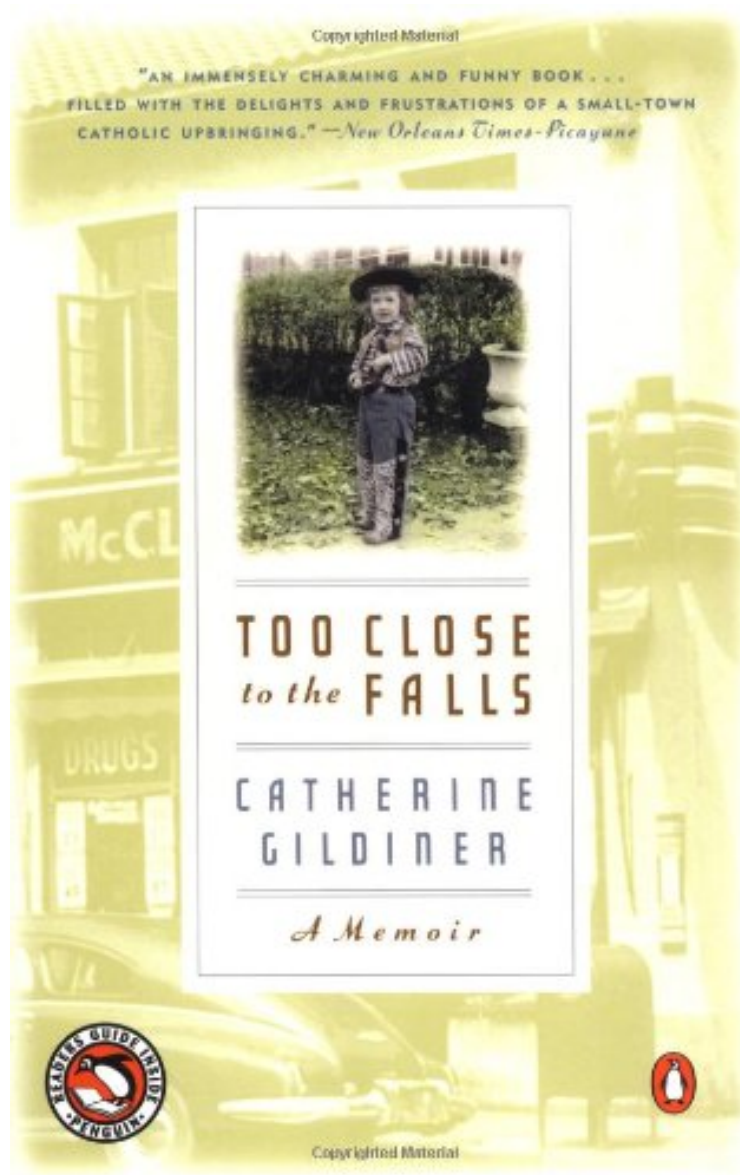


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Too Close to the Falls: A Memoir

Catherine Gildiner

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#402635 in Books 2002-02-26 2002-02-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .87 x 5.101, .56 #File Name: 014200040X400 pages | File size: 76.Mb

Catherine Gildiner : Too Close to the Falls: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Too Close to the Falls: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Long-winded at times!By DFA little long-winded, but it has its moments. The biggest flaw in this book -- to me -- is the author's relationship to her younger person. She seems to linger in Adult thoughts that just don't align much with the age range in the book. Many quotations of her younger self

include words that I don't even sometimes understand or know. I'm reading it for bookclub, otherwise it would not have been a book I would choose. The very beginning seems pretty mundane so it took several pages to even get hooked. Once hooked, I had fun reading it until about the last third which slowed down immensely. Not everyone would like this book so I would not recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it. I am very familiar so it was ...By Robert T. DufortLoved it. I am very familiar so it was fun to see it in a book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too Close for ComfortBy Auntie ChulaThis is a well-written, but very troubling memoir of a girl growing up in Lewiston, NY. Her non-parenting parents and her hypocritical church conspired to make an intelligent, warm child with ADHD into a very troubled teen. In some ways I'd like to read the sequels to this book to find out how she survived and learned to thrive, but I don't know that I have the guts to do so. Her story broke my heart.

Welcome to the childhood of Catherine McClure Gildiner. It is the mid-1950s in Lewiston, New York, a sleepy town near Niagara Falls. Divorce is unheard of, mothers wear high heels to the beauty salon, and television has only just arrived. At the tender age of four, Cathy accompanies Roy, the deliveryman at her father's pharmacy, on his routes. She shares some of their memorable deliveries—sleeping pills to Marilyn Monroe (in town filming Niagara), sedatives to Mad Bear, a violent Tuscarora chief, and fungus cream to Warty, the gentle operator of the town dump. As she reaches her teenage years, Cathy's irrepressible spirit spurs her from dangerous sled rides that take her "too close to the Falls" to tipsy dances with the town priest.

From Publishers WeeklyNow a successful clinical psychologist with a monthly advice column in the popular Canadian magazine *Chatelaine*, Gildiner tells of her childhood in 1950s Lewiston, N.Y., a small town near Niagara Falls, in this hilarious and moving coming-of-age memoir. Deemed hyperactive by the town's pediatrician, at age four Gildiner was put to work at her father's pharmacy in an effort to harness her energy. Her stories of delivering prescriptions with her father's black deliveryman, Roy, are the most affecting parts of this book, with young Cathy serving as map reader for the illiterate but streetwise fellow, who acted as both protector and fellow adventurer. In a style reminiscent of the late Jean Shepherd, Gildiner tells her tales with a sharp humor that rarely misses a beat and underscores the dark side of what at first seems a Norman Rockwell existence. Mired in a land dispute, the local Native American population has a chief who requires sedatives to subdue his violent moods. Meanwhile, the feared "monster" who maintains the town dump is simply afflicted with "Elephant Man" syndrome. And Cathy's mother—with her intellectual preoccupations and aversion to housework and visiting neighbors—is an emblem of prefeminist frustration. The book's vaunted celebrity dish—Gildiner delivered sleeping pills to Marilyn Monroe on the set of Niagara—pales in comparison to such ordinary adult pathos. By book's end, Cathy, too, gets her share, as beloved Roy mysteriously exits and an entanglement with a confused young priest brings her literally and figuratively "too close to the falls." Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalClinical psychologist Gildiner's well-crafted memoir describes her 1950s childhood in Lewiston, "a small town in western New York, a few miles north of Niagara Falls." Hers was no ordinary childhood but that of a precocious, headstrong, and intelligent girl whose parents provided a uniquely unconventional upbringing. Because of her lively temperament, her pediatrician recommended to her older and devoutly Catholic parents that she work in her father's pharmacy to channel her energies. Thus, at the age of four, she was teamed with a black male employee to deliver prescription drugs when not in school. She had a wide range of experiences with her co-worker, stopping in bars and making deliveries to both the wealthiest and the poorest members of the community. In each eventful chapter, Gildiner focuses on a particular adult who strongly influenced her understanding of the world. Often dangerous, her experiences, as related here, are also amusing, charming, and relevant. Highly recommended. DSue Samson, Univ. of Montana Lib., Missoula Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Anyone who appreciates a good story, well told, will find it in *Too Close to the Falls*." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*"Gildiner beautifully portrays her outrageous youth through the innocent, yet sometimes frighteningly worldly eyes of a child." *The Quill Quire*