

# Home Is Burning: A Memoir

By Dan Marshall

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## Home Is Burning: A Memoir By Dan Marshall

### An *Entertainment Weekly* Best Book of the Year, 2015

For the Marshalls, laughter is the best medicine. Especially when combined with alcohol, pain pills, excessive cursing, sexual escapades, actual medicine, and more alcohol.

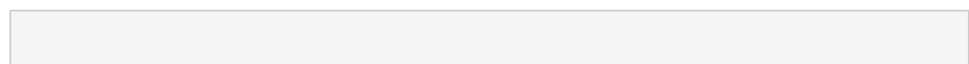
Meet Dan Marshall. 25, good job, great girlfriend, and living the dream life in sunny Los Angeles without a care in the world. Until his mother calls. And he ignores it, as you usually do when Mom calls. Then she calls again. And again.

Dan thought things were going great at home. But it turns out his mom's cancer, which she had battled throughout his childhood with tenacity and a mouth foul enough to make a sailor blush, is back. And to add insult to injury, his loving father has been diagnosed with ALS.

Sayonara L.A., Dan is headed home to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Never has there been a more reluctant family reunion: His older sister is resentful, having stayed closer to home to bear the brunt of their mother's illness. His younger brother comes to lend a hand, giving up a journalism career and evenings cruising Chicago gay bars. His next younger sister, a sullen teenager, is a rebel with a cause. And his baby sister - through it all - can only think about her beloved dance troop. Dan returns to shouting matches at the dinner table, old flames knocking at the door, and a speech device programmed to help his father communicate that is as crude as the rest of them. But they put their petty differences aside and form Team Terminal, battling their parents' illnesses as best they can, when not otherwise distracted by the chaos that follows them wherever they go. Not even the family cats escape unscathed.

As Dan steps into his role as caregiver, wheelchair wrangler, and sibling referee, he watches pieces of his previous life slip away, and comes to realize that the further you stretch the ties that bind, the tighter they hold you together.



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## **Home Is Burning: A Memoir By Dan Marshall Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Funny, touching, quirky, heartbreaking...destined to become a modern classic." - *Entertainment Weekly*

"In this impressive debut, Marshall evokes sympathy, but never pity, as he conveys his family's pain through fart jokes, farcical misadventures (sexual and medical), and - in the middle of all the confusion - emotion so raw and potent it's almost jarring. Honesty is the key; Marshall never shies away from the filthy, uncomfortable reality, and it's that brutal truth-telling that makes his memoir a must-read." - *Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*

"Funny, heartbreaking, and unapologetically crude. **A poignantly provocative memoir.**" ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"A heartwarming, profane memoir about humor and resilience in the face of tragedy." *People*

"Home is Burning should act as a funny, reassuring tonic to anyone who has had cause to doubt their own caring abilities." - *Entertainment Weekly, B+*

"Intensely moving and very funny. The strength of this account is in the sardonic observations of family life and the unsentimental glue that binds the unit as the protagonists try to come to terms with a death they all know is imminent. *Home is Burning* is a deft piece of writing that captures the vicissitudes of family life whether in sickness or in health." - *BBC Radio*

"It's hard to imagine how a memoir about moving home to take care of your cancer-stricken mom and your dying dad could be fun to read, but Dan Marshall manages to pull it off. Equal parts hilarious and heart-breaking, *Home is Burning* proves that with family, tragedy always has company." ?James Frey

"A death in the family-the whole miserable and hilarious story, complete with all the gory mechanical details of grief, rage, drug binges, hostility, self-pity and more rage. As one parent battles cancer and another faces ALS, Dan Marshall's loud and chaotic family gets a lot louder and more chaotic, until *Home Is Burning* turns into a surprisingly funny tale about things that get lost forever as well as other things that stay behind." ?Rob Sheffield, Bestselling author of LOVE IS A MIX TAPE and TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN

"Horrible. Hysterical. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Just like life." ?Jenny Lawson, New York Times bestselling author of Let's Pretend This Never Happened

"*Home is Burning* somehow manages to be both a touching memoir about the author confronting his parents' illnesses, and the funniest thing I've ever read - profane, self-aware, and ruthlessly honest. Halfway through, I started calling friends to read them the most priceless lines. Dan Marshall might be a self-described spoiled white jerk, but he's also a depraved comedic genius." ?Justin St. Germain, author of Son of a Gun

#### About the Author

DAN MARSHALL grew up in a nice home with nice parents in Salt Lake City, Utah, before attending UC Berkeley. After college, Dan worked at a strategic communications public relations firm in Los Angeles. At 25, he left work and returned to Salt Lake to take care of his sick parents. While caring for them, he started

writing detailed accounts about many of their weird, sad, funny adventures. *Home Is Burning* is his first book.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ernestine Worrell:**

The book *Home Is Burning: A Memoir* will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to learn, this book very appropriate to you. The book *Home Is Burning: A Memoir* is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

#### **Christine Andrews:**

*Home Is Burning: A Memoir* can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing *Home Is Burning: A Memoir* yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

#### **Benjamin Torres:**

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this time you only find publication that need more time to be learn. *Home Is Burning: A Memoir* can be your answer since it can be read by anyone who have those short spare time problems.

#### **William Levitt:**

As a university student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's internal or real their leisure activity. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this *Home Is Burning: A Memoir* can make you sense more interested to read.

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