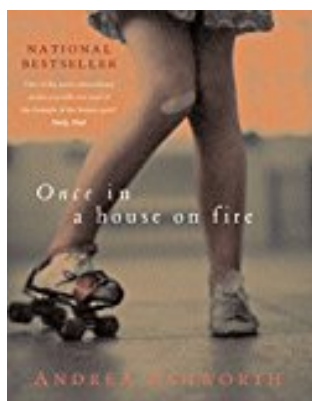


# [PDF] Once In A House On Fire

**Andrea Ashworth - pdf download free book**

---



**Books Details:**

Title: Once in a House on Fire  
Author: Andrea Ashworth  
Released: 2002-09-06  
Language:  
Pages:  
ISBN: 1405001046  
ISBN13: 978-1405001045  
ASIN: 1405001046

**[CLICK HERE FOR DOWNLOAD](#)**

---

**pdf, mobi, epub, azw, kindle**

**Description:**

In her engrossing memoir, *Once in a House on Fire*, Andrea Ashworth recalls growing up poor in a violent English household during the 1970s and 1980s. Ashworth's father drowned when she was just 5. Her mother then married a man who beat her frequently and made life miserable for the whole family. When Ashworth's mother finally got rid of him, she married a small-time criminal who also soon became violent. Throughout her childhood, the author struggled to protect her little sisters from their stepfathers and kept the family going when their mother could not function because of her injuries, depressions, and blinding headaches. Ashworth and her family moved around quite a bit, often living in other people's houses, sleeping in cots or on floors. They all suffered from the emotional and economic instability of their situation. Ashworth recalls the sunglasses her mother

wore through cloudy dark English winters to conceal her bruised eyes. She also remembers sneaking out of the house one day to run through a rich neighborhood, where she paused occasionally to open the mailboxes of the wealthy and smell their comfort and safety.

Although Ashworth's story is all about loneliness and love gone wrong, the surprising thing is that this book is not always terribly sad-- there are interludes when the children have fun and in those sunny moments it seems probable that all of them, especially Andrea, will survive more or less intact. Ashworth recalls the details of her childhood vividly, in brief scenes. In one of those scenes, two sisters race down a cobbled street at breakneck speed. Each of them has one roller skate on-- they are sharing. Ashworth's writing is crisp, her dialogue right to the point. This book is reminiscent of Frank Conroy's and Tobias Wolff's , both classic memoirs of adolescence. --*Jill Marquis* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**From Publishers Weekly** At 28, Ashworth writes eloquently and passionately about her British (and, for a time, Canadian) childhood with her widowed mother and sisters, who are brutalized by the mother's two husbands. The author triumphs over the abuse, poverty and racial slurs directed at her and her middle sister, Laurie, because of their part-Maltese background, by writing poetry, keeping a journal and reading authors from Shakespeare to Judy Blume and D.H. Lawrence. Despite the violent battles in small, often borrowed rooms, Ashworth holds onto her spirits and excels academically in literature, science and art. As her story ends, she heads off to Oxford. This coming-of-age memoir stands out for its integrity, lack of self-pity, colorful Manchester dialect and realistic dialogue. Perhaps most impressive, however, is the sisters' love for "our mother," who is so fearful of being alone that she returns again and again to abusive men. Ashworth's story rings true, though it's a bit difficult to believe that anyone's memory could call up, word for word, the scores of mundane conversations that this family exchanged in its daily life over a dozen years. With degrees from Oxford and Yale, Ashworth holds a fellowship at Jesus College, Oxford, and is working on a first novel. 25,000 first printing; major ad/promo.

Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

---

- Title: Once in a House on Fire
- Author: Andrea Ashworth
- Released: 2002-09-06
- Language:
- Pages: 0
- ISBN: 1405001046
- ISBN13: 978-1405001045
- ASIN: 1405001046

