

Chapter 1 : Lynne Sharon Schwartz's "No Way Out But Through" Denton Loving

Lynne Sharon Schwartz's reviews and criticism have appeared in many leading magazines and papers. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Foundation for the Arts, and has taught in many writing programs here and abroad.

Her father was a tax lawyer, her mother a homemaker. Strongly influenced by her immigrant grandparents, Schwartz had a large, extended family with strong traditions and European values. As a child, she remembers noticing the details of things -- conversations, emotion, faces. By age seven, she was a writer, her themes were often philosophical and moral. But I thought about things. And my parents were wonderful. Then suddenly it dawned on me: That has a lot to do with the way women are brought up: So I dropped the Ph. The result was her brilliantly acclaimed first novel, *Rough Strife*, an intimate psychological portrait of a marriage in trouble. Perhaps because of her family background, as well as her years of studying European literature, Schwartz feels an affinity to 19th-century writers. Marcel Proust and Henry James are her literary idols and she was also influenced by the poets, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Keats. In , after a period of great stress, she found herself sick with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For three or four months, she lay in bed with only the strength to talk on the phone. In many ways, the calls were life sustaining, and as she gradually felt better. She began to write down the anecdotes and stories her friends told her, as well as her own observations of what was going on around her in the contemporary world. Determined to use what life had to offer, she turned the illness into a witty and humorous novel of introspection and healing. Some day all of this will become literature. She has received numerous awards, and has been given grants for her fiction by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her newest book, *Ruined by Reading*, will be published in May.

Chapter 2 : Only Connect?: A Reader in the World by Lynne Sharon Schwartz

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And galling as it may be for a poet like me, possessed of no narrative talent, to acknowledge, Schwartz is also a poet of poise and power. Her tough-minded intelligence leaves plenty of room for questions and regrets. And yet, though we may be left itching to know a bit more, each poem stands alone. Absence, she said, begets forgetting. She snapped her fingers, bolted down the berry. We might be tempted to wonder just what past experience the mother has in mind, but does it really matter? In any thoughtful collection of poems, the individual poems begin to speak to one another. She used to come whenever I called, her round face crowned by fuzzy orange curls, a loop of flame. Finally the daughter comes to miss the memories which, since they no longer visit, are evoked only through the poem that notes their dwindling. Other memories – unwanted ones – can stubbornly outstay their welcome. The super leaves, is superseded by another, unwounded super. Almost enough to erase that other face. Schwartz writes with casual cheerfulness: Schwartz writes abundantly and well about dreams – most of the first section of *No Way Out But Through* draws on dream material, and the section of elegies for her sister is also riddled with dreams, not all so casual or cheerful. Is sleep presenting me with gifts, to hoard until the words return? Or rather leaving me a sack of junk to carry on my back? One notices in these poems a recurrent and recognizable kind of undercutting, undertow, distancing – a faintly acerbic quality discernible more in the tone than in the words, akin to a shrug. He stomps on the paper bag he just deposited. He stomps his foot on the garbage hard, merciless, over and over. Take that, you pillaging Cossacks, you Jew-hating animals delighting in pogroms, who grafted on our arms the yellow band, take that, you gougers who made us pay in blood for schooling, who tossed my brother into the ditch at Babi Yar. Take that, and that! This is my father, the human trash compactor. Knowledge of Yiddish, she reasons, is something you grow into with age: Forget, she said, the dabbling at wrists and collarbone. Spray a column of air in front of you then walk through it, preferably naked. Walk through the mist. The mist will cling to you. I want it to signify something, like an heirloom with a tale attached. Something to unwrap from time to time and contemplate. The vivid images, the insistent memories, the probing questions, the stubborn honesty – these qualities, consistently yet also variously achieved, offer themselves more generously with each rereading of these rich, tough, and durable poems. Sentimental poems by the dozen attempt such feats and fail. Schwartz succeeds – even while, with her signature, slightly uncomfortable shrug, she acknowledges that the messiness of life persists. Our composition was blundered, the patterns of mind and heart disjointed, shifting endlessly like colored bits attempting to correct a flawed mosaic or botched tapestry, the stitches veering every which way. Marcus could never speak of this precisely, the nature of the matter being so unstable, nor can I. And I think Frost would agree with the sentiment expressed in her title.

Chapter 3 : Schwartz, Lynne Sharon â€“ | calendrierdelascience.com

Lynne Sharon Schwarz is the acclaimed author of many books, including Ruined by Reading, Disturbances in the Field, and In the Family Way. She lives in New York City. She lives in New York City. Read more.

