

The Shade Tree Choir

a novel by David Nelson

Meet eight-year-old Krame. His friends call him the “Thinker,” and he’s leader of their gang since he’s always the one to plot their pranks so they won’t get caught. At home, though, there’s no getting away with anything. Krame’s father is an alcoholic, who beats him mercilessly, forces him to stand in the corner for hours on end, and locks him in an unlit stairwell without food or water. His mentally ill mother is also an alcoholic, and fails to give her son any scrap of emotional support. Things go on like this... until tragedy strikes.

The grim truth of Krame’s childhood stays hidden for forty years until he opens up to one of his old friends when he returns home to bury his father. In the process of recollecting his past, Krame discovers his father was not who he thought he was.

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READER REVIEWS

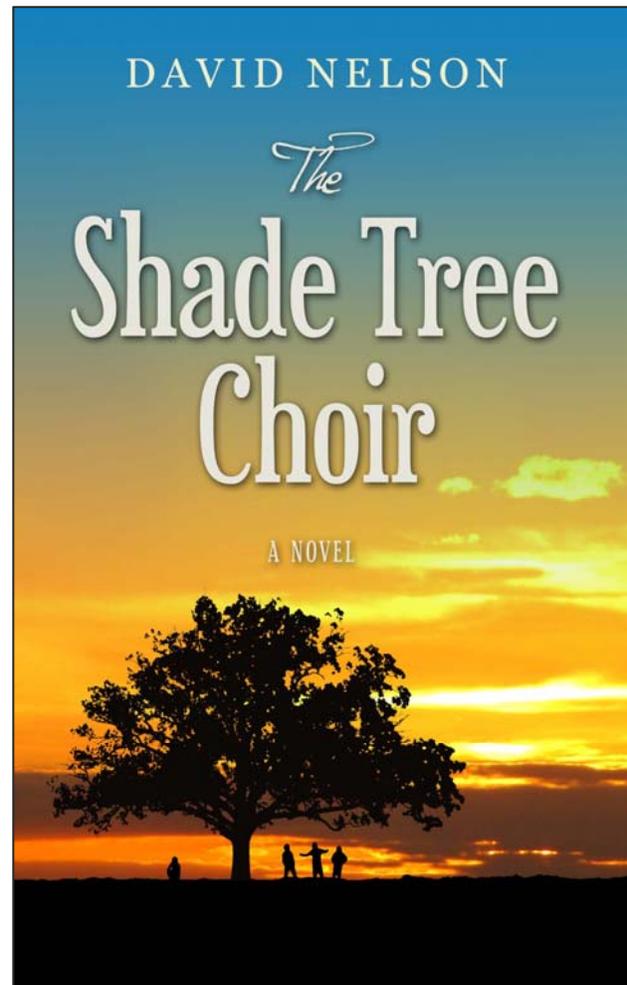
“This is an ageless story as important today as it was in the 1950’s. Every generation has its trials and tribulations; the real ‘story’ is about being able to come face to face with those old ghosts and laugh at them. This is a story that does just that.”

—Ellen Rudolph, Ed.D.

“*The Shade Tree Choir* is the story of a boy growing up in a dysfunctional family. The family disease of alcoholism affects six and a half million children. Having alcoholic parents increases the chances that a child will become an alcoholic between five and seven times. Dry statistics are easy to ignore but David Nelson gives a face and a heart to the child growing up in that environment, and shows the reader the real pain that the disease can cause. He also gives us insight into factors that can moderate some of the damage—teachers, friends, and their parents play a significant role in keeping the young character Krame from going too far down a dark road. Those looking for a good read will find this to be a well-written and engaging novel. For those looking for

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. David Nelson graduated from the University of Dubuque and the University of Iowa. He is a retired physical therapist, an ergonomist, a specialist in arthritis and manual therapy, a public speaker, the Cowboy Poet Laureate of Tennessee—an honor bestowed upon him by the Governor and General Assembly—and an author. He performs his poetry nationwide. To book a speaking program or comedy show, visit www.cowboycomedyshow.com.

www.davidnelsonauthor.com



hope, however, Nelson makes the case that fate’s choice for parents need not condemn a child to a lifetime of misery.”

—Frank Wagner, Psy.D.

“David Nelson’s compelling tale of personal triumph as told through the eyes of a young boy is a must-read for all.”

—Bryan Mihalakis

“Buckle up! This is not a read for the faint of heart. *The Shade Tree Choir* is raw and real. It is felt deep in the viscera. David Nelson is the Frank McCourt of the Midwest.”

—Dave Markward, Ed.D.

“For fifteen years, I worked with students dealing with abuse and alcoholism in their families. David Nelson has addressed these issues with honesty and vivid descriptions. As I read the book, I felt like I should be there helping these young boys. It stirred up many emotions, and memories of when I was counseling young people.”

—Margaret Tyler

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