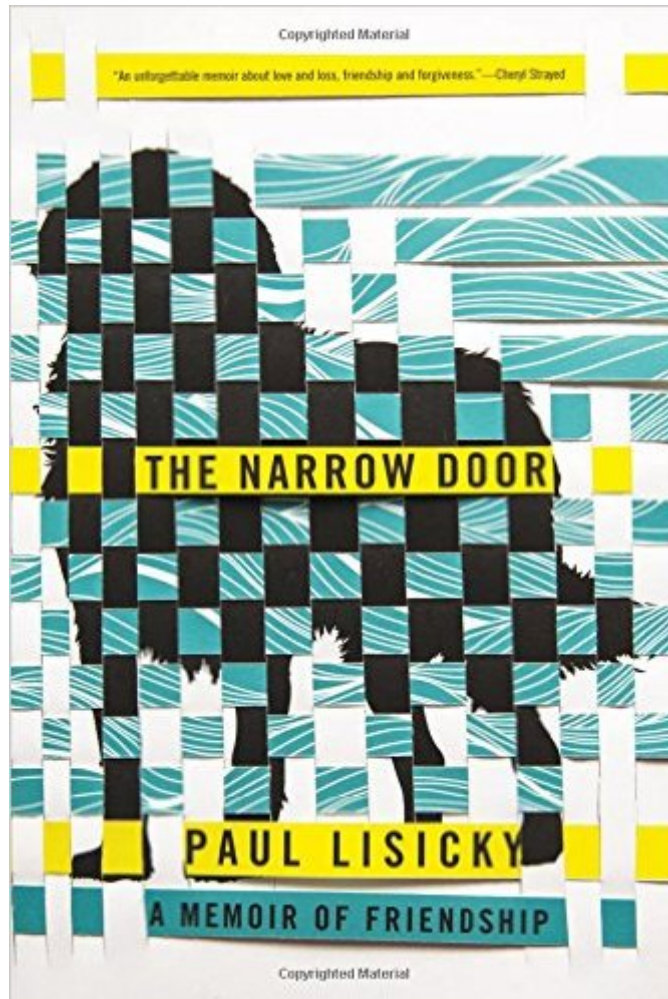


The book was found

The Narrow Door: A Memoir Of Friendship



Synopsis

In *The Narrow Door*, Paul Lisicky creates a compelling collage of scenes and images drawn from two long-term relationships, one with a woman novelist and the other with his ex-husband, a poet. The contours of these relationships shift constantly. Denise and Paul, stretched by the demands of their writing lives, drift apart, and Paul's romance begins to falter. And the world around them is frail: environmental catastrophes like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, natural disasters like the earthquake in Haiti, and local disturbances make an unsettling backdrop to the pressing concerns of Denise's cancer diagnosis and Paul's impending breakup. Lisicky's compassionate heart and resilience seem all the stronger in the face of such searing losses. His survival--hard-won, unsentimental, authentic--proves that in turning toward loss, we embrace life.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Graywolf Press (January 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555977286

ISBN-13: 978-1555977283

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #343,361 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #184 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Mid Atlantic #214 in Â Books > Self-Help > Relationships > Friendship #429 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT

Customer Reviews

Complete review can be found at [HereWeAreGoing](https://herewearegoing.wordpress.com/2016/02/01/reading-not-little-lives-by-garth-greenwell-and-paul-lisicky/), here:

<https://herewearegoing.wordpress.com/2016/02/01/reading-not-little-lives-by-garth-greenwell-and-paul-lisicky/>Mr. Lisicky wrote *Lawnboy*, a novel lush with longing and the search for identity I much loved. Now, he invites us into his heart as it grows and breaks and mends and mourns through two relationships, two loves. Mr. Lisicky explores the boundaries of romance and self and what effort is required when people are evolved enough to recognize that "Love" doesn't necessarily fit into the confines allowed and defined by the culture in which we live; sometimes love is smaller, lower-case l, and sometimes Love is larger, capital L, than we have words and rules and understanding for, and we must "be" as individuals, couples, trios, menages of many sizes,

