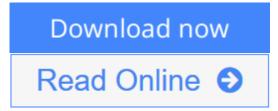


### True North

By Jim Harrison



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An epic tale that pits a son against the legacy of his family's desecration of the earth, and his own father's more personal violations, Jim Harrison's True North is a beautiful and moving novel that speaks to the territory in our hearts that calls us back to our roots.

The scion of a family of wealthy timber barons, David Burkett has grown up with a father who is a malevolent force and a mother made vague and numb by alcohol and pills. He and his sister Cynthia, a firecracker who scandalizes the family at fourteen by taking up with the son of their Finnish-Native American gardener, are mostly left to make their own way. As David comes to adulthood-often guided and enlightened by the unforgettable, intractable, courageous women he loves-he realizes he must come to terms with his forefathers' rapacious destruction of the woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as well as the working people who made their wealth possible.

Jim Harrison has given us a family tragedy of betrayal, amends, and justice for the worst sins. True North is a bravura performance from one of our finest writers, accomplished with deep humanity, humor, and redemptive soul.



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#### True North By Jim Harrison Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

If the sins of the fathers are visited on the sons, what should a son do to provide moral recompense? In Harrison's earnest, initially riveting new novel, narrator David Burkett decides as a teenager in the 1960s that he must rectify the ecological damage done to his beloved Upper Peninsula area of Michigan by his rapacious timber baron ancestors. More immediately, he vows to tell the world about the rapes and abuses committed by his alcoholic father, a charismatic Yale graduate with an egregious sense of entitlement. After a foray into organized religion, David finds spiritual solace in the stark natural world, described by Harrison in soaring prose. Unable to sustain emotional connection with any woman other than his older sister, David has brief liaisons with four women, but he feels more pain over the death of his dog than of his marriage. Meanwhile, he spends decades working on a history of his despised family, only to realize that he is a dud as a writer. By this time, he's in his late 30s, a man who has never achieved maturity because his father hangs like an albatross around his neck. A master of surprise endings (*Dalva*, etc.), Harrison pulls off a bravura climax when David attempts to reconcile with his feckless father. By this time, though, the reader may have tired of the monochromatic narrative, composed mainly of David's anguished introspection and depressed dreams. Still, Harrison's tragic sense of history and his ironic insight into the depravities of human nature are as potent as ever and bring deeper meaning to his (eventually) redemptive tale.

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#### From Bookmarks Magazine

"True North," says the Boston Globe, "has its moments," which sums up general reaction to this novel. Almost everyone found something to like, be it the passionate narration or the novel's strong sense of place. However, most reviewers also found serious flaws. While some praised Harrison's writing, a few pointed out its sloppiness. And nearly all were frustrated with the novel's structure, complaining that Harrison reveals key events too early and allows the story to founder as Burkett painstakingly searches his soul. Harrison has called American readers "grotesquely plot-oriented," and those who fit this description should avoid his newest novel. But for those who don't mind a long walk through the woods, there's True North.

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#### From **Booklist**

Harrison is a novelist of the North Woods. Frozen lakes, remote cabins, and beer-drinking buddies are the decor of his fiction. He writes with prose that is at once well muscled and delicate. His latest novel, set primarily in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is the tale of a boy growing to manhood and hoping to be a conscientious human being once he arrives there. David Burkett comes from a long line of men who made considerable money ruining the forests and endangering the pristine ecology of the U.P. The novel begins as a delightful picaresque yarn. Accepting or at least understanding his family's past and, more specifically, his father's abusiveness is the overarching meaning of David's journey. But the chronology becomes too disjointed and confusing, and the underlying theme of the personal redressing of the sins of one's father remains *too* underlying, too diffusely explored, and fails to hold the plot elements together. David's trail to adulthood becomes a series of episodes, which, while rich in moments, never quite gels into a focused picture. Still, readers of literary fiction will certainly enjoy those beautifully told moments, and Harrison has a devoted following who will be requesting this new title. *Brad Hooper* 

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#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Christina Mundell:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed True North? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have additional opinion?

#### **Gregory McCormick:**

This True North book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This True North without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't always be worry True North can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This True North having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Timothy Hardy:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a book. The book True North it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

#### Michelle Shaw:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled True North your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The True North giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

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