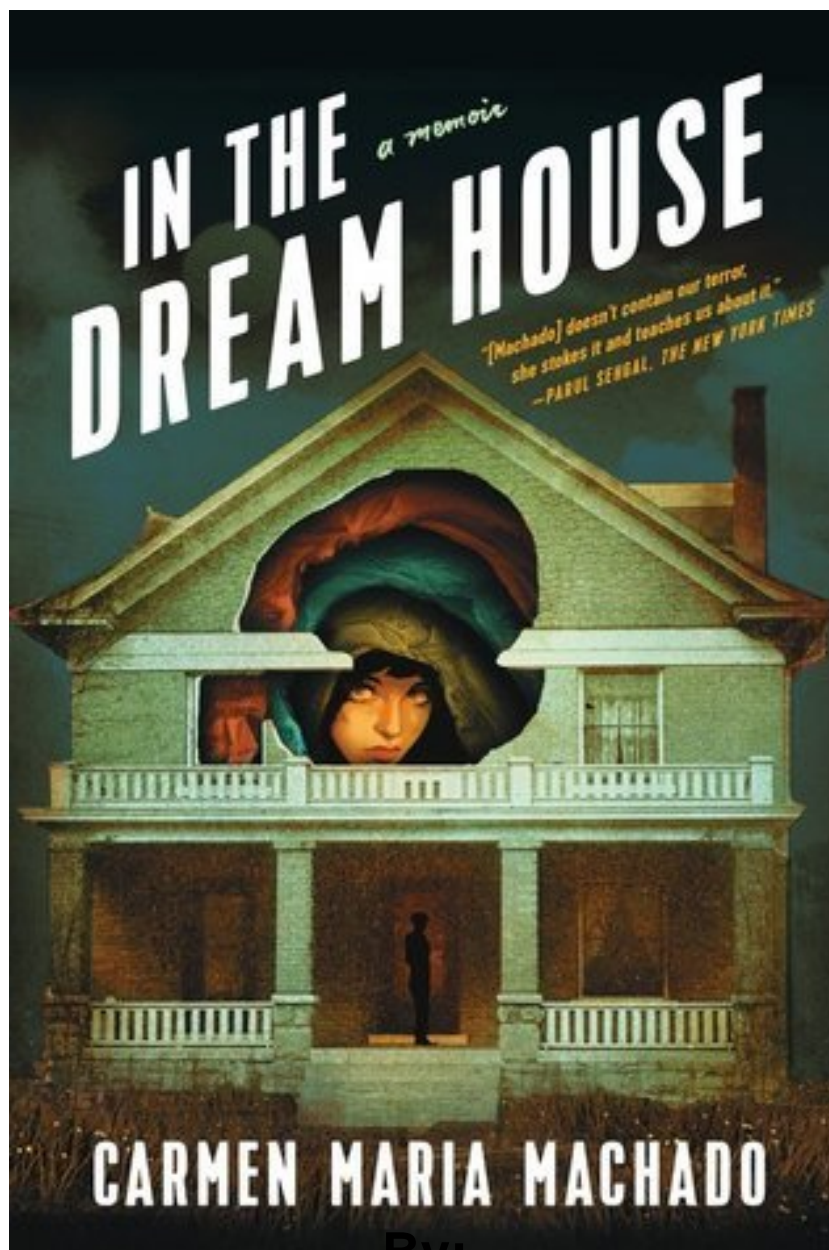


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## In the Dream House Book PDF Download



By:  
**Carmen Maria Machado**

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## What people Say:

### Roxane

With exacting, exquisite prose, Carmen Maria Machado writes about the complexities of abuse in queer relationships in her absolutely remarkable memoir *In The Dream House*. She deftly chronicles the wildness of succumbing to desire, the entrancing tenderness of loving and being loved, the fragility of hope, and the unspeakable horror when the woman you love is a monster beneath and on the surface of her skin. What makes this book truly exceptional is how Machado creates an archive where, shamefull

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Also, fuck that trash ass bitch. She ain't shit. At all.

chai â™;

â€œ

â€•, so opens Machadoâ€™s star-bright and exquisitely crafted memoir, â€œIn the Dream Houseâ€•, the words like a hand on the readerâ€™s back.

Very few works of writing are more fraught, more tremulous and dauntless, than a memoir. Itâ€™s mental self-flagellation: the prying open of oneâ€™s life, the splitting of the past like a cracked egg. To trap yourself in the mirrored halls of your own memory. The equivalent of digging a nail into an open sore.

