



Walking Through Walls: A Memoir

By Philip Smith

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Running with Scissors meets Bewitched in this irresistible memoir, as Philip Smith describes growing up in 1960s Miami with his decorator father, who one day discovers he has the miraculous power to talk to the dead and heal the sick.

After a full day of creating beautiful interiors for the rich and famous, Lew Smith would come home, take off his tie, and get down to his real work as a psychic healer who miraculously cured thousands of people. For his son, Philip, watching his father transform himself, at a moment's notice, from gracious society decorator into a healer with supernatural powers was a bit like living with Clark Kent and Superman.

Walking Through Walls is Philip Smith's astonishing memoir of growing up in a household where séances, talking spirits, and exorcisms were daily occurrences, and inexplicable psychic healings resulted in visitors suddenly discarding their crutches and wheelchairs or being cured of fatal diseases.

While there are benefits to having a miracle man in the house, Philip soon discovers the downside of living with a father who psychically knows everything he is doing. Surrounded by invisible spirits who tend to behave like nagging relatives, Philip looks for ways to escape his mystical home life -- including forays into sex, surfing, and even Scientology.

By turns hilarious and profound, *Walking Through Walls* recounts Philip Smith's often bizarre but always magical coming of age in a household that felt like a cross between Lourdes and the set of *Rosemary's Baby*, and shows how he managed to map out his own identity in the shadow of a father who, truly, loomed larger than life itself.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Smith, an artist and former managing editor of *GQ* magazine, reflects on his youth in 1960s Miami. He wanted a father who mowed the lawn, drank beer, and fell asleep in front of the TV. Instead, his dad, Lew Smith, was a successful interior decorator, who went through a macrobiotic transformation and began tuning into mystical vibrations. Young Philip was introduced to fasting and yogic diets, while Lew explored esoteric spirituality, reincarnation, Bach Flower Remedies and such metaphysical arcana as the akashic records, an ethereal Library of Congress of every soul in human history: [Philip] wasn't sure if this endless invisible database also included reruns of *I Love Lucy* or *Perry Mason*, but it probably did. After a 1968 encounter with famed trance medium Arthur Ford, Lew found his true calling as a psychic healer, and overnight our isolated house became Lourdes central. Smith's fine flair for waggish anecdotes is especially evident in his riotous recall of being suckered into Scientology at age 17. He looks back at his father with much affection in this mirthful memoir that bounces between the comic and the cosmic. Smith is a gifted humorist, and readers are certain to request more merriment. (Sept. 16)

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From School Library Journal

Starred Review. In this astounding coming-of-age story, Smith, former managing editor of *GQ*, describes his father's transformation from Miami's famed decorator-to-the-wealthy into something altogether more strange—the then-backwater city's resident psychic healer who performed exorcisms and seances and rid both the rich and the poor of infections, cancer, and paralysis. Here's the twist: according to the author, Lew Smith could *truly* heal people. The problem is that the author wanted a normal dad, one who sells insurance, comes home from work, has a beer, and falls asleep in front of the TV. A 1970s teen rebellion ensued. Hilarious and touching; for fans of the goofball and paranormal.—Elizabeth Brinkley

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Review

"Philip Smith's compellingly readable memoir of his father -- a psychic, exorcist, hands-on-healer, and...decorator! -- is as entertaining as it is bizarre, all the way to its unexpected and deeply moving conclusion." -- John Berendt, author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and *The City of Falling Angels*

"At long last, a subject worthy of a memoir. Philip Smith recounts the story of his father, a visionary, a psychic healer, and a saint, with matter-of-fact grace, without ever denying how difficult it was to be the child of a man with unlimited supernatural gifts. Lew Smith was a man we are unlikely to ever see the likes of again, one of the few fathers in literature whose death I mourned as if I'd known him. I wish I had known him; he was a miracle. Every page of *Walking Through Walls* reminded me of how vast the universe, and how meager the dreams of our philosophies." -- Haven Kimmel, author of *Iodine* and *A Girl Named Zippy*

"A startling story, beautifully told. If you believe that science can explain everything, this book might change your mind. *Walking Through Walls* is a window into a fascinating world through the sensitive eyes of an observant son." -- Delia Ephron, author of *Hanging Up*

"*Walking Through Walls* is a funny and poignant memoir about growing up in a family as strange and mysterious as the Bermuda Triangle -- Dad is a psychic healer with a day job interior decorating for dictators, the dead speak, and adolescence is an altered state of grace." -- Dirk Wittenborn, author of

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bill Underhill:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a problem. What people must be consider any time those information which is in the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Walking Through Walls: A Memoir as the daily resource information.

Thomas Woods:

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Elizabeth Cornelius:

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