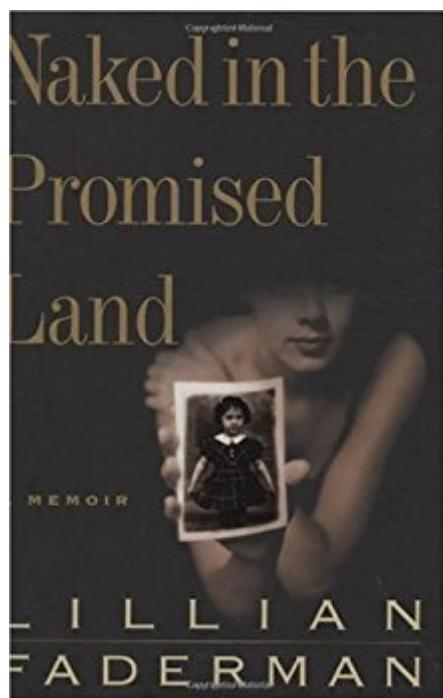


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Naked In The Promised Land: A Memoir



Synopsis

Born in 1940, Lillian Faderman was the only child of an uneducated and unmarried immigrant Jewish woman. Her mother, whose family perished in the Holocaust, was racked by guilt at having come to America and left them behind; she suffered recurrent psychotic episodes. Her only escape from the brutal labor of her sweatshop job was her fiercely loved daughter, Lilly, whose poignant dream throughout an impoverished childhood was to become a movie star and "rescue" her mother. Lilly grew up to become Lil, outwardly tough, inwardly innocent, hungry for love and success. A beautiful young woman who was learning that her deepest erotic and emotional connections were to women, she found herself in a dangerous but seductive lesbian underworld of addicts, pimps, and prostitutes. Desperately seeking to make her life meaningful and to redeem her mother's suffering, she entered the University of California at Berkeley and worked her way through college as a burlesque stripper. A brilliant student, she ultimately achieved a Ph.D. At last she became Lillian, the woman who in time became a loving partner, a devoted mother, an acclaimed writer, and a charismatic, groundbreaking scholar of gay and lesbian studies. Told with wrenching immediacy and great power, this is an extraordinary memoir: the nakedly honest -- and very American -- story of an exceptional woman and her remarkable, unorthodox life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful memoir about a truly extraordinary woman....you certainly don't have to be gay (I'm not) to appreciate this woman's determination to overcome obstacles, live her life as she sees fit....I had just run across it @ the library, looked interesting.....am I glad I picked it up.....do not understand why this book is so under-read.....Lillian had a pretty exciting youth, lived a little on the dangerous edges, but came out the other side accomplished and interesting....I've recommended this little known book to several of my friends....no one didn't like it.....one of my all-time favorite reads....G

Faderman nails the characters in her memoir so vividly they become next door neighbors. This book is a fast paced, beautifully written life journey. The reader is dismayed as the author seeks in vain to find her way through a childhood filled with little and woefully inaccurate information to navigate. Faderman chooses many self destructive roads before engaging her wonderful intellect to embrace and direct herself towards fulfillment.

This is a wonderful read for anyone who has admired Faderman's writings as a social historian, social instigator, feminist scholar, and human rights promoter. It uncovers her links to immigrant struggles, folktales and imagination. The richness of her other work is placed in relief here, by learning about her early life. (Also adds to history of immigrants in New York City in 30s-50s, Jewish lives in the Bronx, Lower East Side and garment district.)

Outstanding writing and fascinating book. Dr. Faderman was my instructor for three different courses. Love her.

This is a wonderful book. I couldn't put it down. Lillian Faderman has had an extraordinary life and her ability to describe her feelings and experiences at various points is captivating. I highly recommend this book.

I have read Lillian's book on the journeys of Lesbians throughout time. To hear her journey is an

inspiration in perseverance and "doing what we have to do" to survive and survive well.

As a longtime admirer of her academic work, I was stunned to read about Lillian Faderman's background in burlesque! An invaluable insight into the life of the daughter of a poor single mother who came out as a lesbian in the 1950s and made good.

Lillian Faderman is an excellent author. This is the kind of memoir that keeps one continually reading until the end.

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