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Writers like Machado offer up their ability to communicate the inexpressible through language. But it isnâ€™t an easy featâ€”â€œ

â€• Machado couldnâ€™t find a language for her wordless agony, and like many other queer people in abusive same-sex relationships, sheâ€™s had to gather up the silence like a mantle and carry it along with her, step by step. Hers, like many others, was a story like a cry into empty space, no walls to throw an echo back. That is â€œ

â€•, Machado says, how it wells up and pulls those stories under, in ways foreseen and unforeseen, as often denied as acknowledged. How its trumpets of silenceâ€”when blownâ€”can blast a blanket of quiet

## Justin Tate

YES YES YES!!! A 1000x better than expected, and I expected nothing short of holy scripture.

Months earlier I stumbled upon the description and knew this book would be monumental. As early reviews crept in, my anticipation grew. I had my Kindle fully charged and stayed up until midnight so I could start reading the second it released. By 2am I was 30% done. A few marathon readings later,

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The funny thing, it's not monumental because of what happens. Bad relationships happen all the time. Abusive relationships, mental and/or physical, happen all the time. It's talked about less in queer relationships, that's true, and Machado does a great job pointing that out, but I doubt anybody will be dumbfounded by what they read. They

be surprised, however, that there's someone brave enough to talk about it, and by how personal she's willing to get. They will be surprised by how she structures it.

The structure really is what makes this a masterpiece. It's not just the experience, it's the delivery. The darkest memories are brilliantly conveyed in second person and through varying lens. Most of them literary devices. Machado recounts her life through the eyes of Chekhov's Gun, Choose Your Own Adventure, Haunted House, Erotica, Plot Twist, and dozens more. Each section is short and precise. Never a wasted word. For those uncomfortable reading about abuse, she doesn't take it too far either. This isn't battered woman porn. She doesn't go on and on. We get snippets, glimpses of a life that we can easily piece together, and, more importantly, relate to.

What she accomplishes for the queer community specifically, I think, is breaking the ice. After hard-fought battles for marriage equality, there's this unspoken rule that gay relationships must work. If they don't, people will point and say I told you so. By extension, rights may be taken away. Obviously that's not the only factor that kept Machado in her relationship. It may not even be in the Top 10, but it is a shadow that hovers over the scene. She points to lesbian stereotypes as well. Society expects men to be abusive, but two women? Their relationship should be a utopia, right? These stereotypes, this ice, is something she clearly wants to break apart. And she succeeds tremendously.

Of course you don't have to be queer to recognize this is a master work of memoir and creative non-fiction. It is a testament that all experiences, however ordinary or unique, should be shared. Perhaps the most powerful aspect of the book is the relentless honesty. She veils it slightly by the structure and 2nd person, but in a way this makes the experience more real. More true. And the accomplishment, I think, is for any one person to read this and be able to know that, for sure, they are not alone.

## Michael

Contemplative and inventive,

dispels the silence surrounding abusive queer relationships. In her debut memoir Machado recounts the violence she endured for years at the hands of her first girlfriend, a rail-thin, androgynous unnamed white woman who routinely invalidated and gaslighted her. Written in arresting prose the work unfolds in a series of terse, terrifying sections, each of which centers on a single trope, from the conceptual (â€˜Epiphany,â€™ â€˜Memory,â€™ â€˜Voidâ€™) to the genre

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## Marchpane

is a most un memoir-like memoir. This account of Carmen Maria Machadoâ€™s years in an abusive same-sex relationship plays with form, blending elements of literary criticism, pop culture essays, folk tales and the shadowy worlds of her short fiction.

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Machado has then further cut and polished her pain into dozens of tiny gleaming facets, variations in style that are employed as lenses, each one offering a new revelation. Among these, for example, are Dream House as lipogram; as prisoner’s dilemma; as Schrödinger’s Cat; as Choose Your Own Adventure; as comedy of errors. This all could have fallen into a gimmicky heap, but the blend of formal inventiveness and raw vulnerability is executed beautifully.

is a memoir from someone who not only has a painful experience to relate and work through, but who can also REALLY write AND think AND synthesise, who in her own words can

Overall it is unconventional (and as such won’t be to everyone’s taste), but not in a way that’s distancing or abstract. A genuinely memorable and highly impressive work. 5 stars