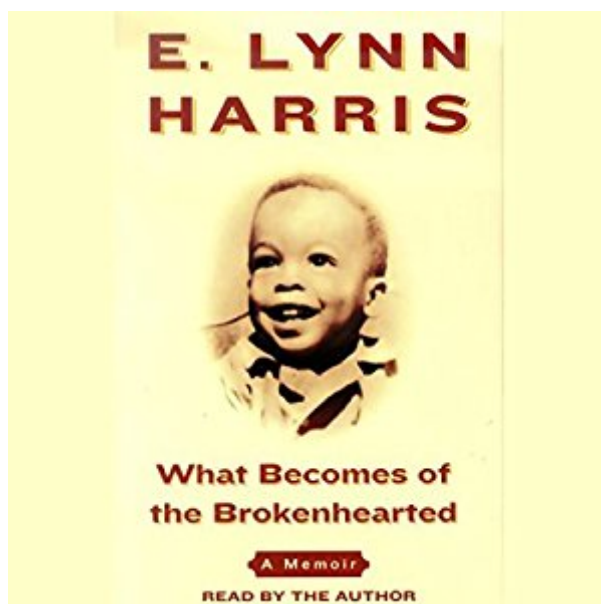


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What Becomes Of The Brokenhearted: A Memoir



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller A Black Expressions Book Club Main Selection Since his first book was published in the early 1990s, E. Lynn Harris has wowed, charmed, and romanced millions of readers. Now he tells his own story -- from his childhood in Arkansas as a closeted gay boy, through his struggling days as a self-published author, to his rise as a New York Times bestselling author. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In an emotional, heart-pulling introduction and first chapter, we are given an in-depth look into the real world of E. Lynn Harris, not the glamorized life many of his fans will assume that he's led. WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKENHEARTED is the highly acclaimed and much anticipated release of the summer. It's a tell-all on the life of an award-winning author who started out self-publishing and has continuously reached new heights writing about relationships between gay and bi-sexual men. We are now able to find out more about the young child and man prior to what we hear about today and have read in the bios that accompany his books. Opening with his suicide attempt in 1990, Harris immediately shows us that his life is very different from the wealthy characters he writes about. He tells of how even at a time in which he was ready to give up living, he was able to come back from "rock-bottom" through his faith in God as well as the support of friends and family. Without delay, he grabs the reader's attention and then takes you back in time as he shares about his childhood and growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas. The first experience he

shares is Easter 1964. He is dressed up in his new jacket and is excited about giving his Easter speech before the church congregation. His happiness is quickly shattered when his father Ben rips apart his new jacket, verbally demeans him and calls him a sissy. He doesn't quite understand that while his two sisters can proudly twirl around and display their Easter outfits, it's not befitting for a young boy to do the same. This just one of the scenes he shares about life at the hands of his physically abusive father.

Courageous, admirable, heartfelt, heart warming, emotional. All of these adjectives I would use to describe the memoirs of E. Lynn Harris. Mr. Harris has taken a great step in life, writing down his life for the entire world to see and make comment on and that takes tremendous courage. I can only hope for him, that this is a liberating experience and some of the demons that have fought him have finally turned him loose. Usually not an avid fan of his fictional writing, this chronological autobiography has allowed me to understand more of his fiction and the need that he has for its writing. Totally inspirational, I've garnered a new respect for this caring, spirited man. The title alone compelled me to read. To think, What Becomes of the Brokenhearted really is captivating. So many people walk around life with a seemingly perfect outer shell, inside is totally in a shambles. Without an outlet to express oneself, we can easily become brokenhearted and disillusioned. Harris experienced this many times during his life starting with an abusive step father, continuing with a short reunion with his father, his seemingly inability to fit in at school, attempted suicide and general unhappiness with his life. It seems that he spent over half of his life looking for someone to love him and seeking ways in which to love himself, while those of us who would look at him would see IBM Executive, a workingman driving around in the latest greatest car, always on top of his game. Many times this search proved tearful for both author and reader. I found this memoir to be elegantly written and riveting. I applaud Mr. Harris. He's shared a part of his soul with the world and I appreciate his efforts.

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