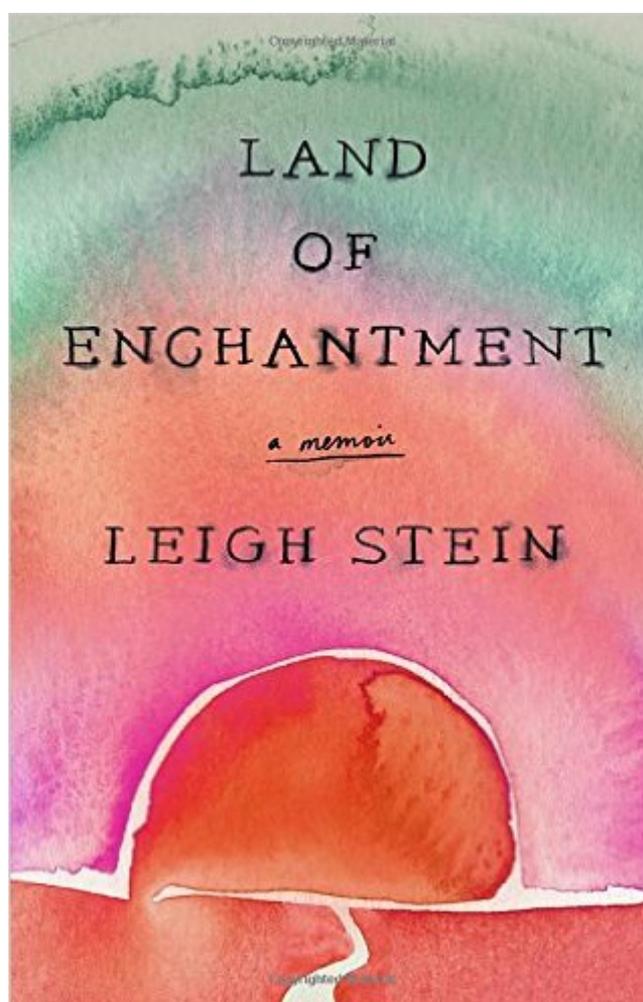


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# Land Of Enchantment



## Synopsis

"[A] thoughtful and compelling elegy to a troubled man, a broken love, and a broken dream of the west. Itâ€™s about loss, wonder, and the vexed grip of attachment. It grieves by way of admitting complexityâ€”by answering the late-night knock of unfinished businessâ€”and its spell is immersive: Once Iâ€™d picked it up, I did not set it down again until Iâ€™d finished it."â€”Leslie Jamison, New York Times Bestselling author of *The Empathy Exams* Set against the stark and surreal landscape of New Mexico, *Land of Enchantment* is a coming-of-age memoir about young love, obsession, and loss, and how a person can imprint a place in your mind forever. When Leigh Stein received a call from an unknown number in July 2011, she let it go to voice mail, assuming it would be her ex-boyfriend Jason. Instead, the call was from his brother: Jason had been killed in a motorcycle accident. He was twenty-three years old. She had seen him alive just a few weeks earlier. Leigh first met Jason at an audition for a tragic play. He was nineteen and troubled and intensely magnetic, a dead ringer for James Dean. Leigh was twenty-two and living at home with her parents, trying to figure out what to do with her young adult life. Within months, they had fallen in love and moved to New Mexico, the "Land of Enchantment," a place neither of them had ever been. But what was supposed to be a romantic adventure quickly turned sinister, as Jason's behavior went from playful and spontaneous to controlling and erratic, eventually escalating to violence. Now New Mexico was marked by isolation and the anxiety of how to leave a man she both loved and feared. Even once Leigh moved on to New York, throwing herself into her work, Jason and their time together haunted her. *Land of Enchantment* lyrically explores the heartbreaking complexity of why the person hurting you the most can be impossible to leave. With searing honesty and cutting humor, Leigh wrestles with what made her fall in love with someone so destructive and how to grieve a man who wasn't always good to her.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ms. Stein, then lost and insecure, starts her memoir with the news that a past, troubled boyfriend has suddenly died. Her memoir carries us through how they met, the trouble that ensued and essentially how deeply attached she was to him and what he represented in her life. Without revealing too much, there is sort of a connection to *I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT YOU FROM ALL OF THIS*. Nadja Spiegelman's mother is French-born Françoise Mouly, the art editor of *The New Yorker*, once married to Maus cartoonist Art Spiegelman. I share this because, the reader learns, that there is a tie to Ms. Mouly later in the book. I was struck by this, as I had literally just finished the before mentioned intense memoir. Therefore, six degrees. Not only six degrees in terms of a person, but how people whom you love can cut you the deepest. This revealing memoir shows how Ms. Stein picked herself up and with great strength moved on to not only pursue her biggest dream but had to let go of someone she loved to do so, because he was just wrong for her, but this took her time to figure out and discover what was good about herself. Ms. Stein references how she read every memoir about every subject not necessarily related to her situation. We share that common bond. Reading to seek truth. Reading to understand. This, my book-loving friends, is what I love so much about memoirs. Not just that authors will go to such lengths to reveal their inner-most secrets but that you can glean so much from a book not just about someone else's life but about your own. It's like reading a history book and knowing, let's not repeat that time in life or let's do that a different way. The subject itself might not pertain to your life or be so far from what you have experienced but we all connect on some human level.

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