communities, evolving societies â ” learn to make space, make sense, make okay the shapes our loves and our lives take. Mr. Lisicky writes with trenchant insight about love, about having a partner with greater earning power, about being an artist, toiling at oneâ™s art and having to make a living in other ways, about making sense by finding peace in the lack of discernible pattern in life, love, energy, the cosmos. Listen: How tempting it is to do the alchemical now. To turn darkness into light, bread into flesh, tin into gold, wine into blood. Itâ™s what the narrative wants of us, at least this part of the narrative. It wants to comfort, not that we should necessarily link comfort to weakness. Couldnâ™t there be some rigor to comfort? Iâ™d like to think the story could give it that, to give the hurting in us strength and power. So we will not leave the page without reserving a pasture for darkness, inscrutability.

âœThe best book about friendship Iâ™ve ever read.â • Thatâ™s what I wrote, some years ago, about "Letâ™s Take the Long Way Home", Gail Caldwellâ™s memoir of her friendship with Caroline Knapp. Two writers, private in the important ways, both triumphantly sober â ” and then Caroline was diagnosed with cancer and died, seven weeks later, at 42. Caldwellâ™s writing is restrained, but no matter. Her book rips your heart out.âœThe Narrow Doorâ • is just as good. But much more complicated. When Paul Lisicky meets Denise Gess in the early 1980s, heâ™s 23, a fledgling writer, a graduate student at Rutgers. Sheâ™s 30, a teaching assistant, author of a much-praised novel, Good Deeds. Their professional differences are the least of it. Heâ™s an introvert, in the closet, nervous in the classroom. Sheâ™s open, inspiring, the kind of teacher who collects disciples. And yet they become close friends, âœa little bit in loveâ | and not able to say it.â • All this changes over the years. She has an affair with a Famous Writer (John Irving), who spurns her; he has an affair with a Famous Writer (Mark Doty), and marries him. His books get published; hers have trouble finding a home. And then there is the not small matter of her personality. Her smile âœcould turn diamonds to black powder,â • but Denise is also contentious, redlining emotion on a calm day â ” at some point, sheâ™d make Jesus look for the exit. And, of course, she dies. Lung cancer, brain cancer, even cancer in her heart. But on the way to that slow, painful death, she is fiercely herself â ” that is, emotional and grateful. Which is where the book starts: Election Night, 2008, a few months before her death. Weâ™re in Philadelphia, in Deniseâ™s final apartment, the one she moved to because she could no longer climb the stairs.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Narrow Door: A Memoir of Friendship Build Your Own Secret Bookcase Door: Complete guide with plans for building a secret hidden bookcase door. (Home Security Series) Let's Take the Long

Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland Guide to Narrow Gauge Modeling (Layout Design and Planning) ISO 4183:1995, Belt drives - Classical and narrow V-belts - Grooved pulleys (system based on datum width) Narrow Road to the Interior (Shambhala Centaur Editions) The Narrow Road to the Deep North: A novel (Vintage International) Down a Narrow Road: Identity and Masculinity in a Uyghur Community in Xinjiang China (Harvard East Asian Monographs) The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey Fault Lines: A Memoir (2nd Edition) (The Cross-Cultural Memoir Series) A Lifelong Love: How to Have Lasting Intimacy, Friendship, and Purpose in Your Marriage The Soccer Fence: A story of friendship, hope, and apartheid in South Africa I Love Cross Stitch Friendship & Loving Thoughts: 17 Designs to Lift the Heart #Love: #Love is Book #1 in the Adult Book Series Celebrating Love and Friendship (#Love, #Pretty, #Beautiful, #Beauty, #Me) (#Coloring #Book Series of Adult Coloring Books) Indian Peace Medals and Related Items: Collecting the Symbols of Peace and Friendship The Magic of the Glits: A Tale of Loss, Love, and Lasting Friendship Love Undetectable: Notes on Friendship, Sex, and Survival Our Story: 77 Hours That Tested Our Friendship and Our Faith Ticked: A Medical Miracle, a Friendship, and the Weird World of Tourette Syndrome

[Dmca](#)