

Title: A Review of "Educated" by Tara Westover

Genre: Memoir

"Educated", a memoir by Tara Westover, is an extraordinary testament to the power of education and the thirst for knowledge. The book chronicles Westover's journey from her survivalist upbringing in rural Idaho to earning a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

Westover's storytelling is raw and powerful. She describes her unconventional childhood—working in her father's junkyard, no formal schooling, no medical care, and the constant preparation for the 'End of Days'. Her experiences are at times almost unbelievable, yet her compelling narrative voice maintains authenticity.

The characters in "Educated" are complex and deeply flawed, making them incredibly real. Westover's portrayal of her family members, especially her father who suffers from mental illness and her abusive brother, is heartbreaking yet balanced. She neither vilifies nor excuses them, but presents them through her own understanding and experience.

The central theme of the book is education, but not just the conventional, academic kind. It is also about self-education, understanding, and personal growth. Westover's transformation is awe-inspiring as she battles against her restrictive upbringing to discover her passion for learning and her eventual pursuit of it against all odds.

However, "Educated" can be a difficult read. The physical and emotional abuse that Westover endures is described in graphic detail, which could be triggering for some readers. The pacing can feel uneven, with the earlier parts of the book moving slowly compared to the rapid progression of events later on.

"Educated" stands out in the genre of memoirs due to its unflinching exploration of family, mental illness, religion, and education. Westover's story is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of education and the strength of the human spirit to overcome even the most challenging circumstances.

In conclusion, "Educated" is a deeply moving and inspirational memoir that is likely to leave a lasting impact on its readers. Despite its hard-hitting content, it is a testament to Westover's resilience and her quest for self-discovery through education.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars.