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# Growing Up Stupid: (Mostly) True Stories from Sidney, Maine

*Adrian Ayotte*

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## Growing Up Stupid

(Mostly) True Stories from Sidney, Maine



ADRIAN AYOTTE

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**Adrian Ayotte : Growing Up Stupid: (Mostly) True Stories from Sidney, Maine** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing Up Stupid: (Mostly) True Stories from Sidney, Maine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pass the butter but hold the sentimentBy Dave HunterThis is a no-nonsense memoir that pulls no punches - kids 50 years ago were bratty, reckless and insensitive just like they are today. No excess of sentimentality here. It's much more "Calvin and Hobbes" x 12 than "Cheaper By the Dozen". The author confesses his misdeeds with delightful honesty. The portrayal of his mother is heartfelt and wise, using no more

than a hundred of her words but many of her actions. Sorry to break up the string of 5-stars, but the prose could be a little smoother. Some day I'll write a book and you can get even, Mr. Ayotte! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Laugh and Cry By T.O. Adrian you are quite the author and comedian. They say a good comedian can make you laugh and cry. I think that should be the same for an author....you certainly run a gamut of emotions in your writings. I especially enjoy identifying with the people you write about. I will order another set of 5 to place at the Ste-Agathe Historical Society. I am sure it will spark some interest. J'aime le livre beaucoup. Bonne job mon chum! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful read By Amy "Growing up Stupid" is a wonderful book that gives the reader a glimpse of an extraordinary family. The short stories are funny and heartwarming. Viewed mostly through young Adrian's eyes, we see life in a family of 12 children in small-town Maine. From Adrian's dog following him to the one-room schoolhouse (much to the teacher's displeasure) to building a baseball stadium in the back field, the stories will bring a smile to your face.

We learned early on that if we were going to do stupid things, it was best done where Mom couldn't see them. With twelve kids, Mom's hands were pretty busy, so we took advantage of her preoccupation to explore and adventure. Our rural farm in central Maine provided ample opportunity for us to use our imaginations to entertain ourselves. My brother Conrad said that in hindsight, some of these antics were just plain stupid. Growing up in a large family had its challenges. Sure, there was no lack of playmates, but there was also no privacy. There was no such thing as going to your room to be alone, because your little brother would be sitting there breathing your air. We had to learn to get along because there wasn't space enough to do otherwise. There are a few heartaches that interrupted the many laughs. Dad's death left Mom with twelve kids to raise on her own. Her determination to keep the family together against staggering odds is a testament to her strength and character. Mom's reaction to our shenanigans was typically subdued. She was quiet and never raised her voice. Yet she could send shivers down your spine with a raised eyebrow. Her control of the family was complete and absolute. Growing Up Stupid is an homage to the woman who persisted in teaching us the important lessons in life on the one hand, while we tempted fate with the other.