



This Must Be the Place

Sean H. Doyle

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“Sean H. Doyle is a punk rock sailor shaman with a message from way down below decks where the guys with horns and hooves go jet skiing on a lake of fire. *This Must Be the Place* is a ferocious testament to love and loss written with razor blades and backed with blood. An unputdownable debut.”

–**Jim Ruland**, author of *Forest of Fortune*

“*This Must Be the Place* is the book of an orphan in the wake of his delirium struggling to make sense of the loss that caused it. Sean H. Doyle is a walker of fire and slayer of ghouls whose numberless prolonged trials have stripped him of human dross and discrimination alike. Absence is a mentor, in his world, anguish a mold, compassion the reward. If after reading Doyle’s story you don’t fancy him caressing the brow of Despair itself, it won’t be because he’s failed to tell it well. It broke me, this book, then it took my hand and kissed me. I am changed, now, and so much the better, too.”

–**D Foy**, author of *Made to Break*

“If you’re standing in front of the abyss, offered rope, and told you’ll go deep down, be destroyed, put back together again, and returned to sea level, wouldn’t you go? “Of course I go. Why wouldn’t I go?” *This Must Be the Place* is that descent. Sean H. Doyle holds the ropes and slips you into those dark realms with distinctive power all his own, generosity born of experience, and a voice that will return you home, altered, transformed.”

–**Wendy C. Ortiz**, author of *Excavation*

This Must Be the Place Details

Date : Published May 1st 2015 by Civil Coping Mechanisms

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From Reader Review This Must Be the Place for online ebook

Seth says

Unlike most memoirists, Sean Doyle recounts his shocking past without once ever seeming to say "look at me." He's looking at himself, and we're invited along. Usually the story of a frightening and painful life ends with redemption, but this arresting collection of moments omits any in which Sean climbs out of the pile of hurt and saves himself before it's too late, none when the person he was turns him into the person he is now. That's because, to Doyle, there is no person he was nor any person he will become; there's only who he is. Doyle has a confident and rare understanding of himself, and *This Must be the Place* communicates that understanding as silently and obviously as a planet.

Jim says

I had the good fortune to blurb this book:

"Sean H. Doyle is a punk rock sailor shaman with a message from way down below decks where the guys with horns and hooves go jet skiing on a lake of fire. *This Must Be the Place* is a ferocious testament to love and loss written with razor blades and backed with blood. An unputdownable debut."

The only thing I would add: No bullshit.

Leah says

I am so proud to be Sean H. Doyle's friend. This is a great book and it feels like spending hours talking to someone and listening to them bare their soul to you, and the whole time you're thinking, this is what life is about, this genuine kind of spirit. Way to go Sean!

Juliet Escoria says

Reading *This Must Be The Place* is like getting mugged, and then once the mugger takes your wallet, they push you on the ground. And then once you're on the ground, they kick you in the stomach, over and over and over again. And then when you think they've finally decided to leave you alone, they kick you once more in the teeth. The only difference is that when Sean H. Doyle is mugging you, the experience is cleansing, invigorating, something that tests your heart but also makes it glow, an experience you don't want to ever stop. Otherwise, they're basically identical.

Leesa says

Sean's writing is a rusty serrated blade. This book is sad and funny and Sean isn't afraid to tell us the truth, even when the truth is the last thing we want to hear. I stayed up past my bedtime to read this all at once and even when I finally turned off the light, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I couldn't stop thinking about Sean and his stories and these little paragraphs and these words and these things and this life and this book. I love him, I love it.

Rodney says

The vignettes in *This Must Be the Place* tell the story of one who is often lost and self-destructive. But there is an undercurrent of grit and courage. Sean Doyle bears it all without question. The love and the damage both run strong. This is what it really means to be human. I was pulled in strongly by this book and could have easily stayed around for many more of the short pieces. I will be waiting for the next book from this author.

D. Foy says

I blurbed this book, with all my heart:

"This Must Be the Place is the book of an orphan in the wake of his delirium struggling to make sense of the loss that caused it. Sean H. Doyle is a walker of fire and slayer of ghouls whose numberless prolonged trials have stripped him of human dross and discrimination alike. Absence is a mentor, in his world, anguish a mold, compassion the reward. If after reading Doyle's story you don't fancy him caressing the brow of Despair itself, it won't be because he's failed to tell it well. It broke me, this book, then it took my hand and kissed me. I am changed, now, and so much the better, too."

Patrick O'Neil says

Sean H. Doyle's got these stories, little vignettes of insanity, moments where the the worst train wreck ever goes south into something much darker than a major catastrophe - hell it's a world war of emotions, only he tells them like this kind of shit happens to everyone, like they're everyday occurrences and it's normal when "the bees happen" and your dad says, "burn anything that ever hurts you." Words to live by right? Only that's the proverbial tip of the iceberg, there's more, another story, another passage from Hicksville, or Phoenix, or points unknown, and it just gets darker because *This Must Be the Place* is Doyle letting you into the memories most folks would rather you didn't know about.

Janie C. says

This author has traversed some rocky topography, and his book speaks directly to the reader without a hint of condescension. Self destructive, heartbroken, yet with endorphins still kicking and screaming, we are right there with him in the fishbowl, determinedly making the rounds. More please, Mr. Doyle.

Ray says

Hard-hitting memoir, brutally honest, with not one superfluous word. The chapters fly by so fast the friction of finger turning page nearly reaches flashpoint. The chapters are non-chronological, and bounce from locale to locale, which effectively ratchets up the tension and mirrors the chaos of a difficult life. Highly recommended.

Sofia says

Sort of like a less intense form of a part of *Happy Baby* but without a crushing conceptual thrust. He did do a lot of dumb dangerous fun social shit, though, and maybe that might inspire me to soberly try something of the sort again one day—live a little.

P.S.: If you see this in your readers-also-liked, you'll likely see *Black Cloud* there, too. Read that, be not dissuaged—become the twilight-elongated nuclear-blast-shadow-on-the-pavement you've always wanted to be, and that the blurb implies for this thing, and pretty much any other of a comparable sort.

Kevin says

A hard-hitting collection of moments, vignettes, and uppercuts from a writer who is bound to just get better. This is a breakout.

Andrea says

I'm not proud to admit that when I first looked at this book I felt kind of ripped off because it is rather short, but once I started reading I realized this book is deep, and each word matters and resonates. Sean H. Doyle packed a shit-ton of emotion into this little book. Now I know that I got a bargain--reading this book was a fucking privilege.

Kevin Maloney says

Short, powerful chapters that feel like being shot at by a sniper. Brutal honesty and gorgeous prose. Big debut. Can't wait to read more of his work.

Courtney Maum says

Very brave. And unapologetic. I gasped at the line "I was the one who locked the doors."

I wish it had been longer.

Bravo, gentle Sean.
