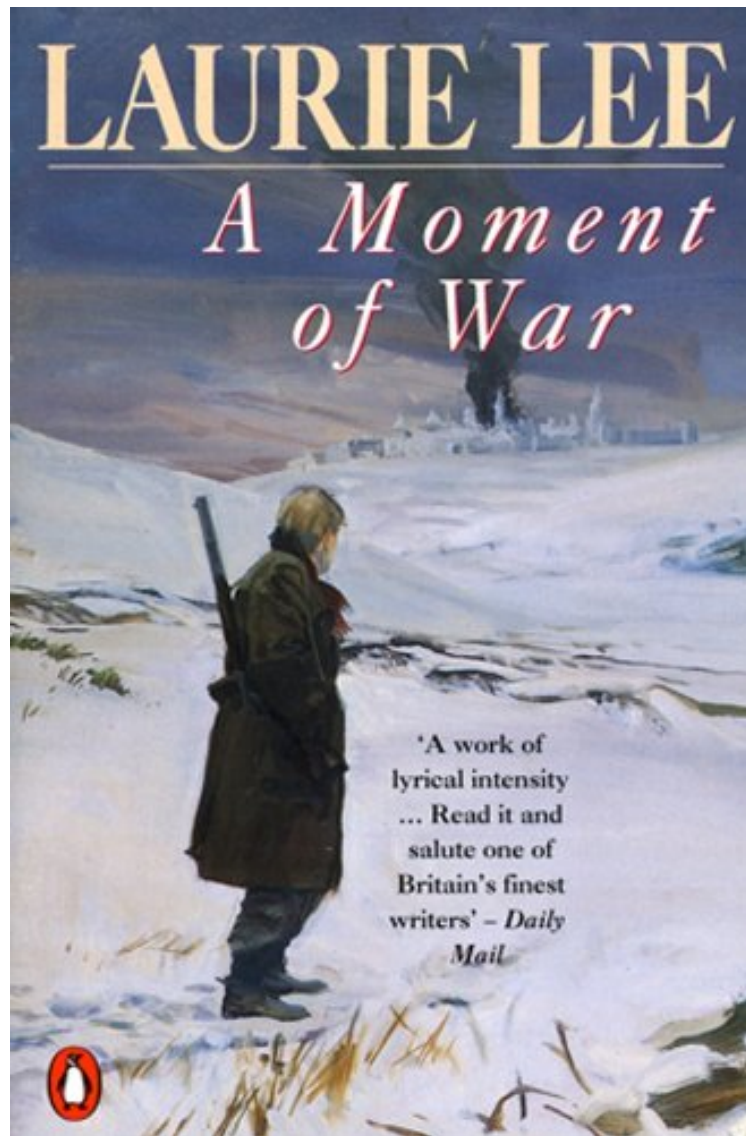


(Free) A Moment of War (The Autobiographical Trilogy)

A Moment of War (The Autobiographical Trilogy)

Von Laurie Lee

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Von Laurie Lee : A Moment of War (The Autobiographical Trilogy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Moment of War (The Autobiographical Trilogy):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spare, vivid, unsentimental memoir of Spanish Civil WarVon Ein KundeLaurie Lee's spare, unsentimental memoir of his experience as a volunteer in the Spanish Civil War should take a place, I think, with Orwell's Homage to Catalonia as one of the English language classics of the time. Moved by idealistic sympathy for the Republican cause, Lee begins

with his winter's journey by foot across the Pyrenees only to be taken as fascist infiltrator and thrown into an underground pit-prison with a soon to be executed deserter. Eventually allowed to join the International Brigade, he continues to tell a story of disillusionment: "I imagined a shoulder-to-shoulder brotherhood, a brave camaraderie joined in one purpose, not the fragmentation of national groups scattered around the courtyard talking wanly only to each other. Indeed they seemed to share a mutual air of unease and watchfulness, of distrust and even dislike." Yet *A Moment of War* is not a sour story. Its prose evokes awareness heightened by danger and deprivation. Of a humble bowl of bean soup Lee writes, "Bean soup hot and chunky, with an interesting admixture of fat, but to me a gluttonous reward after almost two weeks of near famine in the cave. I remembered again the concentration of the senses, of smell and flavor, that hunger brings to appetite, and with each steaming spoonful I was also aware of the grime of the unscrubbed table, the rusting metal of the soup plate, the sharp frozen landscape outside, almost the fatness of each bean." Of a chance reencounter with a Spanish girl who smells of "fresh mushrooms and tamped thyme, woodsmoke and burning orange," he recalls the heady, sensual magic of being young, the "rare and magnetic driving patterns of youth, cutting across the humdrum chaos of the multitudes." The real story, however, is one of war told from a soldier's viewpoint, long delays and boredom interspersed with seemingly random episodes of violence, as vivid as any soldier's tale ever written. *A Moment of War* was a refreshing discovery for this media-burdened, hype-wearied reader. I am now searching for more of Laurie Lee's not well enough known titles.

Von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I was left as disillusioned as the author. Von rich13mo@globalnet.co.uk Down in Stroud we have few famous people to cheer about and most of those are invisible (Princess Anne) or vulgar comers-in, so Laurie Lee always had great celebrity in the whole area. His 'Cider with Rosie' is legendary, while 'As I walked out one Midsummer's Morning' maintains the Arcadian magic. Indeed, I thought much of him on my own teenage jaunts round Europe. As louts we would meet him up the Woolpack in Slad and occasionally throw pebbles into his beer. We followed his politics, too. Class differences in the country are even starker than in town. This title was one I had awaited for a long time. I had read Orwell's 'Homage to Catalonia' and expected something as inspiring, but this is definitely the work of an older man, looking back with indulgence and sorrow at his youth. There is no heroism, indeed there is no ideology, and instead we have a sad book, without the charm of 'As I walked out..' or the commitment of 'Homage..' This particular crusader lost his way long before the war was over.. I lost interest in the book long before the end.

Kurzbeschreibung *A Moment of War* is the magnificent conclusion to Laurie Lee's autobiographical trilogy begun in *Cider with Rosie* and *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*. It was December 1937 when the young Laurie Lee crossed the Pyrenees and walked into the bitter winter of the Spanish Civil War. With great vividness and poignancy, Lee portrays the brave defeat of youthful idealism in Auden's low dishonest decade. Writing in the *Literary*, John Sweeney praised the memoir as, "A great, heart-stopping narrative of one young Englishman's part in the war in Spain crafted by a poet, stamping an indelible image of the boredom, random cruelty and stupidity of war." *Pressestimmen* A work of lyrical intensity. Read it and salute one of Britain's finest writers (*Daily Mail*) "A great, heart-stopping narrative of one young Englishman's part in the war in Spain . . . crafted by a poet, stamping an indelible image of the boredom, random cruelty and stupidity of war" (*Literary*) This story aches with unforgotten cold and trembles with unforgotten terror (*Guardian*)

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