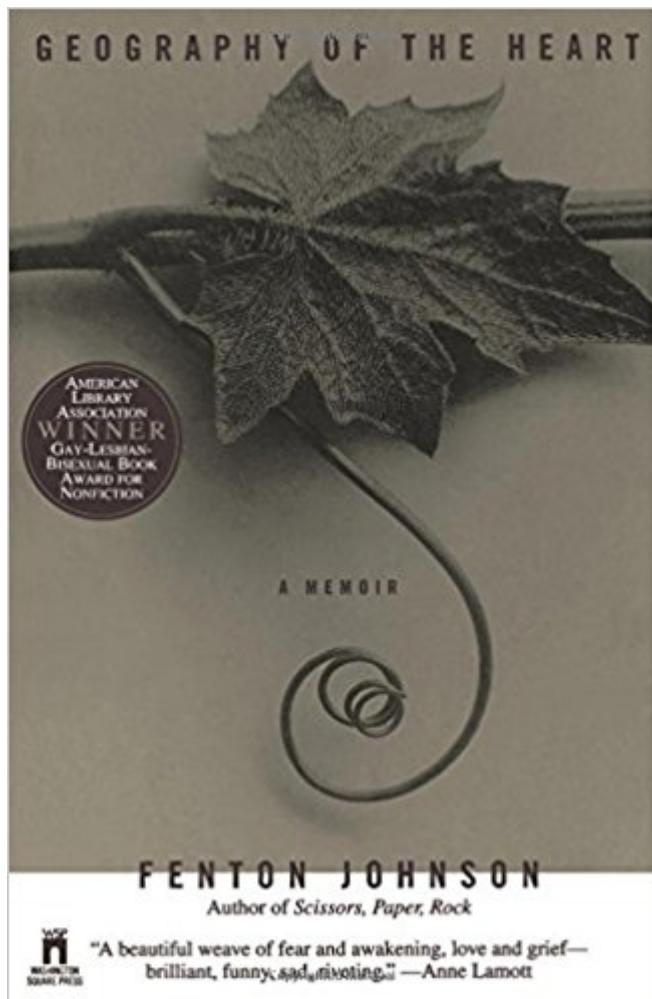


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# Geography Of The Heart



## Synopsis

From the author of the award-winning novels *Crossing The River* and *Scissors, Paper, Rock* comes a powerful book about the transformative power of love. Fenton Johnson recounts the history of "how I feel in love how I came to be with someone else, how he came to death and how I helped." Johnson interweaves two stories: his own upbringing as the youngest of a Kentucky whiskey maker's nine children, and that of his lover LarD Rose, the only child of German Jews. survivors of the Holocaust.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1990, Larry Rose, the partner of novelist Fenton Johnson, died of complications from AIDS. In *Geography of the Heart*, Fenton, author of *Scissors, Paper, Rock*, *Songs of the Soil*, and *Crossing the River*, honors Rose with a beautifully written memoir. Alternating between his own story and Rose's as far back as childhood, Johnson fashions a moving portrait of the man who was "a teacher, [who] taught me how to love." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Novelist Johnson (*Scissors, Paper, Rock*) watched his lover, San Francisco high-school teacher Larry Rose, die of AIDS in a Paris hospital in 1990 after an intense three-year relationship. Rose was HIV-positive but asymptomatic when they met, and while their lovemaking was haunted by fear of contagion, the author remains HIV-negative. Rose, the only child of German Jewish Holocaust survivors?his father, Leo, was imprisoned and beaten by the Nazis in Holland, escaped and hid for

three years with broken vertebrae?had a very different background from that of Johnson, who grew up Catholic and the youngest of nine in an isolated Appalachian town in Kentucky. Johnson writes with crystal clarity of his gradual acceptance by his lover's emigrant parents, of coming out to his own widowed mother at 31, of Rose's gradual physical deterioration and of his working through grief toward emotional renewal. This is a remarkable memoir, touching, funny, searing, eloquent, beautifully alive. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fenton Johnson is a lean writer with a deep vein of revealing himself. Reluctant to commit, he finds himself in a deepening relationship with a man who is HIV Positive. Over time, that love and connection deepens -- and Johnson's gift is his recognition that the wound he will endure will last long after his partner is gone. Read originally when it came out, *GEOGRAPHY OF THE HEART* has lost nothing over time. Clear-eyed, penetrating, compassionate and in the end renewing one's faith in the power of connection, love & getting beyond the comfort zone. Open your heart, your eyes, your mind: it will shift what you believe love is.

An outstanding read! Touching and moving, one gets insight into Johnson's heart and gets the opportunity to look at your own heart. I have recommended this so many, many times and each person who has read it feels the same way.

What a beautiful, sad, wrenching story. You want to say it's about grief, but it's not. You want to say it's about HIV, but it's not. It's this beautiful book about love, from its slow inception to its time of grieving. One could be so lucky to love like this. What a beautiful beautiful work of art.

This is the best memoir of a relationship that I have read. Excellent writing and very touching. It kept my interest from beginning to end.

AIDS memoirs became a rather popular genre in the 1990s. *Geography of the Heart* fits well into this genre, yet transcends the majority of these books, largely because of Fenton Johnson's deep, faith based observations and beautiful prose. The book is, of course, sad, yet the prose moves us to an understanding of the meaning of love and the factors which discourage us from entering into this most vulnerable state. It also talks about the deep transformation that occurs when we let down our guard and allows us to love, in spite of risks involved in all relationships. This is challenging as well

as encouraging. I found Geography of the Heart to be well worth reading.

What a fantastic piece of literature. This book will break your heart and open your mind. It's a culture piece from two very different parts of the world. Please buy this and share it with a friend.

Brilliant. Inspiring.

Really wonderful book. Very human and real. This is an amazing love story about a relatively short but profoundly beautiful relationship. Highly highly recommended.

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