master story teller, the true to life story comes alive with Kirk's wonderful composure and wit. A must read for any coming-of-age youth, gay or straight or even questioning....

Kirk's book is fantastic reading. Essentially a bio detailing his childhood and teenage years. Dealing with his sexual orientation, finding his career/life path and deciding how to stay true to himself, I felt

like this would be a great book for anyone going through that phase of life, or anyone who is curious about it. Written in a down to earth, talking to a friend sort of style makes this an easy read.

The book is AMAZING!!! The author is truly a wonderful and inspiring gift to this world.

It is a great book to read if you are trying to find the courage to come out - coming out is thankfully getting easier for everyone - but this is a good book to help find that courage.

A little hard to follow at times. You must pay attention or you can lose your place in the story. To me the best part is the epilogue , it really hits home.WELL DONE !

I absolutely loved this book and read it in only a few (3, I think) sittings. It's humorous and intelligent and, personally speaking, I related to it very well as a gay teenager in the South.

I purchased this because it was recommended in a book on how to write and publish a memoir. It was greatly overrated with an overabundance of the individual's life style rather than a picture of a typical memoir. I would not recommend it.

In my quest for more and more great gay coming-of-age fiction, I came across Kirk Read's autobiographical tale of growing up gay in Virginia in the `80s and very early `90s, focusing on his years in junior high school and high school. Based on the reviews, it sounded promising, so I decided to take a break from fiction and head over to non-fiction. Ultimately, I was pleased by the book and give it three out of five stars. It's a very interesting story of one man's gay youth, and it's filled with a lot of smiles and a few laughs. But it's more or less a series of vignettes that pop back and forth through time. Consequently, it's not easy to get to know some of the people who inhabit Read's life very well. And while I got to know the author rather well, I would have liked to been able to better follow the "supporting players." This is a solid book for readers who enjoy coming-of-age stories, but not really for those who enjoy coming-of-age novels. One caveat: I would strongly recommend this book to gay teens; it can be a telling guide, especially for teens with few or no connections to the larger gay world. Overall, I enjoyed getting to know Read, but now it's time to get back to a more literary read.

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