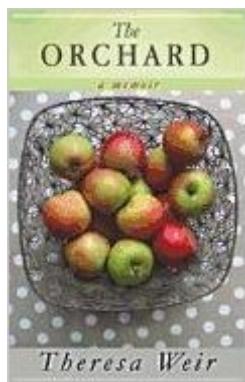


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# The Orchard: A Memoir (Platinum Nonfiction)



## **Synopsis**

THE ORCHARD is the story of a street-smart city girl who must adapt to a new life on an apple farm after she falls in love with Adrian Curtis, the golden boy of a prominent local family whose lives and orchards seem to be cursed. Married after only three months, young Theresa finds life with Adrian on the farm far more difficult and dangerous than she expected. Rejected by her husband's family as an outsider, she slowly learns for herself about the isolated world of farming, pesticides, environmental destruction, and death, even as she falls more deeply in love with her husband, a man she at first hardly knew and the land that has been in his family for generations. She becomes a reluctant player in their attempt to keep the codling moth from destroying the orchard, but she and Adrian eventually come to know that their efforts will not only fail but will ultimately take an irreparable toll.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"The Orchard" is a lovely book in all the ways that really matter, one of those rare and wonderful memoirs in which people you've never met become your friends. I read it in a single sitting, lost in the story, and by the time I put it down, I was amazed by Weir's ability to evoke such genuine emotion. Read it: you'll be glad you did.--Nicholas SparksA hypnotic tale of place, people, and of Midwestern family roots that run deep, stubbornly hidden, and equally menacing-THE ORCHARD is sublime and enchanting, like a reflecting pool, touch the surface and watch the ripples carry you

away.--Jamie Ford, NYT bestselling author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

This is a story about one farm, but it's also a story about every farm. It's a story about a nation and big business. It's a story about people not speaking up. It's a story about our children and our children's children. It's a story about acceptance of things that shouldn't be accepted. It's a story about a young girl who falls in love, marries an apple farmer, and never sees the world in the same way again. It's a story about one of the deepest and most profound loves of all: the love of a parent for a child. Ã  The main thing I set out to do with *The Orchard* was to document and capture a farming era in an anthropological yet very personal way. That was my number one goal. I never really wanted this book to be about me, or about one family. I wanted it to feel like every farm, and every family. I wanted it to be a parable. Which is why I used my name only once in the book. (I wouldn't have used it at all, but I didn't want readers to think I was Lily.) I didn't want to intrude upon a story that I didn't feel was my story, but was rather everybody's story. Throughout the book, starting with the opening scene, there's this real lack of consideration for the next generation, for our children and our children's children. There's the acceptance of things that shouldn't be accepted. I wanted to drive home the fact that we are all responsible, and we are all important. Ã  Theresa Weir Ã  --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great story. Theresa Weir is one of my favorite writers. Before writing this memoir she wrote thrillers and romances. I would suggest reading *The Man Who Left* in addition to *The Orchard*. It tells about her life before and after the part covered in *The Orchard*. I love her books so much that I have read a couple of them twice. She has her own style: accessible, authentic, and funny. She writes beautifully. The sentences just flow, and her descriptions bring it all to life. The only book of hers that I didn't like quite as well was *Hush*, which was too creepy, not that life isn't sometimes creepy. But read *The Orchard*. It has everything: romance, local color, action, comedy, tragedy, and an underlying message.

City girl, Theresa Weir reinvents herself when she falls in love with a local apple farmer at age 21, whose orchard is supposedly cursed. She grows up despised by her mother, abandoned by her father and she ends up trying to survive by working in her uncle's bar in Burlington, Iowa when cute farm boy, Adrian Curtis walks in the door. Her uncle warns her to stay away from Adrian but she is drawn to him like a bee to honey. She marries Adrian after a short courtship and expects to have found a loving family. Instead she finds herself rejected as white trash and never accepted in the

family. Theresa's in-laws despise her and run their apple farm with a hard hand. They spray herbicides and pesticides on the apple trees to protect them from the codling moth. Adrian comes home reeking of chemicals, the smell and taste of it is everywhere. The apple farm has been in the Curtis family for generations and their farm practices are slowly ruining the land and making people sick. The Orchard is a powerful page-turning memoir. From the very first page I was hooked and could not put the book down. The Orchard is shocking, raw and true, and I will never look at another apple in the same way again. In many ways The Orchard is a fairy tale gone horribly wrong, from the wicked mother in-law to the poisoned apple, readers will hope for the happy ending. Theresa Weir aka "Anne Frasier" is a well known mystery and romance writer, although this is the first book I have read of hers. Theresa details a difficult and genuine time of her life with grace and wit. Don't let the cover deceive you, The Orchard is an unforgettable story that will possibly change your perceptions about farming. I am adding The Orchard to my list of the best books I have read in 2012. It is thought-provoking, timely and necessary for all to read if you care about the food you eat and the world we live in.

A captivating novel. Like a trap, it grabs and does not let go until you have finished. The main character seems like a bit of a mousey character at first but the author reveals slowly just how strong she really is. Her sacrifices, living initially in a marriage without love and living in a chemically poisoned area and being so environmentally aware just to make her marriage work are a testament to her inner strength. It was a book that inspires and makes you appreciate life and the author.

I just re-read this, and it was sort of a surprise to me that I did. While I enjoyed the book, it initially seemed like the sort of book I would enjoy, put down, and forget about. But there was something unique about the story that stayed in my mind. First of all, the love story was very fun to read because the way she acts is not something I would EVER do. I'm cautious in relationships and move slowly, and it was pretty fun to live vicariously through her and her whirlwind romance, then feel relief that the misgivings she feels after the marriage are not really your problem. As far as the "pesticides are harmful" storyline, I thought it was a unique and interesting way to portray the subject matter. Most books with this kind of agenda (to expose certain substances as harmful) are filled with a lot more research. By sticking to her own anecdotes, it feels less preachy. It was also interesting to sort of see both sides of the coin simultaneously. You see all the ways that pesticides harmed her family/community, but also get an understanding of why people use them, and continue to use them even with the knowledge of its harmful effects. Finally, I liked the setting of this book. I

grew up in a metropolitan area, but there's a part of me that's always longed to live in a rural area with a small population. So reading a book that takes place in an apple orchard on the edge of a small town helped to satisfy that itch.

Theresa Weir's memoir has all the symbols: an Adam (in her young farmboy husband, Adrian, whom she married after only three months of knowing each other); a garden (OK, not a garden proper but the commercial apple orchard of the family who would become her in-laws); even a snake (well, the worm-like larval stage of the codling moth, the pest with the most potential to destroy an apple crop). And attack it did. As they had for decades, the family Theresa found herself in, but not a part of, really, fought back. Besides the back-breaking, all-hours regimen that is farming of any kind, there was also the war on the codling moth, waged on tractors pulling spray tanks whose contents poisoned not just pests and the fruit but the place and its people in the process, and any chance of Theresa becoming part of this tricky exclusionist family who didn't want her, anyway. This is a memoir that reads like the fastest, breakneck-paced novel -- and makes you ask: Can this really all be true? I shuddered knowing that it was. You won't be able to put it down -- or ever to look at an apple quite the same way.

Very good book. Very interesting story. It held my interest. I recommend this one. Theresa had a horrible childhood. Her Father deserted the family to hook up with a wealthy older woman and she was raised by a self-absorbed mother who hooked up with many men. When she got old enough to leave, she beat the odds and carved out a meaningful life...but it was filled with sadness and continuing tough times. The writing is good. Clear and absorbing.

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