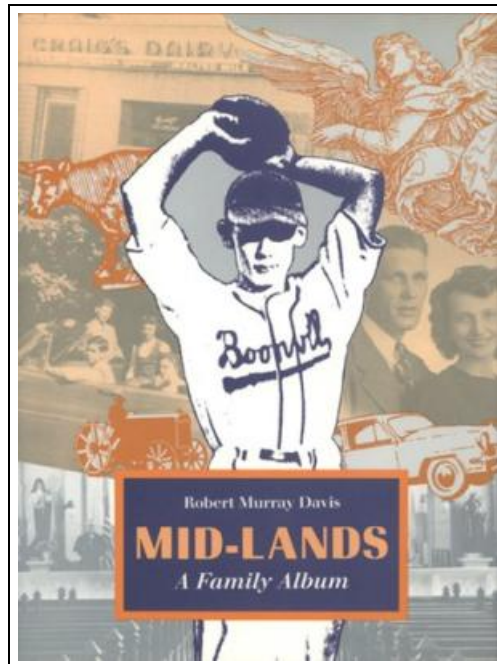


Mid-lands: A Family Album (Hardback)



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(Friedrich Nolan)

MID-LANDS: A FAMILY ALBUM (HARDBACK)



University of Georgia Press, United States, 1992. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mapping out a cosmos bounded by heaven, hell, Kansas City, and St. Louis, Robert Murray Davis looks back on his life in central Missouri in the 1940s and 1950s. As he recalls his youth and early adulthood in the town of Boonville, Davis wryly contemplates some of the sharp dichotomies by which his world was ordered: grown-ups and kids, blacks and whites, Protestants and Catholics, boys and girls, town and country, work and play, art and life. Davis sees now that as he grew up in white, postwar mid-America, he seldom pondered the limitations that its either/ or perspective on life imposed. Sometimes, however, intimations about the world s complexity were too strong for him to ignore. The presence of an occasional black teammate in baseball jarred him into the realization that he knew nothing about some segments of Boonville society. His high school principal s lenient response to a teacher s demand for Davis s expulsion bared a weakness in the united front of adult authority over children. The boldness of the first girl in his class to wear makeup repelled and attracted him--and confused him about sex even more than did his Catholic education. Many of Davis s recollections involve his family and read like captions to snapshots in a family album. However different they were from each other, the two family branches were unified by their mutual regard for uniqueness of character (Davis says his mother felt that one s real duty was not to be right but to be interesting). Anything said or done by a family member had story potential, and Davis learned at an early age that transgressions were judged less harshly if their retelling enhanced an already...



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