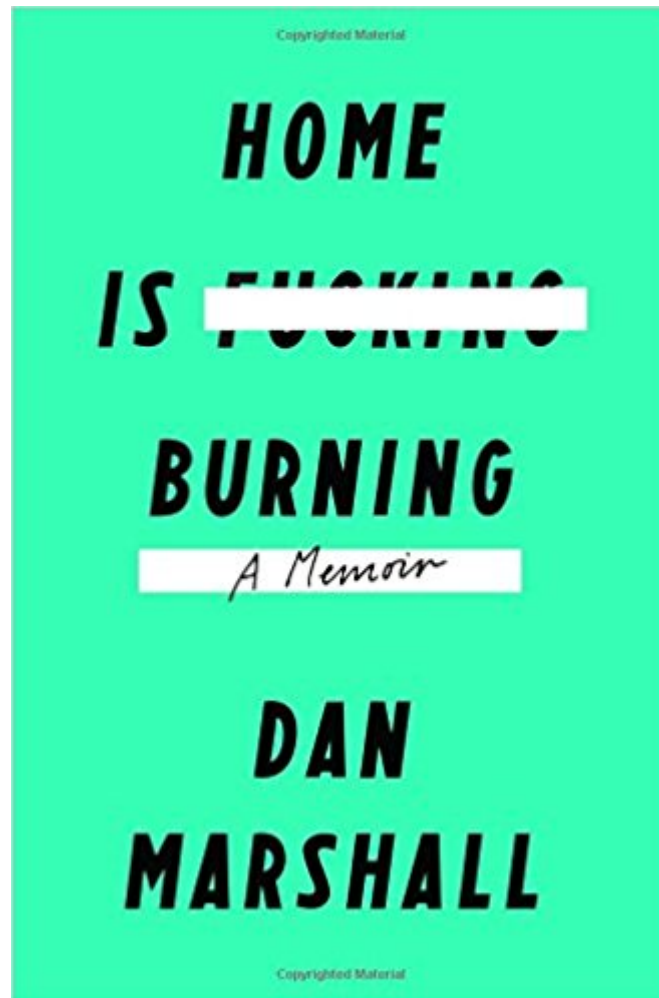


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# Home Is Burning: A Memoir



## Synopsis

An Entertainment Weekly Best Book of the Year, 2015 For the Marshalls, laughter is the best medicine. Especially when combined with alcohol, pain pills, excessive cursing, sexual escapades, actual medicine, and more alcohol. Meet Dan Marshall. 25, good job, great girlfriend, and living the dream life in sunny Los Angeles without a care in the world. Until his mother calls. And he ignores it, as you usually do when Mom calls. Then she calls again. And again. Dan thought things were going great at home. But it turns out his mom's cancer, which she had battled throughout his childhood with tenacity and a mouth foul enough to make a sailor blush, is back. And to add insult to injury, his loving father has been diagnosed with ALS. Sayonara L.A., Dan is headed home to Salt Lake City, Utah. Never has there been a more reluctant family reunion: His older sister is resentful, having stayed closer to home to bear the brunt of their mother's illness. His younger brother comes to lend a hand, giving up a journalism career and evenings cruising Chicago gay bars. His next younger sister, a sullen teenager, is a rebel with a cause. And his baby sister - through it all - can only think about her beloved dance troop. Dan returns to shouting matches at the dinner table, old flames knocking at the door, and a speech device programmed to help his father communicate that is as crude as the rest of them. But they put their petty differences aside and form Team Terminal, battling their parents' illnesses as best they can, when not otherwise distracted by the chaos that follows them wherever they go. Not even the family cats escape unscathed. As Dan steps into his role as caregiver, wheelchair wrangler, and sibling referee, he watches pieces of his previous life slip away, and comes to realize that the further you stretch the ties that bind, the tighter they hold you together.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (126 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I wanted to like this. As anyone who has gone through terminal illness in the family, there is one part identification warring perhaps with the personal "ownership" each of us has. Making us irrationally possessive of the experiences and insights. Basically it is coping and grief. Don't believe me? Bring up whatever terminal illness experience you have to someone and I guarantee you will get one or more back. Unasked. Which I just did in a kind of round about way. So I do think in some cases if identification isn't immediate or overwhelming, it is easy to get a little irate at times. It is easy to let little things bother you. The same could be said when the tone and style is such/And that is the case here. I truly appreciate the candor the author explores. I just wish he and his editor have worked a bit on the sincerity. In no way am I saying he never felt the things he is describing. Sometimes funny sometimes profound and mostly poignant. But he just tries too hard in his writing for me. Way too hard. It is overly glib in a manner when he clearly is trying to illustrate the whole "before" aspect. And how shocking and funny and edgy and outrageous and irreverent he and his family were. It comes off to me a bit of a, dare I say, humblebrag? It is like "look at how awful this series of events we were handed and yet isn't it outrageous how we were still able to be such outrageous people who didn't do the "normal" thing and just be outrageous?!?!?"

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