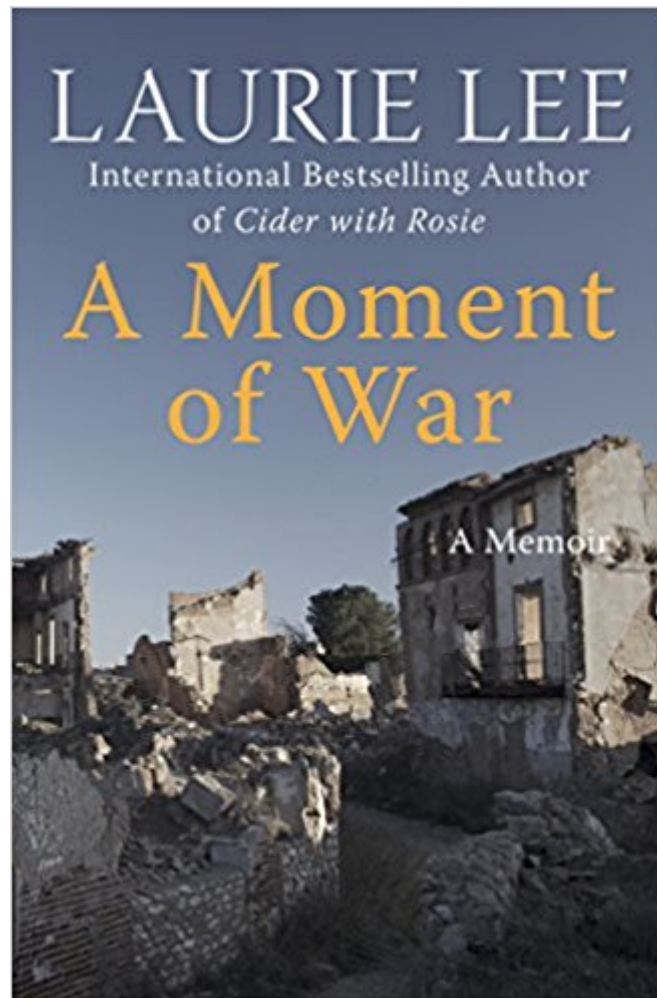




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A Moment Of War: A Memoir (The Autobiographical Trilogy Book 3)



Synopsis

A memoir of the Spanish Civil War with the plainness of Orwell but the metaphorical soaring of a poem . . . An extraordinary book • (The New York Times Book Review). In December 1937 I crossed the Pyrenees from France "two days on foot through the snow. I don't know why I chose December; it was just one of a number of idiocies I committed at the time. Such was Laurie Lee's entry into the Spanish Civil War. Six months after the Nationalist uprising forced him to leave the country he had grown to love, he returned to offer his life for the Republican cause. It seemed as simple as knocking on a farmhouse door in the middle of the night and declaring himself ready to fight. It would not be the last time he was almost executed for being a spy. In that bitter winter in a divided Spain, Lee's youthful idealism came face to face with the reality of war. The International Brigade he sought to join was not a gallant fighting force, but a collection of misfits without proper leadership or purpose. Boredom and bad food and false alarms were as much a part of the experience of war as actual battle. And when the decisive moment finally came "the moment of him or the enemy" it left Lee feeling the very opposite of heroic. The final volume in Laurie Lee's acclaimed autobiographical trilogy "preceded by *Cider with Rosie* and *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*" is a clear-eyed and vital snapshot of a young man, and a proud nation, at a historic crossroads.

Book Information

File Size: 741 KB

Print Length: 145 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1567925162

Publisher: Open Road Media (June 10, 2014)

Publication Date: June 10, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00KGMIYQ4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #268,188 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19

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Customer Reviews

A sequel to "As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning" the book picks up with Laurie climbing over the French Pyrenees to join the the Spanish Republican army and fight in the Spanish civil war. He runs into trouble from the start and in a series of events is jailed several times and almost shot as a spy. The book is a vivid look at life in civil war Spain. Not a pleasant place! Folks are killed by starvation, mistake, accident, on purpose, and bad luck. The brutality on both sides is stunning. An honest telling of the war and one you won't get from history books on the civil war.

Having read everything that went before, this book was a disappointment. Does Lee write fiction or fact? I was never quite sure when it came to the Civil War in Spain. I have always appreciated his descriptive qualities in everything he has written, but the final contribution to his trilogy seemed short and perhaps delivered at the demand of his publisher. His beautiful legacy is assured, the war diaries were lost, and perhaps memory jaded, to be reconstructed slightly faded, and at great personal cost. I love him, and value the personal sacrifice of all those who dared to commit themselves to a cause. An early sacrifice against the absolute weirdness of fascism.

Having an interest in the Spanish Civil War and learning more about this important struggle, I found this novel or memoir to be a page turner, but without actually describing the conflict or putting in its historical context. If the intent was to describe a hopeless and depressing experience, it accomplished that in a nutshell without shedding light on the participants, why they volunteered and what issues they were fighting for.

A Moment of War by Laurie Lee relates his time in the Spanish Civil War. Lee begins his journey as an idealistic young man "I was in that flush of youth that never doubts self-survival, that idiot belief in luck and a uniquely charmed life, without which illusion few wars would be possible" and ends it a shattering moment when he sees the terrible consequences of his actions. An honest book, finely crafted writing; the third in Lee's stunning memoir-trilogy (with Cider With Rosie and As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning).

I do not know much else about the author, Larie Lee, but in "A Moment of War" he certainly led a charmed life. Those who have studied the Spanish Civil War know that the level of hatred, distrust, brutality, and revenge was excessive in this conflict. Indeed, they mirrored that of Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia which, not coincidentally, exemplify the two main factions in this civil war. Right from the beginning the author steps into the middle of this tension. He is held in suspicion by the very side he has come to fight for. The "in and out of favor" status that he holds gives this book an even greater flavor of the conflict he writes of. The book is brief, in part because the author's tenure in Spain was brief. However, through his experiences and observations, we are able to understand much about this microcosm of Twentieth Century European politics. It is a memoir written with a poetic style which allows the author to say so much in so few pages. As an account of the Spanish Civil War, it ranks up there with Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia".

A must read for any student. In the top 100 list of best books ever written. Excellent value for money. Fast shipping and wonderful customer service. Thank you!

perfect

Another great read and description of the times and people living them. Tough just doesn't cover it.

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