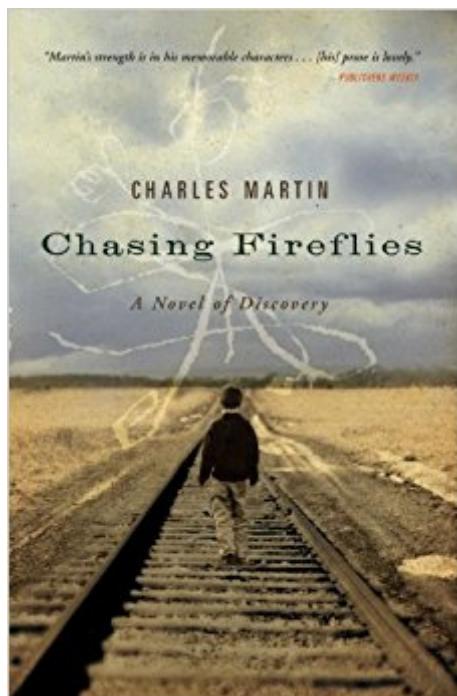


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Chasing Fireflies: A Novel Of Discovery



Synopsis

They have one summer to find what was lost long ago. "Never settle for less than the truth," she told him. But when you don't even know your real name, the truth gets a little complicated. It can nestle so close to home it's hard to see. It can even flourish inside a lie. And as Chase Walker discovered, learning the truth about who you are can be as elusive and as magical as chasing fireflies on a summer night. A haunting story about fishing, baseball, home cooking, and other matters of life and death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In his fifth novel, Martin (Maggie; When Crickets Cry) offers the same brand of sentimental Southern storytelling that has endeared him to readers. Just before T-boning her Impala into a train, a woman on a suicide run kicks her horrifically abused little boy, known only as Snoot—or to the state, John Doe 117—out of the car. Chase Walker, a reporter for the Brunswick Daily in Glen County, Ga., is assigned to follow up on the boy, whose abandonment mirrors Chase's own haunted past. The little boy, apparently mute, is an artistic prodigy who excels at chess and quickly works his way into Chase's heart. Martin's strength is in his memorable characters, especially Uncle Willie, whose fresh quips ("as out of place in South Georgia as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs"), penchant for Krispy Kreme doughnuts and mysterious past keep readers engrossed. Here, as in some of his other novels, Martin can't resist piling on unnecessary tragedies; his characters and their issues are enough to keep the pages turning. Although the plot needs

fine-tuning, Martin's prose is lovely, and the flashback parallel stories of a grown man abandoned as a child and the neglected boy will ensure readers keep the Kleenex handy. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"Andrew Peterson's mellow vocal personality enhances his narration of this warm drama, complete with a well-performed multiplicity of quirky characters. The story centers around Snoot, a mute autistic boy whose mother kicked him out of the car just before she committed suicide by running it into a train. Peterson uses vocal sounds and descriptions of hand gestures to portray Snoot's high intelligence--he plays chess--and artistic ability. His depiction of Chase Walker, a news reporter who is intrigued by Snoot's unfolding story, is performed with empathy and sensitivity. As the emotional pitch ratchets up with the plot, Peterson perfectly renders a believable story the listener won't soon forget." © G.D.W. © AudioFile Portland, Maine --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

As of today I need one more of your books for my kindle. That gives me the privilege of spending time with you whenever I need your words. I read this wonderful story about a year ago. I was blessed to be born and raised in a large, loving family. We were confident in our role of siblings..loved and cherished. This story is about feeling lost in a world while others seem to belong. It's about looking for love and acceptance in the world of foster care. Sadness, joy, tears and forgiveness is the backbone of this story. It's a difficult journey but one that will leave you at peace. Mr Martin thank you. You are SPECIAL. God bless

Simply amazing! I don't know if I've ever had this happen before, but after reading this book, I'm hesitant to pick up another (I'm an avid reader)---still savouring this one. I loved this story. Uncle Willee is my hero! (although, yes, he has flaws). This story touched and revived a passion I already have--about the brokenness and pain felt by boys abandoned, and the help and healing that can come when good men, in touch with their own pain and brokenness and not afraid to share it, reach out in love. On a broader level--it's a story of brokenness, choices, and healing that can come even in the midst of pain. Okay...maybe this is a rather corny review but...This is the 4th or 5th book I've written by Charles Martin. I do love his writing, and can't figure out why I hadn't heard of him earlier. I do need to slow down in finding, buying and reading his books though. Otherwise it will soon be all over, and I'll be left disappointed with nothing to look forward to! :o)

I think I remember this to be about a complex person, one that society overlooks and expects little from, but it has been awhile since I read it. But I remember feeling more aware after reading it - but that understates the impact the Charles Martin novels have on me. I'm often stunned at the honesty and delicate new understanding I'm faced with. Sometimes I'm giddy, because he reveals a viewpoint that I carry (not politically correct).

Place is always a main character in Charles Martin's novels, and "Chasing Fireflies" is no different. Martin is a natural storyteller and a fine writer, and he takes a story and people and binds them into a place that both defines and illuminates. Three interwoven lives are the stuff of "Chasing Fireflies." Chase Walker is a reporter longing for the father he never knew. His adopted father, Willie or "Unc," is a family black sheep, and about as black as a black sheep can get, dealing with his own memories, history and loss. And then there's the boy, Snoot or Buddy or whatever his name might be, who's been horribly abused; in the novel's opening scene, he's kicked out of a car moments before its driver pulls in front of a train to commit suicide. All three characters search for belonging as Martin gradually unfolds a mystery, actually a nest of mysteries, some stretching back decades and others contemporary. As he does in all of his novels, he's a master of sucking the reader into the story, because his characters are real and you care about what happens to them. Martin masterfully weaves the themes of belonging and redemption into his story, and it becomes our story. An added bonus is Unc's aphorisms, expressions of a small-town South that I haven't heard since my father died more than 20 years ago. (One in particular -- "Makes your butt want to dip snuff" -- catapulted this reader right into his family history. And the "fireflies" of the title are what I knew as "lightning bugs" and captured in my jar, just like Chase, Unc and the boy.) It's a beautiful story.

I am turning 60 this year, and I have done a lot, mostly in spite of the father I never had. I genuinely enjoyed this story of love between a son and a father that never gave up on each other. I never had that dad, he was too immature and didn't know how to be a man, but was himself a child who never grew up. Thus I have had to learn and fail and get back up and be my own father to my own little boy self and learn to love myself as my own father could not. I am somewhat envious of the boy who had an uncle who would not stop being his real father, mine was not that strong or brave. Yet I am not entirely green with envy because I recognize the hard and painful effort that Uncle Willie put forth as the same healing effort that I have had to commit to giving freely to my soul. Pain is love and attention is how we deliver it. This is a good story of good men and the women who love them.

This may be the best Charles Martin book I have read yet. Several stories of the same man are woven together to a breath-taking discovery. It is bad for your sleep though; I read way passed bed-time every night.

Chasing Fireflies was an awesome book. It started a little slow, but WOW! The author had so many wonderful ways of explaining and thinking about life. Parts of it are pretty dark and parts are unbelievable, but it's one of the best stories I've read. Even the part after the story is good when he explains how he came up with the Uncle Willie character. I will definitely be reading many more books by Charles Martin. A couple quotes from the book that really made me think: "Sometimes good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment." "You can say whatever you want about something, but that doesn't change what it is."

This book is a great work of art. I found myself engulfed in the story line and clinging to every word on the page. The story hits a cord with me and in a round about way helped deal and process some of my father wounds. I highly recommend this book and am looking forward to exploring other books by this author.

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