See description at right. My story, "Truth-telling," appears in the first issue of the new literary magazine, *Speak*, edited by Chandra Ganguly. The novel is now available as an audiobook from Audible. Recordings of great American authors reading brief excerpts from their works are now available through their website, *Calliopeauthorreadings*. The recordings were first made 50 years ago! Check out presentation of readings under Events. Hear excerpts from Baldwin, Updike, and Roth, in their youth. Poems are widely syndicated in newspapers and read by 3 million readers around the world. Click on link above to read. See description under Works. Full of suspense, the story shows how he is persuaded to testify, then placed in a witness protection program. Good for adults too! Just released from Seven Stories Press: These wonderful stories, by renowned authors such as Lydia Davis, Joyce Carol Oates, Michelle Herman, and others, focus on the misunderstandings and difficulties encountered by translators, especially in the volatile situations of love and war. The new collection goes further than her previous two in exploring the realms of dream and of childhood, the ironies of daily life, and includes a section in memory of her late older sister. Critics have praised its technical graces, its range, and especially its wit. Intimate glimpses into a much examined life. Lynne Sharon Schwartz began writing at the age of seven, in her native Brooklyn, New York, and has been writing ever since. Finally she realized that if she was to fulfill her childhood dream of becoming a writer she had better send her work out into the world. So she dropped out of graduate school before completing her thesis, to devote herself to writing. She had always wanted to write in many genres, and has now published 19 books, including fiction, nonfiction, essays, poetry and translation. What I wrote was *In*, *Balancing Acts*, a novel about the friendship between an aging circus performer and an adolescent girl, appeared, and in *Disturbances in the Field*, about a family tragedy, brought her critical acclaim. In *After*, after she lost her home in a fire in her apartment building owned by Columbia University, she wrote *We Are Talking About Homes: An Urban Comedy*, is a droll look at contemporary domestic and sexual arrangements, set in a New York City apartment building. The collection of essays, *Face to Face*, came out in *After*, and the poetry collection, *In Solitary*, in *After*. Her third collection of stories, *Referred Pain*, appeared in *After*. It explores their impact on individual lives, as well as the inadequacy of the public language used in its wake by the government and the media. Her latest novel, *Two-Part Inventions* tells a story of ambition and deception set in the world of classical music; the protagonist is a pianist and her story is based on actual events in the life of a British pianist. Schwartz is also a translator from Italian. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Foundation for the Arts, and has taught in many writing programs here and abroad. She is presently on the faculty of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

Chapter 4 : Home - Lynne Sharon Schwartz

A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader has 7 ratings and 0 reviews: Published October 1st by University Press of New England, pages, Paperback.

Rachel Eve, Miranda Ruth. Homeâ€™ New York , NY. Writer, editor, translator, and educator. We Are Talking about Homes: A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader: In the Family Way: The Writing on the Wall: Editor The Emergence of Memory: Henry Prize Stories, , and Imagining America, Following the premise that "the unexamined life is not worth living," Schwartz creates characters who seek a complete understanding of themselves and the world around them. A Novel, also portray dynamic, intelligent female characters whose searches for fulfillment are affected by events beyond their control. While working on her Ph. Realizing that she no longer had to live "the way it was done" she told Smith, she abandoned her graduate studies and concentrated solely on fiction writing. Though she considered herself a short story writer, her publisher urged her to first write novels because they tend to sell better than collections of stories. Schwartz related the key objective of all her writing to Smith: Through courtship, marriage, careers, and rearing children, Caroline and Ivan retain their commitment to one another. They transcend personal differences, arguments, and infidelities to make their relationship survive. Lore Dickstein wrote in Ms. Lydia enjoys her relationship with her husband, Victor, her four children, and her career as a classical pianist. Her social life revolves around her old college friends, with whom she discusses philosophy on a regular basis. She has had various extramarital affairs and remains on good terms with one of her lovers, a successful psychotherapist. She questions her beliefs and loses interest in the things in which she used to find pleasure. Some critics have expressed irritation with Lydia, a heroine whose life seems too idyllic. Carole Cook, writing in Commonweal, regarded Disturbances in the Field as "the execution of an entire, unique world out of a generous accumulation of detail, character, and incident. Alison is a precocious thirteen-year-old who sees in seventy-four-year-old Max an escape from the constraints of her traditional suburban upbringing. Alison befriends Max in hopes of emulating his unconventional lifestyle. A Novel has some autobiographical elements. Its protagonist is a novelist, Laura, whoâ€™like Schwartzâ€™has suffered from Chronic Fatigue Symptom CFS , a vague, mysterious illness that brings on bouts of exhaustion, aches, and other symptoms. The malaise of the illness mingles with her struggle to make a normal life again. Spending long hours in bed, she muses on the lukewarm quality of her marriage, the meaning of her various affairs, and the nature of illness. Traditional doctors are on no help to her, and she eventually puts her trust in a "witch" who acts as a kind of therapist. Reviewers were generally enthusiastic about The Fatigue Artist. The group includes his first, second, and third wives and their various parents, children, and lovers. Schwartz â€| successfully tells the story of people in search of love and sexual gratification through humor and short scenes that accurately portray relationships in contemporary society. The tragedy brings back to the forefront old memories of the past deaths of her twin sister and father. As a result, Renata is emotionally incapable of trust or commitment to Jack or to anyone else. She also begins to believe that a mute teenager she has found on the streets of New York may actually be her missing niece. Donna Seaman, writing in Booklist, noted that the author "evokes in electrifying detail the deep shock felt" following the September 11th attacks, adding that the novel "is also a richly nuanced love story. Smith remarked in Publishers Weekly that these stories "demonstrate that Schwartz can juggle the minutiae of daily life and serious philosophical themes as easily in a page story as she [does] in [her] novels. Her voice is strong, even as her stories are varied, and her images are compelling. The book explains Jewish history, including the slavery and plagues they endured that led to their exodus from Egypt, as it pertains to the rituals of Passover. When Schwartz and her neighbors were displaced following a minor fire in , she suspected that Columbia intended to renovate the building for its own use, leaving its former tenants out in the cold. In another nonfiction work, Ruined by Reading: A Life in Books, Schwartz reflects on her life as a reader, which began at age four. Highly personal, the book is also an intelligent meditation on the value of reading. Schwartz, Lynne Sharon, Ruined by Reading: A Great University against Its Neighbors, p. A Reader in the World, p. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

