



Music for Torching

By A. M. Homes

Download now

Read Online ➔

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes

As A.M. Homes's incendiary novel unfolds, the Kodacolor hues of the good life become nearly hallucinogenic. Laying bare the foundations of a marriage, flash frozen in the anxious entropy of a suburban subdivision, Paul and Elaine spin the quiet terrors of family life into a fantastical frenzy that careens out of control. From a strange and hilarious encounter with a Stepford Wife neighbor to an ill-conceived plan for a tattoo, to a sexy cop who shows up at all the wrong moments, to a housecleaning team in space suits, a mistress calling on a cell phone, and a hostage situation at a school, A.M. Homes creates characters so outrageously flawed and deeply human that they are entirely believable.

↓ [Download Music for Torching ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Music for Torching ...pdf](#)

Music for Torching

By A. M. Homes

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes

As A.M. Homes's incendiary novel unfolds, the Kodacolor hues of the good life become nearly hallucinogenic. Laying bare the foundations of a marriage, flash frozen in the anxious entropy of a suburban subdivision, Paul and Elaine spin the quiet terrors of family life into a fantastical frenzy that careens out of control. From a strange and hilarious encounter with a Stepford Wife neighbor to an ill-conceived plan for a tattoo, to a sexy cop who shows up at all the wrong moments, to a housecleaning team in space suits, a mistress calling on a cell phone, and a hostage situation at a school, A.M. Homes creates characters so outrageously flawed and deeply human that they are entirely believable.

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #735322 in Books
- Published on: 2000-04-05
- Released on: 2000-04-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .83" w x 5.31" l, .61 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

 [Download Music for Torching ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Music for Torching ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As Quentin Crisp used to say, "Don't keep up with the Joneses! *Drag them down to your level!*" This could be the motto of the suburbanites in A.M. Homes's fourth novel, *Music for Torching*. Homes has a subtle eye and ear for suburban reality, but beware: she is no mere satirist of what James Joyce called the "muddle crass." Behind each neat, bright lawn, vile lives writhe in darkness. On the surface, Paul and Elaine are conventionally competitive middle-aged, middle-class people with banal yearnings for French doors and a new deck. They have two strapping boys. Their neighbors Pat and George are prodigies of efficient family life. But alone with Elaine, Pat drops the Stepford Wife mask and stages loveless orgies atop the throbbing washer, amid the Downy and Fantastik and Bon Ami. Meanwhile, Paul beds a local wife and a sinister mistress. The nice old man down the street downloads Internet child porn. Local kids join the Boy Scouts and bite off teachers' fingers. It's all about lurid misery and false fronts: a minor character is named Claire Roth, surely alluding to the bitter relationship in Claire Bloom's *Leaving a Doll's House* and Philip Roth's *I Married a Communist*.

Paul and Elaine first popped up in Homes's collection *The Safety of Objects*, as a couple having the happiest night of their lives smoking crack while the kids are away. Their happiest night here is when they tip the barbecue and burn their house halfway down. The story proceeds with a nightmare zombie logic from there, with a funny-scary ironic tone. "Paul notices that the color of her eye shadow is Fiction, and her lipstick is called Sheer Fraud.... 'What happened to the dining-room table, Elaine? Why'd you chop it to pieces?'" he wonders. "The damage was irreparable," his wife replies. Homes describes nice people doing not-so-nice deeds in luminous, precise prose way better than Bret Easton Ellis, as well as Joyce Carol Oates, and occasionally within range of John Updike. But Homes is really the evil spawn of Grace Metalious and Quentin Tarantino. --*Tim Appelo*

From Publishers Weekly

A child enters a suburban grammar school with a gun and explosives strapped to his body; a SWAT team moves in; a boy is shot at close range. This creepy and all too familiar scenario appears at a pivotal moment of Homes's latest novel (after *The End of Alice*), a caustically funny and eerily plausible portrait of a suburban family meltdown. In a nondescript Leave-it-to-Beaveresque Westchester neighborhood, Elaine and Paul find their marriage and their lives at a standstill: Paul commutes to a vaguely sinister corporate job ("how do you make people think fat is good?" asks his boss at one point) and enjoys weekly trysts with a neighbor, while Elaine plays housewife, attends school plays, and shops. Both feel desperately "stuck." In a fit of boredom and frustration, following two nights of cocktail parties and barbecues with the neighbors, the two kick their grill to the ground and partially burn down their house, an event that plunges them into a sordid suburban nightmare. Moving in with what seems the perfect couple, Pat and George, they leave their boys with families they scarcely know. A decision with perilous consequences. Paul begins popping pills and has an affair with a friend's girlfriend, a psychic known only as "the date," who has a penchant for phone sex and persuades him to get a tattoo on his shaved crotch, while Elaine is seduced by Pat, a Stepford Wife with a penchant for sex toys. Homes unflinchingly documents the disintegration of Elaine and Paul's family, paying explicit attention to the sexual ennui and sadistic impulses roiling beneath the sterile veneers of their lives. The dark underbelly of the average American neighborhood may seem an obvious theme, and Homes's vision of marital dysfunction is long on sardonic humor and short on profundity. But the denouement to which this disquieting tale carefully builds is powerful enough to seem coextensive with the latest, and most distressing, real-life suburban horrors. (May)

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

What better ways for a hateful, hate-filled couple to alleviate their middle-aged suburban blues than to set fire to their home, sleep around, get a groin tattoo of snaking ivy during an executive lunch at the behest of the cheating girlfriend of one of their best friends, cross-dress, curse each other endlessly, and treat their parental responsibilities as an annoying afterthought? Paul and Elaine live ugly lives doing ugly things to each other. They both have affairs with neighborhood wives, passively allow other sexual peccadilloes to happen to them, and then wonder why they are so miserable. Homes (The End of Alice, LJ 12/95) employs flat, stilted dialog to create a whiner's anthem of thoroughly unlikable people. To spice up this go-nowhere tale, she pulls out a headline from real news to create a tragedy of innocence wounded long before the actual bullet is fired. For larger libraries with a Homes fan base. ABeth E. Andersen, Ann Arbor Dist. Lib., MI
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Hampton:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A e-book Music for Torching will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think this open or reading a book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or ideal book with you?

Jeffery Whitley:

The book Music for Torching has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

Erin Cummins:

As a pupil exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart or real their interest. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to the library. They go to there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Music for Torching can make you really feel more interested to read.

Kimberly Johnson:

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is prepared or printed or outlined from each source this filled update of news.

In this particular modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just looking for the Music for Torching when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online Music for Torching By A. M. Homes
#81NSV3FIKPX**

Read Music for Torching By A. M. Homes for online ebook

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Music for Torching By A. M. Homes books to read online.

Online Music for Torching By A. M. Homes ebook PDF download

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes Doc

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes Mobipocket

Music for Torching By A. M. Homes EPub

81NSV3FIKPX: Music for Torching By A. M. Homes