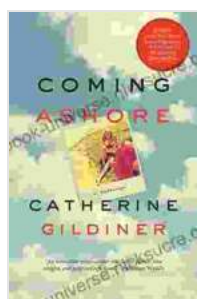


Coming Ashore by Catherine Gildiner: A Journey of Identity, Loss, and Redemption

Catherine Gildiner's memoir, *Coming Ashore*, is a deeply personal and moving account of her journey to discover her own identity, grapple with loss, and ultimately find redemption. Born in England to British parents, Gildiner spent her early years in Africa before moving to Canada with her family. As a child, she felt like an outsider, struggling to fit in with her peers and longing for a sense of belonging.

Gildiner's search for identity led her to explore her family history, which was marked by tragedy and loss. Her paternal grandparents were killed in a plane crash when she was just a baby, and her maternal grandmother died by suicide when she was a teenager. These losses left a profound impact on Gildiner, who felt a deep sense of sadness and dislocation.



Coming Ashore by Catherine Gildiner

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 11742 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 423 pages

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In her twenties, Gildiner began to write as a way to process her grief and make sense of her experiences. Her first novel, *Seduction*, was a critical

success, but it also brought up painful memories of her grandmother's death. Gildiner realized that she needed to confront her past in order to move forward with her life.

In *Coming Ashore*, Gildiner recounts her journey back to Africa to visit the place where her grandparents died. She meets with the people who knew them and learns about their lives and their deaths. Through this process, Gildiner begins to heal the wounds of the past and find a sense of closure.

Gildiner's memoir is not only a story of loss and redemption, but also a celebration of the power of family and the importance of finding one's place in the world. Through her journey, Gildiner discovers that she is not alone in her experiences and that there is hope for healing and happiness, even after the most difficult losses.

Themes

Coming Ashore explores a number of important themes, including:

- **Identity:** Gildiner's memoir is a journey of self-discovery, as she explores her own identity and tries to find her place in the world.
- **Loss:** Gildiner has experienced a great deal of loss in her life, and her memoir explores the impact of this loss on her life and her writing.
- **Redemption:** Gildiner's memoir is ultimately a story of redemption, as she finds a way to heal the wounds of the past and find happiness and fulfillment in her life.
- **Family:** Family is a central theme in Gildiner's memoir, as she explores the importance of family in shaping our lives and providing us with support and love.

- **Writing:** Writing is a powerful tool for Gildiner, as she uses it to process her experiences, make sense of her life, and connect with others.

Characters

The main characters in *Coming Ashore* are:

- **Catherine Gildiner:** The author of the memoir, Gildiner is a British-Canadian writer who has published several novels and memoirs.
- **Gildiner's grandparents:** Gildiner's paternal grandparents were killed in a plane crash when she was a baby. She learns about their lives and their deaths through her journey to Africa.
- **Gildiner's mother:** Gildiner's mother is a strong and independent woman who has always been there for her daughter. She provides Gildiner with love and support on her journey.
- **Gildiner's husband:** Gildiner's husband is a supportive and understanding partner. He helps her to heal from her past losses and find happiness in her life.

Setting

Coming Ashore is set in a variety of locations, including:

- **England:** Gildiner was born in England and spent her early years there. She returns to England to visit her family and to learn more about her grandparents' lives.
- **Canada:** Gildiner moved to Canada with her family when she was a child. She grew up in Canada and still lives there today.

- **Africa:** Gildiner travels to Africa to visit the place where her grandparents died. She meets with the people who knew them and learns about their lives and their deaths.

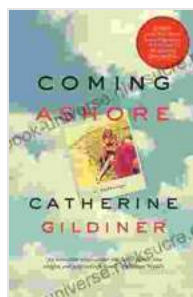
Style

Gildiner's writing is characterized by its honesty, vulnerability, and lyricism. She writes in a clear and accessible style, but her work is also deeply poetic and evocative. Gildiner uses language to create vivid images and to convey the complex emotions of her characters.

Reception

Coming Ashore has received critical acclaim, with many reviewers praising Gildiner's honesty, vulnerability, and lyrical prose. The memoir has been shortlisted for several awards, including the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

Coming Ashore is a powerful and moving memoir that explores the themes of identity, loss, and redemption. Gildiner's writing is honest, vulnerable, and lyrical, and she creates vivid images and conveys the complex emotions of her characters. The memoir is a must-read for anyone who has experienced loss or who is struggling to find their place in the world.



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