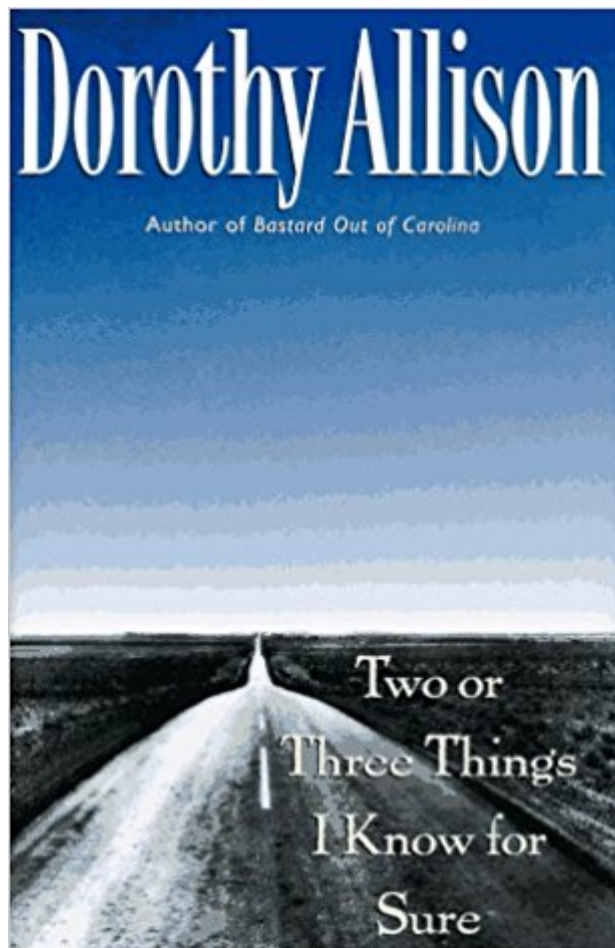


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Two Or Three Things I Know For Sure



Synopsis

An autobiographical narrative by the author of *Bastard out of Carolina* explores such topics as love and loss, beauty and terror, and the intricacies of family love and hatred while illuminating the rural poverty of the South. 50,000 first printing. Tour.

Book Information

Hardcover: 94 pages

Publisher: E. P. Dutton; 1st edition (August 1, 1995)

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (52 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #664,739 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Drama > Lesbian](#) #1712 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > United States](#) #7916 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Women](#)

Customer Reviews

For those of you who have read Dorothy Allison's amazing, moving novel *BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA*, this book is the bridge between the fiction of that work and the reality of Dorothy's life -- and even without *BASTARD* as a reference, this is an immensely powerful work. *TWO OR THREE THINGS I KNOW FOR SURE* was originally intended as a one-woman stage presentation -- I can only imagine, after reading this slim volume, how powerful that must have been. Allison's writing talents are incredible -- she conveys the frustration, and especially the pain, of growing up sexually abused in the American South, the ignorance and poverty, the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, in a very real way. It would be difficult to read this book and NOT get angry at what she endured, at the way women in general were treated. The inspiring thing is that she determined to rise above it in the only way she knew how -- by literally re-inventing her own life. Comparing the process of doing this to the telling of a story, she makes it understandable even to those who are not familiar with the courage required by abuse victims to make the transition to being survivors. Incest and abuse tear families apart and can destroy lives. There's a very revealing story that she tells about looking through old photographs, first with her mom, then with other female

family members. There's a palpable reluctance on their part to name everyone they see in the photos -- it's as if the people there don't exist outside the pictures, their lives being so damaged that they have literally disappeared. The subconscious protects us -- we remember what we can handle, when we can handle it. On p.3, Dorothy makes a statement about 'retelling' her life as a story, re-inventing it in order to hold the pain and cast it off.

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