



My Sunshine Away

By M. O. Walsh

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THE INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

"A tantalizing mystery and a tender coming-of-age story...Unputdownable."—Oprah.com

In the summer of 1989, a Baton Rouge neighborhood best known for cookouts on sweltering summer afternoons, cauldrons of spicy crawfish, and passionate football fandom is rocked by a violent crime when fifteen-year-old Lindy Simpson—free spirit, track star, and belle of the block—is attacked late one evening near her home. As the dark side of this idyllic stretch of Southern suburbia is revealed, the close-knit neighborhood is irreversibly transformed.

In *My Sunshine Away*, M.O. Walsh brilliantly juxtaposes the enchantment of a charmed childhood with the gripping story of a violent crime, unraveling families, and consuming adolescent love. Acutely wise and deeply honest, it is an astonishing and page-turning debut about the meaning of family, the power of memory, and our ability to forgive.

Named A Book of the Year by NPR, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Booklist*

An *Entertainment Weekly* 'Must List' Pick

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Amazon Debut Spotlight Selection for February 2015: After only 50 pages *My Sunshine Away* gave me the same feeling as other Southern novels that have long remained favorites; *The Help* and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, to name two. How much of our future self is shaped by our first love, our early mistakes, and trading sweet innocence for the acrid recognition of cruelty? A lot, we discover, as we ride shotgun with a narrator who was fourteen the year that a crime against the girl he loved changed him irrevocably. This coming-of-age story set in a quiet Louisiana neighborhood touched by violence is by turns suspenseful and insightful, peppered with moments like this one that I want to commit to memory: “We were all middle-to-upper-class white kids, all the products of our parents’ success, and when we played with one another at school we played in the mirror.” —*Seira Wilson*

Review

Praise for *My Sunshine Away*

“Try and restrain yourself from flying through the pages of this wonderful novel. Instead savor this lush Louisiana mystery that takes you back to what life tasted like when you were still somewhat naïve to the ways of the world. Not just Southern, but American in its vivid Baton Rouge colors and scents, treetops and grasses, *My Sunshine Away* is the story of how the events of our youth profoundly affect us as adults. The last page is as satisfying as the first. A mystery you cannot wait to solve.”—Kathryn Stockett, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Help*

“*My Sunshine Away* is not a thriller; it is not genre fiction; but it's realism at its finest, and it is a page turner—a story made memorable in paragraph after paragraph by the brilliance of its author, and by the scope of the questions he asks as to how we live this life to the fullest as loving and moral beings. It's about love, obsession, and pain. Such a beautiful book. Such a remarkable book. I can't praise it enough.”—Anne Rice, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Prince Lestat*

“[A] wrenching and wondrous coming-of-age tale. Walsh's debut novel is a mystery, a Louisiana mash note and a deeply compassionate, clear-eyed take on the addled teen-boy mind.”—*People*

“Excellent...Walsh has an innate knack for plot and suspense, but the real pleasure here is his prose. This stunning and gracefully written debut novel is a total page-turner until the very end.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Capable of making a reader cry...and scream...And yet, you're never exhausted trying to piece together clues to solve the crime. The power of the book lies in its spot-on characters.”—Oprah.com

“[A] rich, unexpected, exceptional book...A gripping read that's more than a thriller, more than a traditional Southern tale, *My Sunshine Away* is a brilliant meditation on the unpredictability and the lifelong effects of childhood events and relationships.”—*Chicago Tribune*

“*My Sunshine Away* is also simply, like Lee's [*To Kill a Mockingbird*], a great work of fiction. It's a page-turning thriller with a heartbreaking crime and an intriguing cast of suspects...[Walsh's] haunting, lyrical

novel will compel you to look back on your own life's mysteries, your own childhood fog."—*The Fort Worth Star Telegram*

"Recalls the best of Pat Conroy: the rich Southern atmosphere, the interplay of darkness and light in adolescence, the combination of brisk narrative suspense with philosophical musings on memory, manhood, and truth....Celebrate, fiction lovers: The gods of Southern gothic storytelling have inducted a junior member."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Suspenseful, compassionate, and absorbing, Walsh's word-perfect rendering of the doubts, insecurities, bravado, and idealism of teens deserves to be placed in the hands of readers of Tom Franklin, Hannah Pittard, and Jeffrey Eugenides."—*Booklist* (starred review)

"[A] gripping 300-page debut novel that is already one of the year's most anticipated books...[P]itch perfect on details...Walsh [is] a master storyteller."—*The New Orleans Times Picayune*

"M.O. Walsh's marvelous debut novel is so thick with searching nostalgia and melancholy, it gives the reader the same sense of authenticity and emotional satisfaction more typically associated with a good memoir. *My Sunshine Away* is the kind of novel you simply can't put down."—*Dallas Morning News*

About the Author

Milton O'Neal Walsh, Jr.'s stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Oxford American*, *American Short Fiction*, *Epoch*, and *Best New American Voices*, among others. He is a graduate of the MFA program at the University of Mississippi and is currently the director of the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans, where he lives and works, happily, with his wife and family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elisa Hall:

The feeling that you get from *My Sunshine Away* is a more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but *My Sunshine Away* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read that because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. That book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this specific *My Sunshine Away* instantly.

Chuck Deschenes:

The particular book *My Sunshine Away* has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Edith Macklin:

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