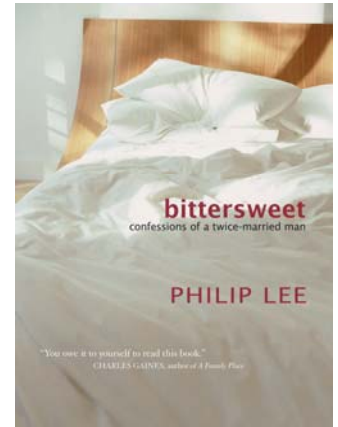


Non-Fiction / Biography / Social issues, trends
ISBN 10: 0-86492-463-1
ISBN 13: 978-0-86492-463-6
\$22.95 / 260 pp / 6 x 8 / pb
Pub Date: 19 September 2008

Bittersweet: Confessions of a Twice-Married Man **By Philip Lee**

"Love is a verb."

Confessional, sensitive, and eloquent, award-winning journalist and author Philip Lee takes a sidelong look at life, love, and the relationships in his personal web. This work of narrative non-fiction opens on a summer day, the author having left his family home on the verge of divorce to live in his childhood summer home on the Bay of Fundy. He will be living with his brother, also recently separated from his wife, for a period they come to call with grim humour "the dark year."



But living on autopilot in a house without indoor plumbing or heating is not for Philip Lee, who slowly comes to the realization that he has a hand in his own fate, in creating and building a place for himself and those close to him to flourish. Helping him along this path is a new love interest that never lets him off the hook.

Despite his terror of screwing up again, Lee shoulders new challenges in order to arrive at what he calls "home." He pushes himself up, laughs at his blunders, and learns to transcend his misery and fear. In so doing, he comes to see the value in living and loving consciously and making deliberate choices that allow him and the people he loves to fulfill their potential. He finds he has a second chance at love and an opportunity to get it right. He marries again, knowing the narrow odds of success with a second marriage, and adopts a baby girl — all with the full awareness of what making such choices entails, and requires.

This superbly crafted exploration of marriage and divorce is full of self-realizations and learning from personal mistakes. It is a refreshing look at love, parenting, and relationships from a definitively male perspective. Any person looking to have a fulfilling relationship, whether in their first marriage or their fifth, will read this book and acknowledge that a true partnership involves communication, problem solving, and hard work. After all, 'love' is an action word.

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