



The Splendid Things We Planned: A Family Portrait

Blake Bailey

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A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist 'Autobiography'

The renowned biographer's unforgettable portrait of a family in ruins?his own.

Meet the Baileys: Burck, a prosperous lawyer once voted the American Legion's "Citizen of the Year" in his tiny hometown of Vinita, Oklahoma; his wife Marlies, who longs to recapture her festive life in Greenwich Village as a fetching young German immigrant, fresh off the boat; their addled son Scott, who repeatedly crashes the family Porsche; and Blake, the younger son, trying to find a way through the storm. "You're gonna be just like me," a drunken Scott taunts him. "You're gonna be *worse*."

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Blake Bailey has been hailed as "addictively readable" (*New York Times*) and praised for his ability to capture lives "compellingly and in harrowing detail" (*Time*). *The Splendid Things We Planned* is his darkly funny account of growing up in the shadow of an erratic and increasingly dangerous brother, an exhilarating and sometimes harrowing story that culminates in one unforgettable Christmas.

6 photographs



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