Chapter 5 : Ruined by Reading - Lynne Sharon Schwartz

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

January 1, Rebecca Foster 2. Schwartz, of course, begs to differ. As a novelist, reading has been her lifeline. She looks back at her childhood reading and her pretentious college student opinions on Franz Kafka and Henry James, and explains that she lets serendipity guide her reading choices now 2. She looks back at her childhood reading and her pretentious college student opinions on Franz Kafka and Henry James, and explains that she lets serendipity guide her reading choices nowadays, rather than a strict TBR list: Instead I thought it unstructured and thin. That is the real question. We read to seek the answer, and the search itself "the task of a lifetime" becomes the answer. January 1, Bruce Twofold is the charm of this slender reflection on the joys and compulsions of reading. Schwartz has dipped into her own experiences of reading, begun when she was only three years old, to muse on what place reading has had in her life. And first, the book is a delight in terms of both content and style. She talks about what books she read at various ages, how she approached books and was entranced by them, how she has gradually read more eclectically and with less sense of obligation. Although Twofold is the charm of this slender reflection on the joys and compulsions of reading. It is the latter who will enjoy this book the most. She regularly and repeatedly raises issues that lead the reader to sit back and muse on his own reading habits. Which leads to the second charm. One cannot help but question oneself again and again about why one reads, about what one reads, about how one reads. Unlike Schwartz, I like to keep a log of the books I read and have done so for over thirty years, not so much as some kind of scorecard but rather so that I can retrospectively notice patterns in my reading "often what seems like rather chaotic reading choices reveals unnoticed tendencies, rather like curves moving around strange attractors. So why do I read? This book has encouraged me to examine this question with more deliberation than my occasional peripheral glances at the question have done in the past. And, more and more as I grow older, because I am enchanted with language itself, with the sound and oral feel of words, with the excitement and magic of carefully and creatively crafted sentences. I grow with every book I read, and that growth itself is delightful. January 1, Julie jjmachshev As a self-confessed readaholic, I was immediately drawn to "Ruined by Reading: What did the author mean by this title? What would her story be about? Who could consider reading a ruination of life? After asking myself these questions, I, of course, HAD to get the book. So many times, I thought "Wow. In the end, I think the title is meant to grab the attention of those who will appreciate its sometimes sharp and biting humor and irony. Everything we read changes us in some small or not so small way. January 1, Angela For many years, my passion for reading was considered by others to be a waste of time, a nuisance, a light weight hobby. However, I knew that my love for the written word was an essential part of my being, without which I would not be the person I am - or was. This is one of the reasons why I loved Ruined By Reading: A Life in Books. Lynne Sharon Schwartz explores her own life in reading and in doing so reveals some of my own feelings and thoughts. I believe there are three "beings" involved when For many years, my passion for reading was considered by others to be a waste of time, a nuisance, a light weight hobby. I believe there are three "beings" involved when we open a book. There is me, the reader, a unique person; there is the book, which may have been read by thousands of others and then there is the writer - again, a unique being, sharing some of their innermost thoughts and experience. It is this amazing, unique coming together which fuels my passion for reading. This is just one aspect of reading that the author explores in her short, but powerful memoir. January 1, Reid Beware. Ruined by Reading amounts to a confession and the author means her title to be quite literal. Most of it deals with her childhood experience, one of reading, of course, but also one of parental criticism and personal fear of not conforming. The main thing to be obtained from reading, she claims, is enchantment, not knowledge or insight, not ideas or compassion or inspiration. January 1, Michelle This is less a book than one long essay reflecting on reading and life and memory. Schwartz begins with a quote from a Chinese Buddhist scholar who said "To read more is a handicap. It is

