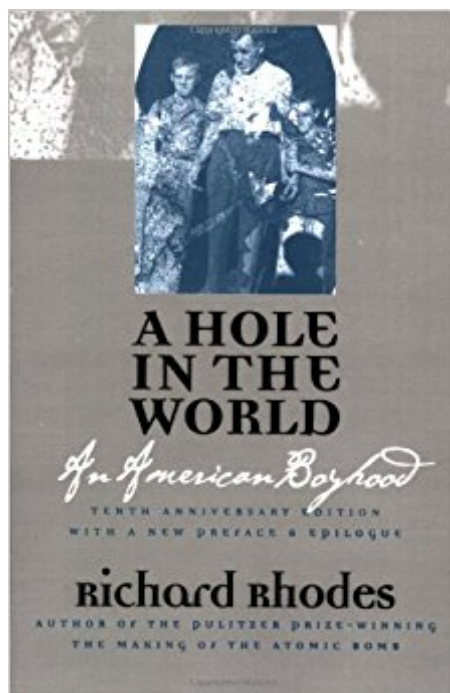


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# A Hole In The World: An American Boyhood Tenth Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

When he first published *A Hole in the World* in 1990, Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Rhodes helped launch and legitimize a decade-long publishing phenomenon—the memoir of abused childhood. In this tenth anniversary edition, Rhodes offers new reflections on the abuse he and his older brother endured at the hands of their terrorizing stepmother and negligent father. He also describes readers' powerful and moving responses to his book, considers his changing sentiments as the years have passed, and provides additional details on his brother Stanley, who remains the author's true hero in this moving memoir.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rhodes, whose mother committed suicide when he was a year old, recalls how he and his older brother were physically and emotionally devastated by an abusive stepmother and their father's complicity with her. "He explores the minefield of his boyhood with a convincing neutrality that precludes neither love nor hate and allows, in the end, redemption and an unforgettable view of a childhood," said PW. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rhodes, author of the highly acclaimed *Making of the Atomic Bomb* (LJ 3/1/87) and *Farm* (LJ 10/1/89, "Best Books of 1989," p. 59), begins the story of his boyhood with his mother's suicide, which occurred when he was 13 months old. This act touched every aspect of his life from that day forward. After several itinerant years, his father finally landed Rhodes and his brother Stanley in the

house of a ghastly woman who was to become Rhodes's stepmother. Living a tortured existence, Rhodes and his brother were systematically starved, sent out of the house for 12-hour stretches, and deprived of any kind of emotional warmth, except what they could provide for each other. Eventually they were rescued and sent to live on a farm, where they began to heal. This book is a testament to the incredible resiliency of the human spirit. Highly recommended.- Randy Dykhuis, OCLC, Dublin, OhioCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I devoured *A Hole in the World* on a long airplane ride, having been impressed by the author's classic "Making of the Atomic Bomb" many years ago. The book demonstrates how someone can channel a meager and then abusive childhood into becoming a writer of great sensitivity. At times the story reminded me of *Angela's Ashes* although the circumstances were different. You really feel and empathize with the children (Richard and Stanley) and wonder at the closed emotional state of their father to acquiesce to his second wife's treatment of his children, and then to (fortunately for them) lose them to state care. I found it significant that none of the adults who could infer the abuse of the boys by their behavior or appearance condition to the authorities. Congratulations to Richard Rhodes for the courage to tell this story; may it serve to remind parents of the paramount responsibility of nurturing the young lives put in their care by intent or accident, and to remind other adults of a communal responsibility towards vulnerable children.

The author skipped around too much with details.

Mr Rhodes' writing is clear as a pristine lake, to the bottom of which one can see, with all stones, underwater plants, fish and monsters visible in sharp outline. I could not put the book down; it made me weep; following his story made me feel both tenderness and horror, and led me to both healing of brokenness, and deeper sorrow for brokenness that can never heal.

You will fall in love with the precious child and admire the man he becomes. It is one of those few books that I intend to read again.

I first read this book many years ago after seeing Mr. Rhodes do a television interview. Although it was very sad, it was a great story, as told only by someone who had lived through it. I have several of Mr. Rhodes books. All of them worth the read!

This is a beautifully written memoir of childhood hardship, cruelty, and neglect. The author's candor and equanimity in examining a painful history is remarkable, as is the poignant outcome.

You never know what goes on inside a home. A mother's suicide casts this family adrift a cause years of pain and suffering. Wonderful inspiring book.

Very good biography. Tough subject matter. Note, this is a an account of child abuse and the author's struggle to overcome.

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