



The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life

By Robert Goolrick

Download now

Read Online 

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick

In the Goolrick home there was a law: Never talk about the family in the outside world, never reveal the slightest crack in the facade. To all appearances, they lived an almost idyllic life. Two respected, charming parents everyone loved. Three bright, smiling children. A lovely home on a quiet street nestled in a small college town. But behind the facade this family had created lurked secrets so dark, so painful for one little boy, that his life would never be the same.

With devastating honesty and razor-sharp wit, Goolrick looks back at this seemingly serene time and at the parents who gave him life and then robbed him of it, who created his world and then destroyed it.

 [Download The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from ...pdf](#)

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life

By Robert Goolrick

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick

In the Goolrick home there was a law: Never talk about the family in the outside world, never reveal the slightest crack in the facade. To all appearances, they lived an almost idyllic life. Two respected, charming parents everyone loved. Three bright, smiling children. A lovely home on a quiet street nestled in a small college town. But behind the facade this family had created lurked secrets so dark, so painful for one little boy, that his life would never be the same.

With devastating honesty and razor-sharp wit, Goolrick looks back at this seemingly serene time and at the parents who gave him life and then robbed him of it, who created his world and then destroyed it.

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1095421 in Books
- Published on: 2008-04-15
- Format: Bargain Price
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.19" h x .63" w x 5.50" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 227 pages

 [Download The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* By Robert Goolrick

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Goolrick begins his debut work with a moment he hopes will bring him closure—returning to his Southern home to bury his abusive father. Peeling away the family's carefully constructed facade like the layers of an onion, this brave memoir tells of a childhood marred by alcoholism and an adulthood mired in loneliness, substance abuse and self-mutilation. The son of an indolent college professor and an unfulfilled, Valium-placated housewife, Goolrick grows up in a 1950s home where lavish cocktail parties and false bourgeois airs are sacred, and disclosing the family's slightest imperfection is sinful. Goolrick is never forgiven for his own minor trespasses, despite showering his struggling, status-hungry parents with extravagant gifts (he even resorts to buying them the family home they could never afford to own). Eventually it is revealed that their unhealthy dynamic and Goolrick's attempted suicide stem largely from a single, life-altering incident: his rape by his drunken father at the age of four. In the end, Goolrick has written a moving, unflinchingly rendered story of how the past can haunt a life. (*Mar.*)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

"If you don't receive love from the ones who are meant to love you," writes Goolrick toward the end of his engrossing memoir, "you will never stop looking for it." He opens the window into his lonely life in small increments, beginning with parents whose lives revolved around the cocktail hour. After the guests departed, bitterness and depression hung over the house, and love for one another was never expressed. Goolrick moves on to his own heavy drinking and the death wish that drove him to slit his wrist on his thirty-fifth birthday. He cuts himself daily for two months, then lands in the "loony bin," where the "viciousness and multiplicity" of his cuts make him a star. Finally Goolrick confides the horrific experience of being raped by his drunken father at age four, his mother watching but doing nothing. Goolrick knows he has never recovered; the reader only hopes that writing of his story will bring him some small measure of peace.

Deborah Donovan

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"[An] unnerving, elegantly crafted memoir. . . . Morbidly funny."—Entertainment Weekly (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"A gifted writer[']s...memorable account of his terribly flawed family. ...Searing...It stays with you."—USA Today (*USA Today*)

"A devastating debut memoir about a Southern childhood. A simple summary of the storyline of this memoir might inspire an eye-roll: Do we really need another tale about someone growing up in a South of days-gone-by, surrounded by eccentric relatives and neighbors, with a little alcoholism and incest thrown in for good measure? But Goolrick takes that tired scenario and makes it magical. He recounts a Virginia childhood worthy of William Styron and Flannery O'Connor. The deformed weirdos, a staple of Southern grotesque, are here, including severely retarded aunt Dodo, who one day asked young Robert to kiss her passionately. Here, too, are cocktail parties that would have inspired Douglas Sirk: Goolrick describes the lavish fetes his parents threw, the lovely chiffon dresses his mother wore. But something was off-kilter, at even the grandest parties. The chiffon dresses always wound up with cigarette burns, and the hectic entertaining was artifice and pretense, a frantic effort to cover up alcoholism and other, more hideous, family secrets. The author

interweaves scenes from his childhood with scenes from his adult life: his mother's attempt to get dry, his own breakdown and drinking problem, his mother's death. One of the most gripping and emotionally insightful passages is of his father's funeral, where Goolrick makes clear how hard it is to bury a man you haven't forgiven. The language is lush and poetic while never becoming purple. Goolrick is clearly a victim of his parents' brutal abuse, but he has broken out of the categories of 'victim' and 'survivor' to become a powerful truth-teller."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"In this brutally painful remembrance of hard drinking, attempted suicide, and childhood trauma, first-time author Goolrick constructs a well-written, nonlinear narrative of his life...Goolrick's memory of the details of his childhood is impressive, as is the deep sense of sorrow...the story evokes. A courageous and successful work."

—*People* (*People Magazine*)

"Goolrick adeptly uses a slow, teasing way of revealing himself to the reader...Anecdotes of captivating vitality....*The End of the World As We Know It* is barbed and canny, with a sharp eye for the infliction of pain."

—*The New York Times* (*The New York Times*)

"A moving, unflinchingly rendered story of how the past can haunt a life."

—*Publishers Weekly* (*Publishers Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mae Saari:

What do you concerning book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question since just their can do which. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* to read.

Mary Andrade:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Roger Patrick:

The reason? Because this *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Tanya Wilson:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* giving you one more experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Download and Read Online *The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life* By Robert Goolrick #T5876EO1HBS

Read The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick for online ebook

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick books to read online.

Online The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick ebook PDF download

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick Doc

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick Mobipocket

The End of the World as We Know It: Scenes from a Life By Robert Goolrick EPub