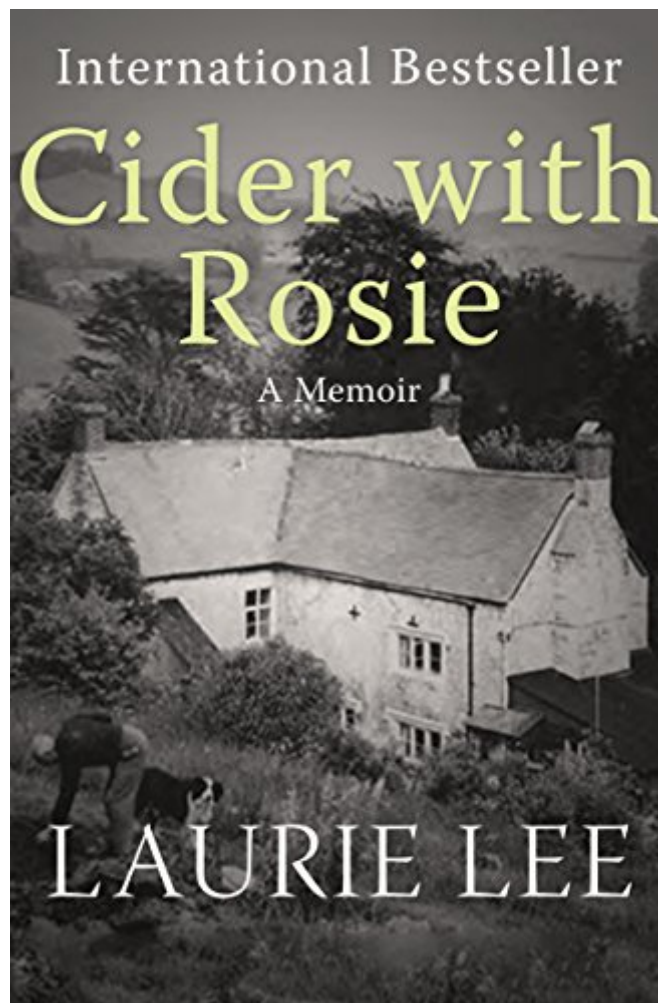




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Cider With Rosie: A Memoir (The Autobiographical Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

This international-bestselling memoir of childhood in post-World War I rural England is one of the most endearing portraits of youth in all literature. Three years old and wrapped in a Union Jack to protect him from the sun, Laurie Lee arrived in the village of Slad in the final summer of the First World War. The cottage his mother had rented for three and sixpence a week had neither running water nor electricity, but it was surrounded by a lovely half-acre garden and, most importantly, it was big enough for the seven children in her care. It was here, in a verdant valley tucked into the rolling hills of the Cotswolds, that Laurie Lee learned to look at life with a painter's eye and a poet's heart—qualities of vision that, decades later, would make him one of England's most cherished authors. In this vivid recollection of a magical time and place, water falls from the scullery pump “sparkling like liquid sky.” Autumn is more than a season—it is a land eternally aflame, like Moses's burning bush. Every midnight, on a forlorn stretch of heath, a phantom carriage reenacts its final, wild ride. And, best of all, the first secret sip of cider, “juice of those valleys and of that time,” leads to a boy's first kiss, “so dry and shy, it was like two leaves colliding in air.” An instant classic when it was first published in 1959, *Cider with Rosie* is one of the most endearing and evocative portraits of youth in all of literature. The first installment in an autobiographical trilogy that includes *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* and *A Moment of War*, it is also a heartfelt and lyrical ode to England, and to a way of life that may belong to the past, but will never be forgotten.

Book Information

File Size: 1153 KB

Print Length: 258 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0099285665

Publisher: Open Road Media; New Ed edition (June 10, 2014)

Publication Date: June 10, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00KGMIY78

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #64,829 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #114

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > England #116 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors #193 in Books >

Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain

Customer Reviews

Anyone loving period novels, will enjoy this slice of rural English life. It isn't a quick read, only because I had to look up words that are either strictly English or no longer in use, but it is a rich read.

Laurie Lee endeared himself to thousands of British readers who discovered this charming book about Lee's boyhood in 1930's Gloucestershire. The rural setting, the borderline poverty of the family and hardships endured by a single mother raising her family of six children with little food but boundless love has become classic in England and in other countries. Simply told in delightful episodes, the title is based on Laurie's early encounter with the plump and boisterous Rosie who has an endless supply of potent cider and lavish kisses for the young teenage boy - nothing shocking, just a sweet encounter. This was a quieter, gentler, more innocent time and even those of us who didn't experience that time can appreciate the story of a young country boy's coming-of-age. Highly recommended for a nostalgic trip back in time.

Description of a hard scrabble upbringing. He is an example of a child who survived it and became a successful writer. I found his comments about his sexual explorations unsettling. His comment that in today's world that some in his village would be jailed which he seemed not to condemn.

This is a delightful story, beautifully told. The language is so beautiful conjuring up the images and situations being described. It is both innocent and keenly knowledgeable. A sheer delight to read.

Beautifully written, sometimes funny, sometimes sad coming of age book. The descriptions of the English countryside, village life, and the people that inhabit it are so wonderfully crafted that you feel as though you are there. Lee also captures the psychological reactions and emotions he felt growing up. Cider with Rosie is a great read. I'm ready for the next two in the trilogy!

Perhaps this story being told about a little boy coming of age and told by a male author is the reason it isn't my favorite, being the only girl in a family with three older brothers. It does have some quite funny moments throughout. Though I am sure I won't read it again, you may like it better.

This book was written in a flowery text of many descriptions. The character of the mother was a mixture of an inconsistent woman, trying to overcome her position of poverty with knowledge of another life she couldn't have. She opened the door for her children. Harrah for Laurie Lee.

Came across this trilogy thanks to a Kindle recommendation. I'm a fan of memoirs and autobiographies. Just loved this glimpse of the past described in such voluptuous language I felt a part of early 20th century rural England.

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