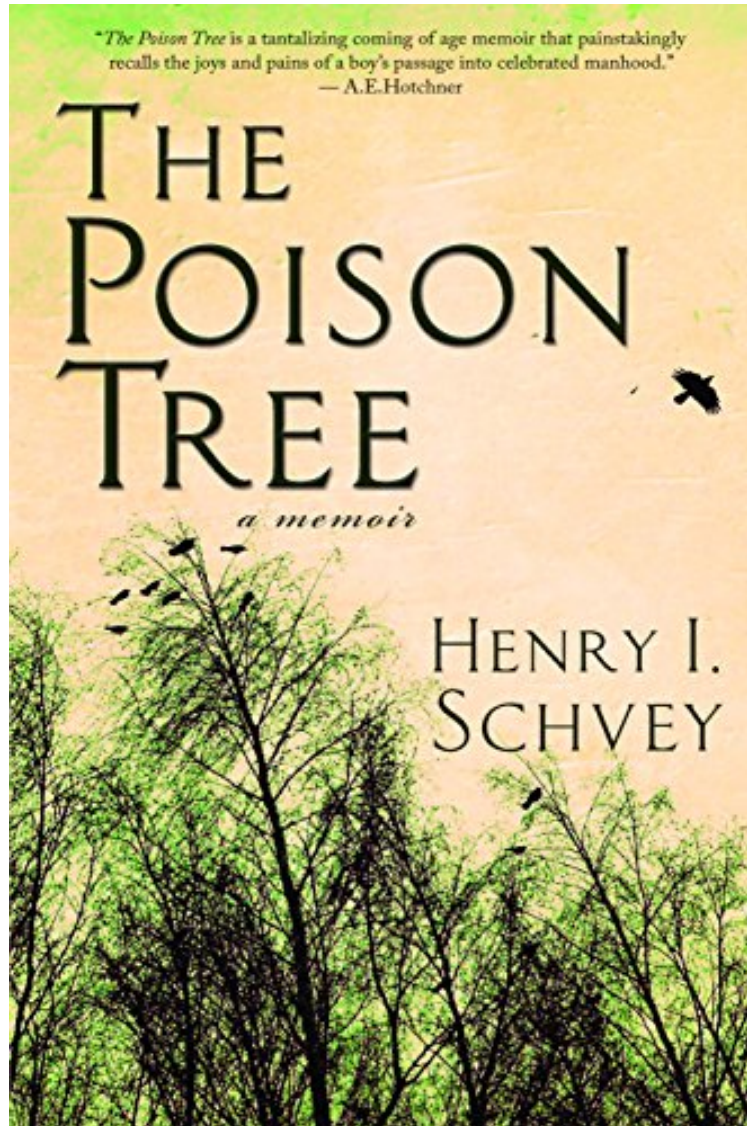


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## The Poison Tree: A Memoir

Henry Schvey

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**Henry Schvey : The Poison Tree: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poison Tree: A Memoir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, Evocative MemoirBy Sarah P.I was so compelled by The Poison Tree that I read the entire book in one sitting! This beautiful memoir illuminates important questions about familial relationships: are we destined to become our parents, or can we stray from the path lain out in front of us? This question holds tremendous stakes for Schvey, the young boy who witnesses a lineage--his lineage--fraught with abuse and domestic violence. In addition to its absorbing content, the strength of this book is in its writing. Schvey has

a special knack for evoking memories, places, and voices, and his prose often reads like poetry. I felt as though I were living inside of this book, alongside him. Schvey generously opens his heart and invites us to come along for the ride. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting book. By Carol M. Pritchett Interesting book about one man's abusive childhood and his ability to move forward and have a successful, loving life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening memoir. By Janet This is the memoir of a young man growing up trying to make sense of life as part of a very dysfunctional family. With a cruel, narcissistic and possibly psychopathic father and an increasingly unhinged and neglectful mother, it's a wonder that, as an adult, he is able to create a happy fulfilling life for himself. The author convincingly portrays the various coping strategies he uses in response to this abuse as he grows up. The young boy suffers but misinterprets what is happening due to ignorance and lack of perspective. As he grows older and is exposed to different ideas, he tries out various approaches to life, often with poor outcomes, but doesn't find a satisfying life because of the "poison" he has been fed all his life. Only when he meets the loving family of a woman he is involved with, does he realize just how poisonous his family life has been. Marrying her and starting a family of his own finally brings the happiness that he's searched for. Reading this, I was reminded to withhold judgement of young people who are acting out, to see this as a temporary strategy to deal with what might be very difficult circumstances. It should be comforting for those who experienced a difficult childhood themselves, and eye-opening for those who didn't. Note: I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Growing up in his father's looming shadow, Henry I. Schvey wondered if he was doomed to repeat the past, doomed to make the same mistakes his father made. Would he succumb to the drive for domination and transform his own world into one colored by fear, domestic violence, infidelity, and spousal abuse? Schvey grew up in New York as his father rose to the pinnacle of success in the Reagan era of dog-eat-dog global finance, eventually becoming Vice-President and Chairman of the Bond Funds Division at Merrill Lynch. But his father's success was paid for with the currency of intimidation and he wore it with the braggadocio of a man with an outsized ego who didn't care who he stepped on to get to the top—including his son. *The Poison Tree* is a study of Schvey's relationship to his father, an illumination of the secret life of a man who was powerful, highly respected, and greatly feared, and a journey—both sad and tragicomic—that ultimately leads to forgiveness.