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Luncheonette: A Memoir

Steven Sorrentino

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Steven Sorrentino : Luncheonette: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Luncheonette: A Memoir:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Funny, sad, warm story about "real" people you want to know
By Bob Lind
Do you have fond memories of a childhood hanging out at the local luncheonette/"candy store", being entertained by the crazy "regulars" one encountered there, as well as the store owner and staff who obviously loved their job and their customers? If so, "Luncheonette" will be a welcome memoir for YOU too, in recreating that atmosphere, as it existed in the early 1980's in a small town New Jersey family-owned luncheonette with a flashy wisecracking and flirty waitress (think "Flo" from the Alice show, transplanted to NJ) and a diverse ethnic melting pot

of eccentric customers. This was the world that the author found himself in when, in his early 20's, he found his new life - as a happily-out 23 year old gay man and would-be actor in New York City - put on "hold" indefinitely so he could come back home to Long Branch NJ and run the family business, the luncheonette, when his father became abruptly paralyzed. As the days became weeks, months and then years, Steven began to wonder if he would ever get back to his own life, or if he was doomed to spend the rest of his life grilling pork roll, egg and cheese sandwiches for characters such as "Half Cup Harold" and "the Giz". In retrospect, this became a more important coming-of-age for Steven, to learn a lesson from his father (who did make it back to the luncheonette, in a wheelchair) about dealing with what life may bring you, and making the best of a situation that you may not be happy about. He became closer to his father, who eventually ran for Mayor of their small town, as well as the rest of the family and the supportive customers who became almost a second family to him. In the end, the experience proved to teach young Steven how to achieve his own goals and dreams. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GREAT STORY By CharleysangeITis was a very different book with a great story and characters that you could identify with. The struggle of unexpected changes in life choices and the paths we take that veered off the mainline really came to life! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful book By toni beazley I really have enjoyed reading this book. It is funny and poignant at the same time. I wish it could be longer. I was sad to have it end.

When his father contracted a sudden illness that left him paralyzed, Steven Sorrentino stowed away his dreams of Broadway stardom and returned home to West Long Branch, New Jersey, to help his family out. Taking over Clint's Corner, his father's luncheonette, Steven found himself at the grill flipping porkroll, serving a counter full of eccentrics, and confiding in Dolores, the crusty head waitress with a particular flair for butchering the English language. From this unusual post, Steven watched his ailing father who, though confined to his wheelchair, refused to accept defeat and even managed to further his career in local politics. Somehow, the more his father triumphed, the more Steven's own life seemed to stall. Guilty and confused, Steven made a shocking and desperate decision -- not knowing that he was about to stumble upon the secrets of his father's resilience. Luncheonette is an irresistible true story about the unexpected lessons life brings -- and of the inspiration we find in the least likely places.