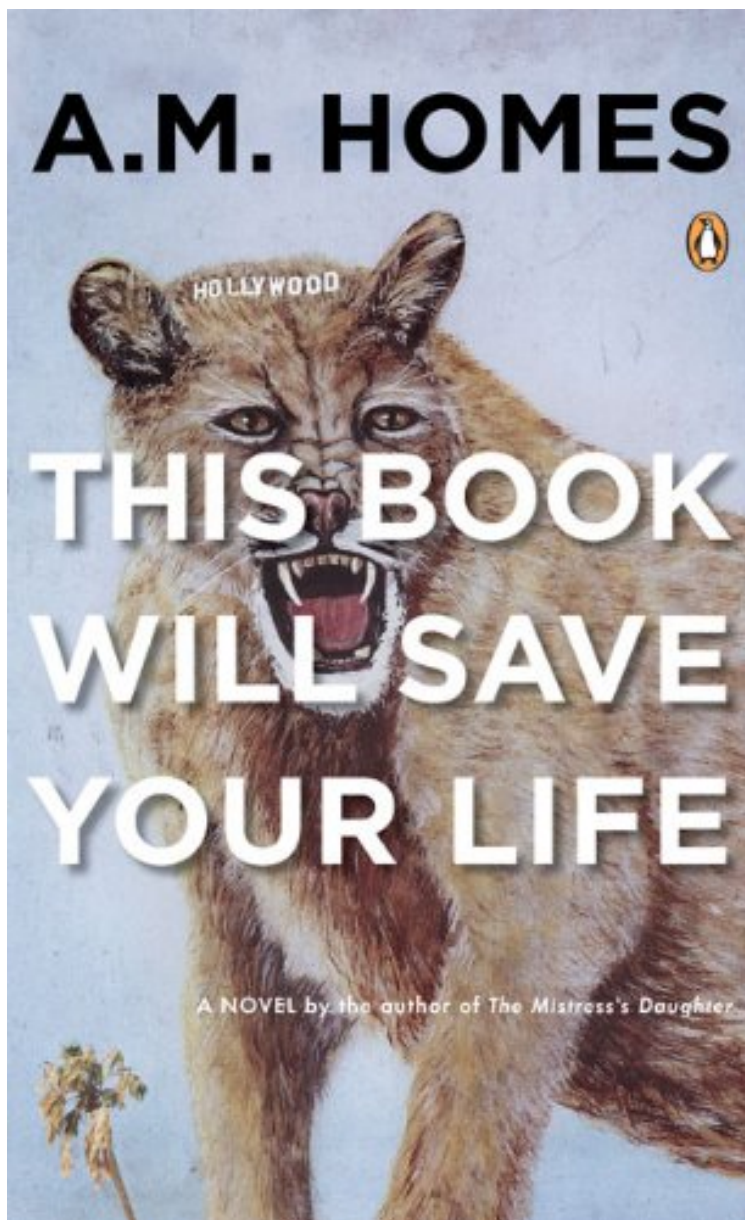


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## This Book Will Save Your Life

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#390123 in Books A M Homes 2007-04-03 2007-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x .70 x 5.10l, #File Name: 0143038745372 pagesThis Book Will Save Your Life | File size: 28.Mb

**A. M. Homes : This Book Will Save Your Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Book Will Save Your Life:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Unique and funny...and might actually save your life!By Elusive and BookishNot the normal genre I read but a friend recommended it, so I branched out. I wasn't sure if I would like it, but

