



Homesick: A Memoir

Sela Ward

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This is a story about home . . .

At a time when much of America is yearning to recapture the spirit and feelings of a more innocent era, comes this exceptional new book from one of our most beloved actresses: a story of one woman's journey to reconnect with the landscape of her childhood.

Though best known today as the star of the television series *Once & Again* and *Sisters*, Sela Ward considers herself first and foremost a small-town girl. The eldest of four children, she was raised by a father who helped her believe in herself, and by a mother who taught her a sense of the importance of virtues like self-respect, grace, and sacrifice. In her hometown of Meridian, Mississippi, within a tightly-knit community of neighbors and kin, Sela learned ways that would remain with her throughout life -- humble virtues that were "forged in the hearth of a loving home."

After graduating from the University of Alabama, Sela left the South in search of the excitement of cities like New York and Los Angeles, and the creative rewards of an acting career. But as she started her own family, she found herself pining for the comforts of her small-town childhood -- and searching for a way to balance her children's West Coast upbringing with a taste of a more natural way of life. She and her husband built a second home on a farm there, where she and her family could retreat several times each year, and became involved in several projects designed to restore the vitality of the hometown she remembered so fondly. Even as Sela was reconnecting with the rhythms of home, though, her world was rocked by a crisis the family had long anticipated but never quite prepared for -- the death of her mother. As her family gathered around her mama's bedside, Sela's simple journey home became something far deeper: a turning point in her own life, as she pondered her mother's complicated legacy, and came to terms with just what it was she herself was searching for.

Filled with warmth, storytelling, and laughter, *Homesick* is a book to treasure: an exploration of the lessons we carry away with us from childhood, and a celebration of the bittersweet legacy of home.

Homesick: A Memoir Details

Date : Published October 14th 2003 by HarperEntertainment (first published October 15th 2002)

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Author : Sela Ward

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Twila Bennett says

A bit hard to follow at times, but I loved the cadence and sense of this book. Sela is an actor in some of my favorite TV shows over the years, and her voice was ringing in my ears as I read it. Lovely sentiments here.

Paige Greene says

I thoroughly enjoyed this lovely book that was NOT a celebrity tell-all but simply a love letter to Ms. Ward's southern roots. Quick, soothing read.

Denise says

I already liked Sela as an actress before I read her book, but now I like her even more for her honesty and willingness to reveal herself in this wonderful memoir. She bares her feelings and thoughts throughout these pages. She's a kind and warm woman with a great sense of what family means. She talks about her family ties, their struggles, achievements, and what being a member of the Ward family is like.

In this fast paced and competitive world not everyone stays close to their family and home or even care who their extended family is. While I read her book I couldn't help to feel nostalgic about my own childhood and family members long gone. I could also totally relate to her own experience of losing her mom and the importance of being present while she took her last breath and depart at last after an agonizing death.

I was also pleased to learn that she puts her celebrity status to good use and invests time and money in helping out orphan kids. I enjoyed reading about her human and caring side. It was a pleasant and entertaining read.

Owen says

Admittedly, my interest in reading this book centered around my relations to Sela Ward, so I enjoyed learning more about her and her background. Particularly liked the stories about her family-members, growing up in Mississippi, and places there I have visited many times. I also found the general story of her transition from small-town MS to an LA actress and balancing the different parts of her personality reflected in each location to be of interest.

Kay Hommedieu says

Since I have enjoyed Sela Ward as an actress, especially on the TV Series "Sisters" and "Once and Again", I

thought that I would enjoy finding out more about her life. That I did and the book was chock full of photos from her childhood and her days as a college cheerleader at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

But the book isn't only about her career. It is also how she is from Meridian, Mississippi and how she yearned for her southern community after she moved away to the big cities of New York and Los Angeles. She visited home often and thought about the ways she could make a home there in Meridian.

When she married Howard Sherman in 1992, they soon started building a home on the land that they bought after her dad knew of her wishes. So even though she and her husband live in Los Angeles and raise their two children there, it is Meridian where they come several times a year to vacation.

Even though the title is "Homesick" (for her southern roots) she has found a way to incorporate her love of her home community and extended family to her own husband and children.

Mike says

Another celebrity autobiography which piqued my interest as I've seen Sela Ward act over the years.

The book talks mainly of her life down South and how she grew to love it for its traditions and family values and how she longed for it while in LA.

A good portion of the last part of the book talks of the time when her mother passed away...right after the tragedy of 9/11 so Sela takes the readers through her reactions and sadness after both major events in her life.

No this is not a tell-all book....just a good read on a famous star who did not let the fame and fortune of Hollywood ever to her.

Erin says

When I was about halfway through HOMESICK I thought that it wasn't a great memoir... Ward covers most different areas of her life with about two-three pages, and I kept thinking "I want to hear MORE about Alabama, about her involvement with Chi Omega, about her celebrity relationships and why they failed" and I thought it wasn't a great book. Then I realized that the book isn't intended to be an all-encompassing memoir of Ward's life, but rather is a focused piece about her love affair with the South and her family - and what a story it is! As a misplaced Southerner I completely identified with Ward's observations, and her laments that growing up just isn't what it used to be.

The books charms don't stop there. Much attention is given to the illness and death of Ward's mother, and it so closely mirrors my own experiences with the family gathering round for the final days that I was in tears for the last forty pages of the book, including a lovely poem about death. Suffice to say, I'll be looking for my own copy to add to my library.

Brandon Ulman says

I've wanted to read this forever, as a big fan of hers due to Once and Again. I've owned the book for years but in the last year have discovered just how much I love audiobooks, especially if they're memoirs read by their authors. I learned it's only available on cassette, so tracked down a copy AND a brand new cassette player. Even after all that, it lived up to the hype. Warm, grounded, and soothing, it's an intimate look at Ward's life and beliefs.

Cyndee Thomas says

Sela Ward is happy with her Southern roots. Her memoir spans more than just the growing up years. If you like her work as an actress on screen; chances are you will enjoy this book. I liked her College years and the fact that she goes home to connect with her homeland.

Cyndee Thomas

Huleeta Smith says

This insight into the life of Seal Ward is so special because I, too I, too, am from Mississippi and understand where she comes from and what her roots mean to her. There is no place like home and family, especially if you're from Mississippi!! Thanks for writing such an amazing look into your life and expressing how us Southerners feel.

I hope many people from other parts of the country now have a better understanding of the way we think and feel. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with all of us.

Sheena says

I actually bought this on a disastrous trip to Mississippi several years ago. I loved all her stories about growing up in the south. She seems like a genuinely nice person and has tried to remain true to her roots. She makes getting into acting sound so simple and easy. As with all autobiographies I have a feeling that much was left unsaid or glossed over. Well worth reading if you love the South.

Art says

Sela Ward's memoir brought back a lot of Southern childhood memories for me. A real pleasure to read.

Cynthia says

Ms. Ward's remembrances of growing up in Mississippi and the values taught to her by her family resonate

with me. Her compassion for children lead her to open Hope Village for Children. This is a celebrity memoir worth reading if one wants to understand the culture of Mississippians and of the South.

Paige says

Interesting reflections on what the South means to one who grew up there and moved away. You still get the idea Sela is looking for something more foundational though much of what she says rings true to Southern ears.

Kristy says

I have always loved Sela Ward's acting & when I found out she had written her memoirs, I had to read this.

This is all about Sela's growing up in Mississippi. It details her love of the South & how she has passed that love onto her children. She does delve into her working years in Hollywood, as well.
