



Hamster Island (Paperback)

By Joan Heartwell

Paladin Timeless Books, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Heartwell chronicles her heroic (and often hilarious) determination to live an unremarkable life as a member of a poor, super-dysfunctional family that includes a mostly absent father, a religious fanatic mother, a kleptomaniac grandmother, and two special needs siblings, all residing more or less in the middle of a parking lot. The story moves from Heartwell's lively coming of age in the sixties to her role as caretaker for both siblings after her parents' deaths, at which time she must resort to extraordinary measures to locate the midpoint between their needs and her own. Brilliant and magical, Hamster Island takes its rightful place among such darkly comic and original memoirs as Augusten Burroughs' *Running with Scissors* and Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle*. What people are saying: Bittersweet, engagingly written, and populated by a household of strong-willed, idiosyncratic characters, Hamster Island has, at its core, a conflict familiar to us all: How can we be good to others while also being good to ourselves? This tale of caregiving and self-actualization is unique, but it abounds with insights for us all....

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