what a talented author A.M. Homes is!!! Richard Novak is distant and closed off from his family and friends. He's been floating through his work driven life until one day he simply can't ignore life anymore. His journey is both eye-opening and hilarious. This book is written from Richard's very unique perspective and might indeed save your life. I was so wrapped up in the story I actually didn't want it to end! I'll definitely be reading more by this author in the future. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hmm By Customer I was riveted from the first sentence and, to me, the amount of drag in this, I want to say--but am not sure it's true--fine book was less than 1%, in other words, negligible. So Homes' prose is not the problem, though I felt it drew too much attention to itself. So why not 5 stars? Because I could not believe the protagonist as real. That may be my failing, I'm not sure. It just seems to me that a person who has been able to amass wealth would not be so naive. For that matter, I believed none of the characters, though I liked them. I believed none of the circumstances, such as the sinkhole and the people Novak meets, such as the overwhelmed mom who, by conveniently running away from her family for a while becomes his sidekick. This Book Will Save Your Life seemed to me like a Bildungsroman in which the author forces the actions, motivations, and happenings to support her message. On some level, dare I say, that is bad writing. At one point, the morning after having read a good chunk, I even contemplated not finishing. I skipped ahead a little to see if things were going to get better. Not so, yet inexplicably, I was drawn in again, so much so that I went back to where I'd left off and continued to read the rest till late into the night. I wanted it to be over because I couldn't stop reading it. Weird. There's something there when a book makes a reader do that. So then why even 4 stars? That's why, I couldn't stop. There's something that makes me not want to dismiss this book. So, reader, as far as I'm concerned, your on your own. In summary, you may or may not like this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read it, forget it? Nope By Kay L. Campbell I first listened to this book several years ago because I'm a commuter and it looked interesting (and my local library had limited audio selections). I was not that taken with it on the first listen. But in the intervening years, I keep remembering scenes out of it, and the entire sense of how Richard, the main character, gets called back to life bit by bit. This is sort of an "L.A. Story" in print in the way that it uses L.A. as a metaphor for the superficially artificial and yet somehow buoyantly real vehicle for modern life. I've just purchased a copy to hear it again because I realized I want to live through it again. Makes me want to see her other novels.

Since her debut in 1989, A. M. Homes has been among the boldest and most original voices of her generation, acclaimed for the psychological accuracy and unnerving emotional intensity of her storytelling. Her ability to explore how extraordinary the ordinary can be is at the heart of her touching and funny new novel, her first in six years. This *Book Will Save Your Life* is a vivid, uplifting, and revealing story about compassion, transformation, and what can happen if you are willing to lose yourself and open up to the world around you.

From Publishers Weekly As Richard Novak is perfecting a life of isolation, a series of bizarre and surreal events force him to reassess his position and reconnect with the world around him. Upon emerging, he is bombarded with a cast of eccentric characters, including an unappreciated soccer mom, a reclusive writer and a jovial doughnut-shop owner. Throughout this darkly humorous audio, Scott Brick supplies excellent tone and subtlety, easily seducing his audience with the opening scene between Novak and a 911 operator. The contrast between the two highlights Brick's ability and range. While his vocal depictions of characters match up and remain consistent, Brick almost falters with the Novak. For the most part, Brick keeps Novak steady but occasionally delivers a speaking voice that doesn't fit the profile range delivered previously. While his uniformity on Novak wavers, his projection of the anxiety and agitation that plague Novak's life cannot be understated. This book probably won't save your life, but it's likely to make you laugh and ponder your own connection with the world. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Let's start with the good news for fans of A. M. Homes (*Music for Torching*; *The Safety of Objects*): it's not all bad. A few critics praised Homes's convincing characters, emotional immediacy, deadpan dialogue, and expert skewering of modern L.A. The *San Francisco Chronicle* even compared Homes to Kurt Vonnegut (and Richard to Billy Pilgrim). Unfortunately, negative reviews prevailed. Critics described the characters, plot, and onerous moral about the prisons of our own making as cartoonish, clichéd, and tired. The *Washington Post* sums up the sentiment: "If you're as isolated and disconnected as Richard, you'll find the details here surprising and hilarious, but otherwise, it's yesterday's news." Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist \*Starred\* What's a lonely rich guy to do when he is felled by severe and inexplicable pain and a sinkhole threatens to swallow his pricey L.A. home? Let go. Suddenly, control-freak Richard finds himself rescuing people and animals in distress and befriending an ebullient immigrant donut-shop owner, a genuinely desperate housewife, a thoughtful movie star, and a famous, now reclusive counterculture writer. He tries meditation, moves into a Malibu beach house, and tries to be a father to his estranged teenage son, Ben, who loves roller coasters, a predilection indicative of this novel's rocketing energy and wildly careening ups and downs. Homes is always riveting, but this juggernaut hits a higher mark with its aerodynamic prose, finely calibrated humor, and spiky characters, each a master of antic extemporizing and improbable spiritual evolution. Making clever use of the extremes of L.A., both natural (tar pits, mud slides, fires, earthquakes) and man-made (the list is endless), Homes orchestrates a midlife crisis that

transforms a money-counting neurotic into an unlikely superhero in a novel of cinematic pizzazz that revitalizes our understanding of love and goodness. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved