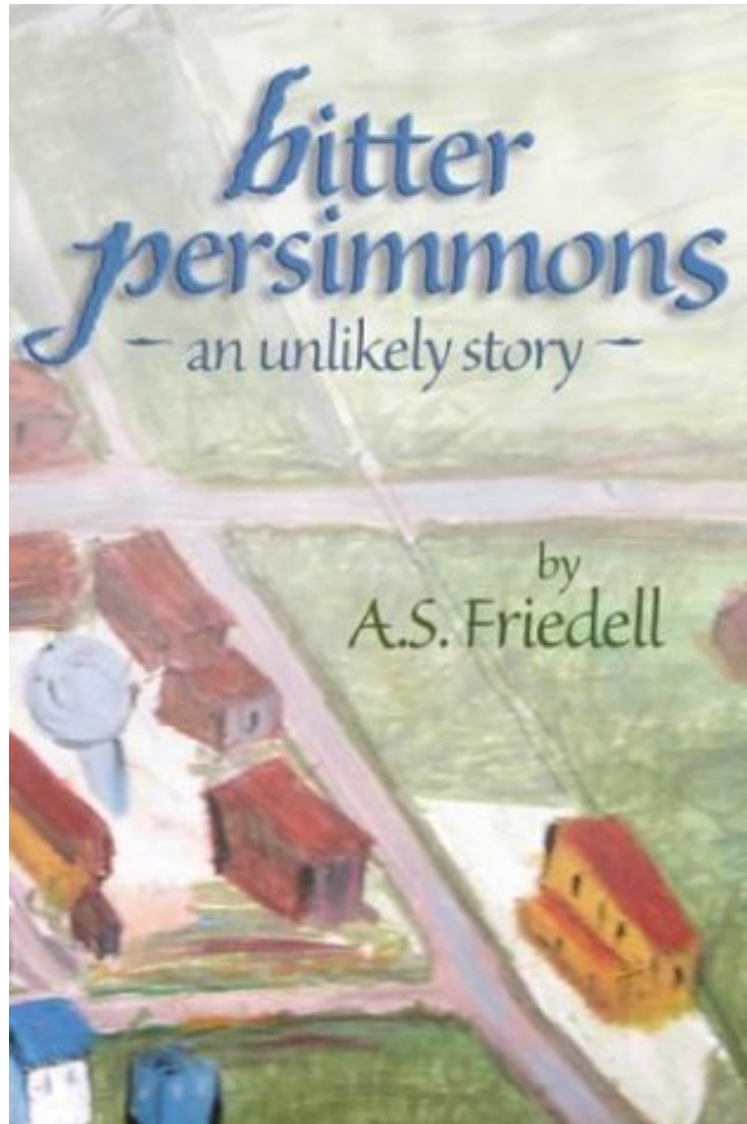


(Free read ebook) Bitter Persimmons: An Unlikely Story

Bitter Persimmons: An Unlikely Story

A. S. Friedell

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#11646434 in Books Dime Box Press 2004-02 Original language: English 8.00 x 5.25 x .751, #File Name: 1594571058232 pages | File size: 35.Mb

A. S. Friedell : Bitter Persimmons: An Unlikely Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bitter Persimmons: An Unlikely Story:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Texas Escapes Turned Me on to Bitter Persimmons By Robert B. Langfelder John Trosser, Editor of Texas Escapes, turned me on to A.S. Friedell's excellent memoir about her dramatic, first 32 years of her most interesting life. Trosser wrote about Bitter Persimmons: In Bitter Persimmons, first time author A.S. Friedell writes a personal story set in recent Texas history that somehow seems so long ago. The story opens on a depot platform in a small central Texas town where infant Alice is held in her grandfather's arms while her

father's train pulls out, taking him off to war. He gives tiny Alice a shiny buffalo nickel to keep until he returns. Her description of an idyllic, albeit brief, childhood in rural cotton-producing Texas provides some of the most memorable scenes in the book. A very literal child, young Alice learns to mimic the words to the romantic post-war songs incessantly played on the radio. The mysterious, half-understood lyrics create unrealistic expectations of love and relationships. The loneliness of Lee County has (barely) teenage Alice imagining Elvis Presley driving into her front yard to ask for directions - and why not? Everyone else seems to do it. Her singing ability gets noticed and she starts winning local contests, ascending into regional stardom as Texas' possible answer to Brenda Lee. A disastrous audition at Houston's Shamrock Hotel and a move to Austin in the early '60s opens up a world that she never imagined from her hometown of Dime Box. Broken into three parts: The Girl, The Woman and The Mother, *Bitter Persimmons* is a story of expectations, disappointments, mistakes and growth. Alice marries five times with her fifth wedding celebrated just a week after her 32nd birthday. To say that her husbands were "assorted" would be accurate. One was the boy next door, one was Black, one was blind, and one just happened to forget to mention that he was already married. The backdrop is as wide as Texas - from Austin to Fort Worth to El Paso and even a slight spill over the border into Juarez, Mexico. Cameo appearances are provided by the smaller towns of Giddings, Rockport and Coleman. Sensationalism and hyperbole are refreshingly absent, so readers looking for a lurid contemporary "thriller" won't find it here. *Bitter Persimmons* is for readers who find truth stranger than fiction and real life more fascinating than fantasy. These are the ones who'll be swept up and carried away in Friedell's life story. The author's open, honest style pulls the reader in from the first page. Her characters are real as are the problems confronted, the conflicts resolved and the challenges accepted and won. Happy endings sometimes happen in real life and that's the case here. This is not giving anything away, since the story is the journey down a long, winding and often bumpy road. I went down the bumpy road of *Bitter Persimmons* and it gave me hope and inspiration to carry on.

Bob Langfelder2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Bad Storytelling, completely unsympathetic storyline
By B. Merritt
Bitter Persimmons starts out with Mrs. Friedall standing on a railway platform as a child, waving goodbye to her father as he leaves for WW II. And this seems to be the highlight of her life. Or just a passing note . . . I'm not too sure. And so, problems began to prop up as I read along, wondering where the author/narrator was going with the story. Come to find out, she goes absolutely nowhere. We never really leave her home state of Texas, and we never establish a viable storyline. To start out, Mrs. Friedall has serious problems with narrative flow. There isn't one for the first 70 pages or so (and occasionally even after that). On almost every page she jumps from time to time and subject to subject with no rhyme or reason. The book reads like a child's recounting of her diary. There's a rule among novelists, too, that Mrs. Friedall is not applying: show, don't tell. She tells the reader everything rather than showing them. I know how she feels, what the room feels like, what her boyfriends/husbands do and how they react because she told me. I know where she was when John Kennedy was shot because she told me. She didn't show me any of these items, thus making the book read like a recounting of places, times and events. Not engaging reading. Add to this fact that she never tells us (at least within in the first 60 pages) the names of any of her prime family members, or even her own name, and you can see why I didn't become involved with any of the characters. Ever. We have to guess what the A.S. on the cover of the book stands for (Alice is her first name, I think, but what the S. stands for I still don't know). And here's the final nail in the proverbial literary coffin for this book: Mrs. Friedall's life just isn't that interesting. I'm sorry to say something that sounds so meanspirited but it's true. I know I would never DREAM of writing about my life and publishing it. I'm not that interesting either. The only thing she seems to want to get across to the reader is how unfair her parents treated her, and how she seeks acceptance from them at every crossroads in her life. Although this is true of most people, we don't want someone else to tell us about it through weak narration and, what seemed to me at least, whining ("My parents never loved me" or "I chose all the wrong paths and husbands because my parents never loved me" or "I had a baby so that my parents would love and accept me"). This got very, very, very, very tiresome after a short while. I will say that Mrs. Friedall had an excellent line editor (or editors). Her spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax are all perfect. This may sound like a minor point, but it isn't. With some of the poorly edited material that FWOMP Book Review has received in the past, this was refreshing from that standpoint. But only from that standpoint . . . unfortunately.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bitter Author, bitter experience
By JGM
Finished reading the book, "*BITTER PERSIMMONS*" by A.S. Friedell. She is not a very good writer. I wondered about the title----she is also a bitter person. She blames everything that happened to her on her parents. NONE of it is her fault. Underneath the title inside the book it says: "*AN UNLIKELY STORY*" and that it is.

The young A.S. Friedell did so many things so well, including five trips to the altar before she reached the age of 32. Unfortunately, every marriage was like gasoline poured on a torch song. This is the author's true story and the truth shines through every page, thanks to her exquisite story-telling skills. A daughter of poverty, she was too proud to plead, too desperate to reproach. Her lack of understanding of healthy relationships allowed her to fall victim to bad situations masquerading as good ones. Even though Friedell's story reads like a wail of pain, her triumph at the end of a long dark tunnel ends with a bright light of success that is sure to bring strength and encouragement to all its readers.

"A remarkable moving feast of passion and self-revelation and a page-turner if ever there was one." -- Greg Palast, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*"A sustained feat of humor, suspense and survival...a remarkable moving feast of passion and self-revelation." -- Greg Palast, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*"Friedell's life was like dancing in a minefield. Her personal journey is told in gripping prose..." -- John Troesser, *Texas Escapes*"The backdrop is Austin, Fort Worth and El Paso...told in gripping prose...triumph over the vicissitudes of life." -- John Troesser, *Texas Escapes*About the AuthorThe author published a weekly newspaper for several years, worked as a legal secretary and most recently produced transcripts for court reporters. She is now much healthier, wealthier and wiser, and happily remarried living in Houston.