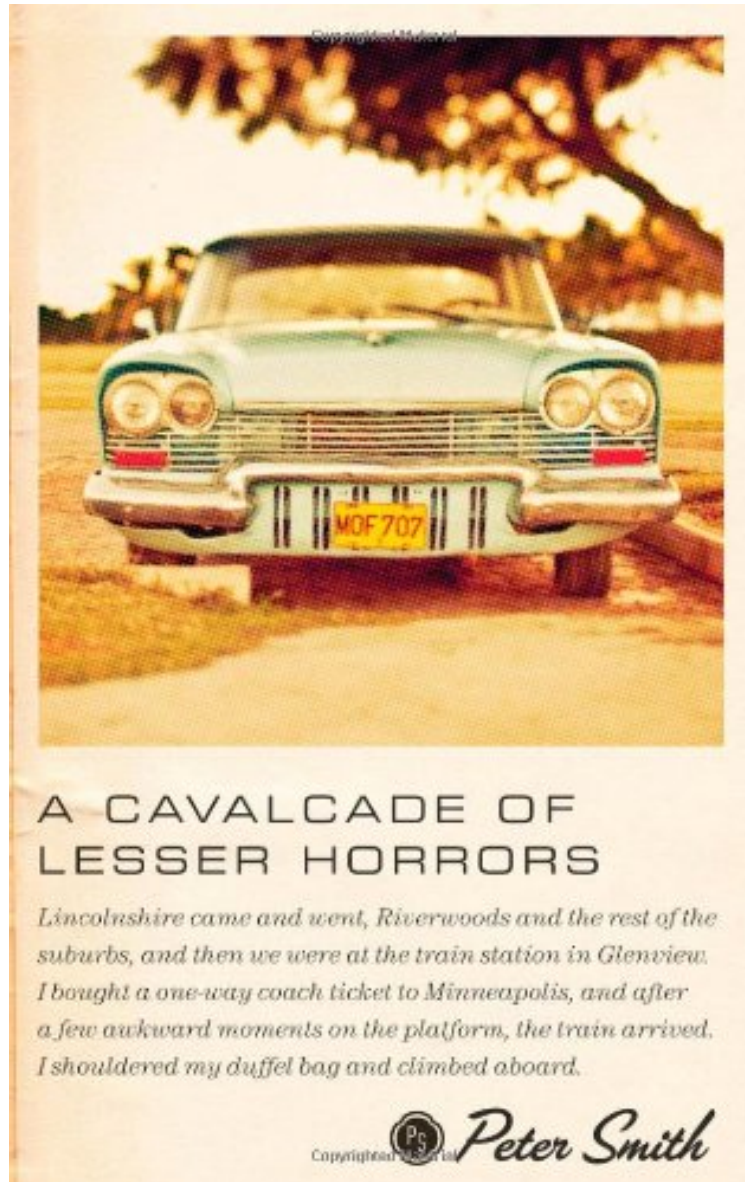


A Cavalcade of Lesser Horrors

Peter Smith

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Peter Smith : A Cavalcade of Lesser Horrors before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Cavalcade of Lesser Horrors:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly MovingBy JohnI read Cavalcade on the advice of a friend when I mentioned I wanted to read more local authors.Man was I glad I did.Smith's writing is straight-forward and easily accessible, but deft and verbose at the same time. His style is hard to pin down, due to both its simplicity

and flow - that doesn't mean in any way that its bad, I just keep finding myself surprised at his ease of imparting personal information. He takes what are very private, human moments and makes them universal. Smith is the kind of writer who, in telling you about himself, helps the reader realize something about themselves. On more than a handful of occasions while reading *Cavalcade* I found myself having dawning moments of insight, wherein I understand the same frustrations and disappointment he's experienced...I've also experienced. Smith's moving tales of growing up and fumbling through life are beautiful and human, in the best way possible. I highly recommend anyone with a working eye and a sound mind read this book as soon as possible. You'll be glad you did, trust me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Master with Words and a Gem of a Book By Anne Roberts Reading Peter Smith's first book, *A Porch Sofa Almanac*, I felt as though I had been there. He captures youth's lost or buried memories so poignantly that I laughed out loud and even cried. How will his second book match up I wondered? In *Cavalcade* he reaches even deeper, articulating masterfully those conundrums, curve balls and caustic lessons life throws at us. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great experience By GG Great book. good service

We exist. We try to lead good, thoughtful lives. And while we all try our best, we can't avoid the startling moments, or we make mistakes and experience little shocks and embarrassments—our lesser horrors—that make us wince and come back to haunt us again and again. For Peter Smith—whose weekly essays for Minnesota Public Radio have endeared him to thousands of listeners and readers—these awkward times are not without their humor, and a healthy dose at that. We all know the circumstances and places the lesser horrors are likely to await—sibling rivalries, high school gym class, job successes and failures, raising children. In this series of funny, honest, and moving pieces, Smith explores a few messy episodes from his own life: growing up Catholic on the south side of Chicago, seeing his tricycle stolen before his eyes, and onward to American life in the '50s and '60s, Vietnam, and a career in advertising, where bosses feed employees anxieties to increase creativity. Along the way, Smith discovers how these moments not only help define what it is to be human but are also a major source of our inspiration and imagination. So cover your eyes, peek through your fingers. Life is a cavalcade of lesser horrors. They may not be the easiest memories to relive, but they are often among the funniest. And by facing them squarely and perhaps even with a smile, Smith finds himself uncovering a simple reassurance, an uneasy truth we should take to heart: we're all on this wild ride together.