better to keep your own mind free and to not let the thinking of others interfere with your own free thinking. I always love to compare my own reading to those of "book-book" authors; like Schwartz, I began reading very young, did most of my reading outside of school, and we read many of the same books and poems when young. Some tidbits I especially enjoyed: Hey, I like this idea better than just blaming my age. There is nothing to match the affinity of people who were defined and nourished by the same book, who shared a fantasy life. Maybe the words on the page are not even the true book, in the end, only a gateway to the book that recreates itself in the mind and lasts as long as we do. I loved her reflection when one of her children learned how to read: I could only watch as mothers do when children leave home to seek their fortune, knowing that from now on her adventures would be beyond my ken, I could neither protect nor accompany her. The written word was about to carry her off like the tornado took Dorothy. I liked this thought on book lists and choosing books: Months, even years, go by. But by then I am a new person, with a new list under way. The unread books get carried over, and over, until eventually I cross them out. They are no longer necessary. I can hardly recall what allure they held for the person I used to be. And this on reading randomly: Or perhaps randomness is not so random after all. Perhaps at every stage what we read is what we are, or what we are becoming, or desire. Loved this sentence, she is discussing "public" speech like that by news anchors and politicians: This was thoughtful, contemplative, slow, delightful. January 1, James This is a book that I expected to like more than I ultimately did. It seemed like two books: The latter aspect of this book I found interesting as a sociological or psychological statement about young girls but not as a statement about the nature and impact of reading. We all have our obsessions as readers and so This is a book that I expected to like more than I ultimately did. We all have our obsessions as readers and some, like those of the author, started at a young age. Ruined by Reading provides an interesting narrative introduction to reading a variety of books. For those, like myself, who enjoy reading books about books that would be recommendation enough. The discussion of the importance of style and the difference between books in which style is preeminent and those that rely on plot and perhaps an exciting character or two is informative. But I cannot say the same about the digressions into details of some books which are of marginal interest or discussions of movie versions of books that the author has not read. January 1, Jennine G. Living On Purpose Ruined by Reading: A Life in Books, by Lynne Sharon Schwartz, is a memoir about how her life was affected by books and reading. Of course, my book buddies are good for this too ; Schwartz talks about her avid readership starting at age 3. She f Ruined by Reading: She found much of her thoughts and wonders about herself and life confirmed through stories she encountered. Books taught her lessons and one she points out in this memoir I can relate to Not only can I relate to it, but it is a current revelation in my personal life. You may better recognize her book The Secret Garden , the main character Sara is thrust into many situations with a loud and intimidating adult. I never answer when I can help it. When people are insulting you, there is nothing so good for them as not to say a word - just look at them and think When you will not fly into a passion people know you are stronger than they are, because you are strong enough to hold in your rage Talking about how reading this affected her, Schwartz relates her personal experience: And I thought rage must be powerful. It was certainly loud. I have spent the rest of my life learning that loudness is not a show of strength, and that the spirit is kept alive by trust in the inner voice and by holding firmly to the unnamed thing that Sara found at age eleven: And on another note, Schwartz and I share a common memory problem, which she discusses in her memoir. Neither of us can remember what we read last week in any amount of worthwhile detail. Schwartz thinks through the reasoning of reading in light of this fact. She describes it as "unlike other classic activities of the moment Indeed what reading teaches, first and foremost, is how to sit still for long periods and confront time head-on. So I see, finally, why it hardly matters whether I remember the contents of a book. Mere information is nothing compared to this silent flurry"

A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader: Selected Prose and Poetry by Lynne Sharon Schwartz starting at \$ A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader: Selected Prose and Poetry has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.

Chapter 7 : Book Review: Ruined By Reading by Lynne Sharon Schwartz | Mboten

Lynne Sharon Schwartz (b.) is a celebrated author of novels, poems, short fiction, and criticism. Schwartz began her career with a series of short stories before publishing her first novel, the National Book Award-nominated Rough Strife ().

Chapter 8 : A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader: Selected Prose and Poetry by Lynne Sharon Schwartz

A Lynne Sharon Schwartz Reader: Selected Prose and Poetry () offers an introduction to Schwartz's work. Her debut novel, Rough Strife (), was nominated for a National Book Award and the PEN/Hemingway First Novel Award, and her post-9/11 novel, The Writing on the Wall (), won the New York Magazine Best Literary Fiction award.

Chapter 9 : Lynne Sharon Schwartz | Revolv

"Lynne Sharon Schwartz has caught the essential privacy of the reading act, how over a lifetime it shapes the soul into contrarian particularity.