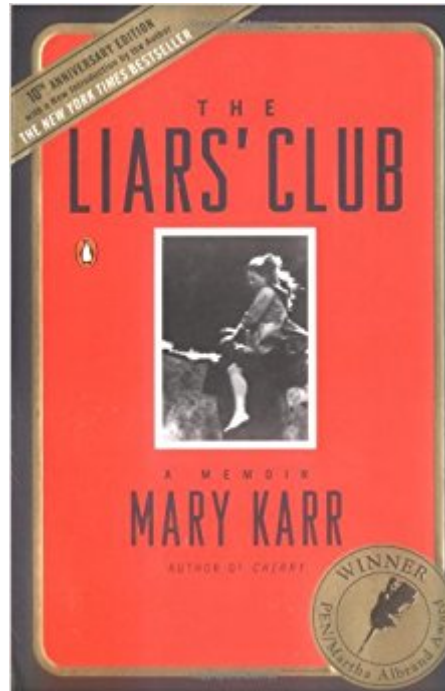




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# The Liars' Club: A Memoir



## Synopsis

The dazzling, prizewinning, wickedly funny tale of Mary Karr's hardscrabble Texas childhood—the book that sparked a renaissance in memoir When it was published in 1995, Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club* took the world by storm and raised the art of the memoir to an entirely new level, as well as bringing about a dramatic revival of the form. Karr's comic childhood in an east Texas oil town brings us characters as darkly hilarious as any of J. D. Salinger's—a hard-drinking daddy, a sister who can talk down the sheriff at twelve, and an oft-married mother whose accumulated secrets threaten to destroy them all. Now with a new introduction that discusses her memoir's impact on her family, this unsentimental and profoundly moving account of an apocalyptic childhood is as funny, lively, and un-put-downable • (USA Today) today as it ever was.

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (May 31, 2005)

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 486 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,221 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > South #46 in Books > History > World > Women in History #80 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

## Customer Reviews

In this funny, razor-edged memoir, Mary Karr, a prize-winning poet and critic, looks back at her upbringing in a swampy East Texas refinery town with a volatile, defiantly loving family. She recalls her painter mother, seven times married, whose outlaw spirit could tip into psychosis; a fist-swinging father who spun tales with his cronies--dubbed the Liars' Club; and a neighborhood rape when she was eight. An inheritance was squandered, endless bottles emptied, and guns leveled at the deserving and undeserving. With a raw authenticity stripped of self-pity and a poet's eye for the lyrical detail, Karr shows us a "terrific family of liars and drunks ... redeemed by a slow unearthing of truth." --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Poet Karr's NBCC nominated memoir of her East Texas childhood is a blackly comic tale of a family prone to alcoholism, violence and insanity. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I love Mary Karr's writing. So clean. So evocative. And this memoir from a contemporary of mine (tho I've never met her) is jawdropping. While I was having dinner at the family dinner table, she was having dinner back to back with family members while sitting on a bed. Wow...

MARY KARR will take you places you have never been and you will enjoy it

What a story. What a telling.

down-to-earth, tells it like it was

It was too long and drawn out for my ADD brain! The writing is phenomenal and amazing. Mary Karr is an artist with language, descriptions and the ability to portray and reflect the mind and spirit of a child.

One of the best books I've ever read. Her style of writing is unlike anything I have ever experienced. I wish I had her expertise to express how much this book touched me.

I enjoyed the read, but was not a book that will stick with me.

I think this was more shocking when it came out. Dysfunctional families, alcoholism, mental illness, all set in rural texas. I got about 3/4 through and finally gave up. The insistent tone of this is funny - no it isn't... not really... of the child protagonist really got on my nerves. I know people love this book - I much preferred Running With Scissors. She seemed to be removed from what was going on around her some how - and is relating it from far away in kind of a jokey way. Maybe its the culture difference.

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