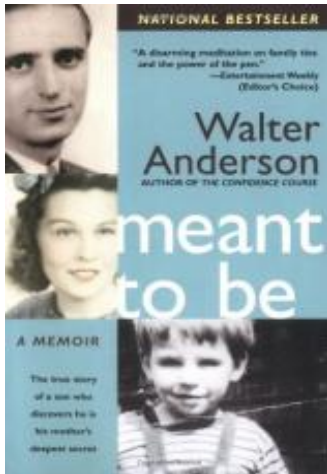


Meant to Be

by Walter Anderson



About the Book

This true story begins when Anderson, a 21-year-old Marine sergeant recently returned from Vietnam, stuns his mother with the question that has inexplicably haunted him from his earliest years: Was the alcoholic, abusive father who had so tormented him in his childhood his real father? Her truthful answer: Walter was born of a war-time love affair between his German protestant mother and the Russian Jewish man she loved. He keeps their secret for nearly 35 years -- until the day he meets an unknown brother -- another son of his real father -- who has lived a similar, nearly parallel life.

Meant to Be is a love story, a journey of self-discovery and spirituality, and a provocative challenge to common notions about the role of heredity in our lives.

Discussion Guide

1. Walter Anderson attributes his drive and eventual career success to his mastery over his childhood difficulties. Is there a correlation between ambition and overcoming hardship?
2. Walter confronts his mother about a secret she has kept for so many years. Are children entitled to know their parents' pasts?
3. Walter finds out that he is the biological son of a Jew. What are Walter's responsibilities to the faith of his father?
4. Walter lived with the secret of his parentage for years. How does living with a secret affect intimate relationships?

Author Bio

Walter Anderson was editor of *Parade* magazine for 20 years and is currently chairman and CEO of that publication.

Author of five books, including THE CONFIDENCE COURSE, Anderson is director of the National Dropout Prevention Fund, a national spokesperson for GED, and an advisory board member of the National Center for Family Literacy Education and the Literacy Volunteers of America.

In 1994 he received the Horatio Alger Award, for which he was nominated by the late Norman Vincent Peale, and the Jewish National Fund's Tree of Life Award, which he received from Elie Wiesel. The father of two grown children, Anderson lives in White Plains, New York with his wife, Loretta.

Critical Praise

"One courageous man's pursuit of the American dream."

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