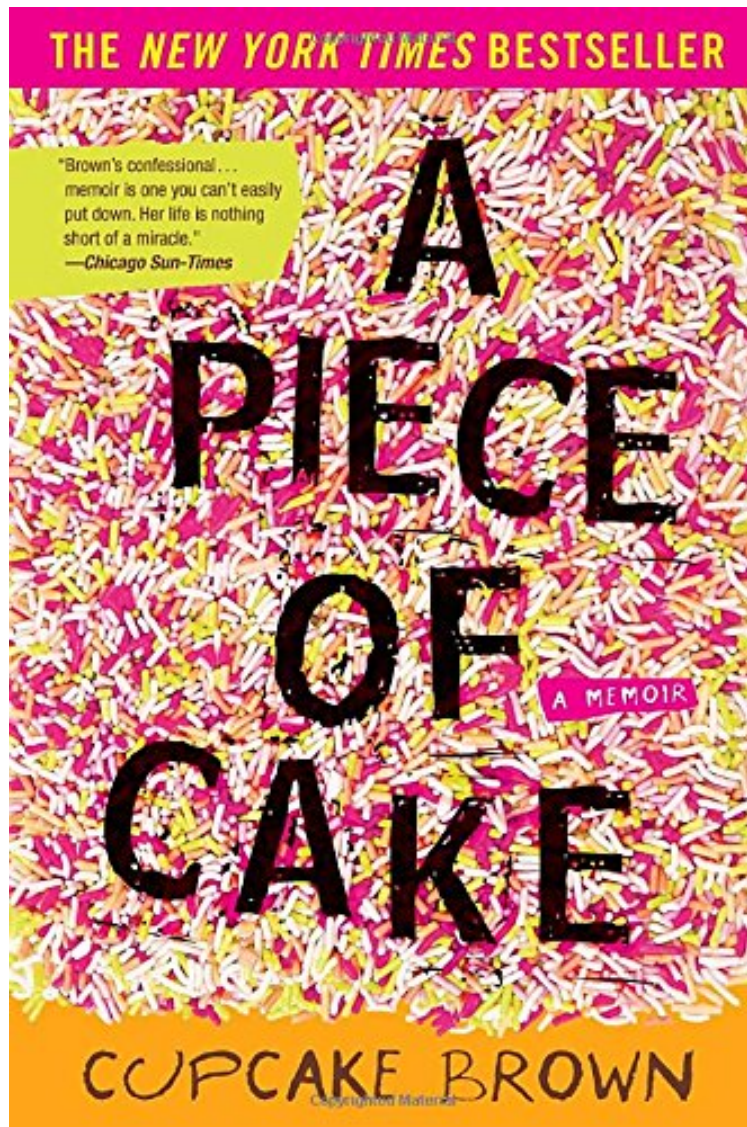


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A Piece of Cake: A Memoir

Cupcake Brown

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Cupcake Brown : A Piece of Cake: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Piece of Cake: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Starts off good but fizzles about halfway through!By CustomerThe first half of the book kept me interested in reading on, but the second half drags. I love reading and normally finish every book that i start, but i just couldnt with this one. I put this book down 2/3 of the way finished and I have actually read 3 other books while this one sits unfinished. Sad. :-/0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of those books...By MichelleOne of those books I find I can't put down. Some of the stuff can be hard to read because of

the painful experiences described but I always want to read on to see how she overcomes each tragic situation² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Had to read this book for an Alcohol and Other ...By Rebecca DoranHad to read this book for an Alcohol and Other Drug Studies class in college. An incredible story that makes you think twice about complaining about ordinary problems you face...and also makes you realize how incredible human will-power is!

There are shelves of memoirs about overcoming the death of a parent, childhood abuse, rape, drug addiction, miscarriage, alcoholism, hustling, gangbanging, near-death injuries, drug dealing, prostitution, or homelessness. Cupcake Brown survived all these things before she even turned twenty. And that's when things got interesting... You have before you the strange, heart-wrenching, and exhilarating tale of a woman named Cupcake. It begins as the story of a girl orphaned twice over, once by the death of her mother and then again by a child welfare system that separated her from her stepfather and put her into the hands of an epically sadistic foster parent. But there comes a point in her preteen years maybe it's the night she first tries to run away and is exposed to drugs, alcohol, and sex all at once when Cupcake's story shifts from a tear-jerking tragedy to a dark comic blues opera. As Cupcake's troubles grow, so do her voice and spirit. Her gut-punch sense of humor and eye for the absurd, along with her outsized will, carry her through a fateful series of events that could easily have left her dead. Young Cupcake learned to survive by turning tricks, downing hard liquor, partying like a rock star, and ingesting every drug she could find while hitchhiking up and down the California coast. She stumbled into gangbanging, drug dealing, hustling, prostitution, theft, and, eventually, the best scam of all: a series of 9-to-5 jobs. But Cupcake's unlikely tour through the cubicle world was paralleled by a quickening descent into the nightmare of crack cocaine use, till she eventually found herself living behind a Dumpster. Astonishingly, she turned it around. With the help of a cobbled together family of eccentric fellow addicts and angels a series of friends and strangers who came to her aid at pivotal moments she slowly transformed her life from the inside out. *A Piece of Cake* is unlike any memoir you'll ever read. Moving and almost transgressive in its frankness, it is a relentlessly gripping tale of a resilient spirit who took on the worst of contemporary urban life and survived it with a furious wit and unyielding determination. Cupcake Brown is a dynamic and utterly original storyteller who will guide you on the most satisfying, startlingly funny, and genuinely affecting tour through hell you'll ever take.

From Publishers Weekly Brown reads her own horrific memoir of childhood paradise lost, sexual degradation and drug-fueled bad times with a surprising twinkle in her eye. Having made it through to the other side and a stable life, Brown revisits the ugliest places in her past, her matter-of-fact voice refusing to shy away from any of the brutal details. Brown does not milk her story for sympathy (although that is implicit in its very telling); she merely chronicles its twists and turns, its tragic losses and terrible indignities, choosing to honor her past by exposing it in its entirety. Brown's voice is measured and wry, exposing the foibles of her own stunted good sense at the same time as she documents the heinous callousness of the adults who by turns mistreat and neglect her after the untimely death of her mother. Her reading lacks something in emotion and professionalism, but its no-nonsense quality is the mark of an unhurried, self-taught storyteller. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Cupcake (LaVette) Brown went from the relative security of life in a working-class neighborhood of San Diego to hardship and uncertainty when, at the age of 11, her mother died. Her estranged biological father lost interest when an expected insurance payout didn't materialize, and Cupcake and her brother were left with a merciless foster mother and her abusive son. Unable to take the mistreatment, Cupcake drifted into a life of prostitution, drug addiction, gang affiliation, stealing, homelessness, and any available means of survival. Her salvation comes in an unlikely group of fellow addicts who encourage her to change. Brown takes the same fortitude it took to survive the streets and uses it to become a lawyer. Her story of survival and triumph is incredible and often rough. Readers who like gritty, urban nonfiction will enjoy this book. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Cupcake Brown practices law at one of the nation's largest law firms and lives in San Francisco. Visit her website at cupcakebrown.com. From the Hardcover edition.