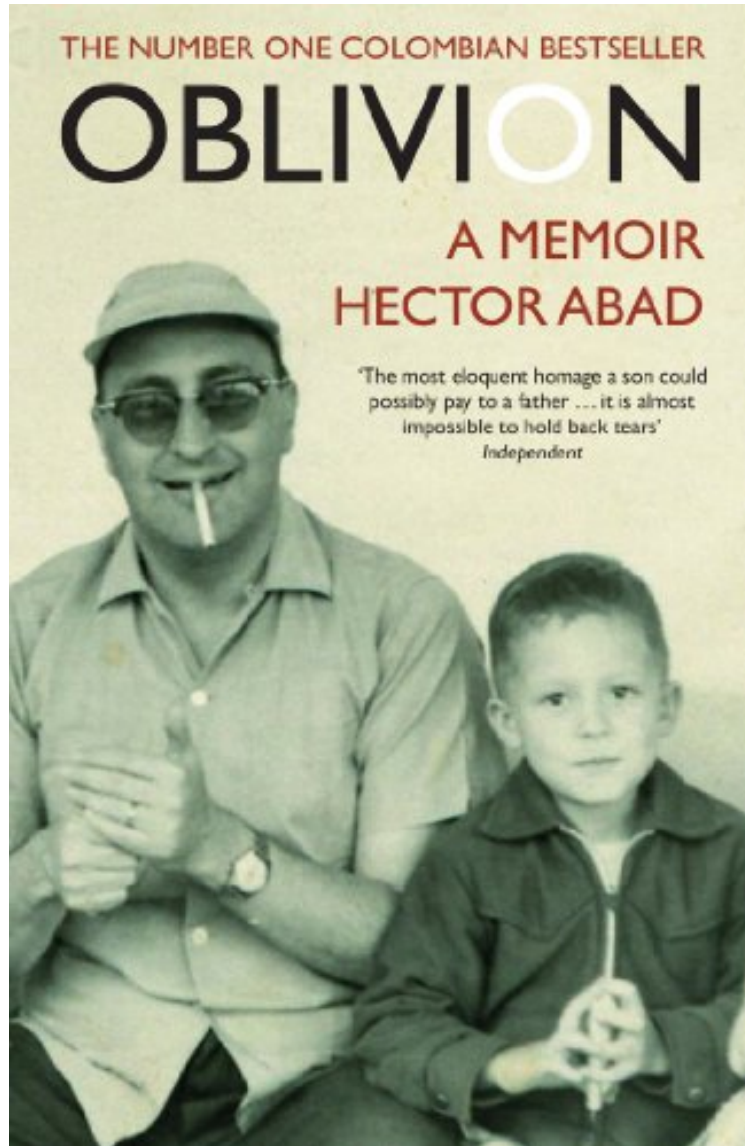


(Download ebook) Oblivion: A memoir

## Oblivion: A memoir

Von Hector Abad Faciolince

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**Von Hector Abad Faciolince : Oblivion: A memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oblivion: A memoir:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
eyeopenerVon GeorgHWell, I grew up in Europa in the sixties and were told, that all those things we heard about Latin America and the killing of people over there was pure propaganda by the Left. Now, almost 60 years later I am reading more and more about it and did find out, that one lied at us and that all this was true.That book is beautiful

written and easy to read although the content is everything but easy! Thanks to Hector Abad, I want to read more about Latin America.

**Kurzbeschreibung**The Number One Colombian Bestseller *Oblivion* is a memorial to the author's father, Hector Abad Gmez, whose criticism of the Colombian regime led to his murder by paramilitaries in 1987. A work of deep feeling and consummate skill, it paints an unforgettable picture of a man who followed his conscience and paid for it with his life, during one of the darkest periods in Latin America's recent history. *Oblivion* has been magnificently translated into English by Anne McLean, two-time winner of the Independent Prize for Foreign Fiction.

**Pressestimmen**It is very difficult to summarize *Oblivion* without betraying it, because, like all great works, it is many things at once. To say that it is a heartrending memoir of the author's family and father who was murdered by a hired assassin is true, but paltry and infinitesimal, because the book is also a moving immersion into the inferno of Colombian political violence, into the life and soul of the city of Medelln, into the private life and public courage of a family, a true story that is also a superb fiction due to the way it is written and constructed, and one of the most eloquent arguments written in our time or any time against terror as an instrument of political action. Mario Vargas Llosa [*Oblivion*] emits a primal yet articulate howl . . . Mr. Abad's prose, in this translation by Anne McLean and Rosalind Harvey, is elastic and alive . . . In Spanish the verb to remember is *recordar*, the author reminds us, a word that derives from *cor*, the Latin for heart. This memoir is extravagantly big-hearted. It will be stocked, in good bookstores, in the nonfiction or belles-lettres sections. A wise owner might also place a copy under the sign that more simply reads: Parenting. Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* [An] admirable effort at speaking the unspeakable, at verbalizing the pain accumulated over decades, is Hector Abad's extraordinary memoir *Oblivion*. It's been years since I read such a powerful meditation on loss . . . I confess not to have known of [Abad] before, even though this is his second book translated into English. This ignorance was actually beneficial, for it allowed me to submerge myself in the narrative without preconception. I emerged from that submersion hypnotized. *Oblivion* will remind you in equal measure of Vittorio de Sica's Italian neo-Realist movie *The Bicycle Thief* and Elie Wiesels Holocaust novel *Night* . . . [Abad's] desire to explore the echoes of memory with meticulous care, to touch the wound of the past through lucid prose, is an act of valor. Ilan Stavans, *San Francisco Chronicle* A family memoir that deserves classic status . . . [Abad] not only pays radiant homage to a hero but champions the path of peaceful change he so steadfastly took. Boyd Tonkin, *The Independent* A tremendous and necessary book, devastatingly courageous and honest. At times I wondered how [Abad] was brave enough to write it. Javier Cercas A beautiful and profoundly moving work. *El Pas* [*Oblivion*] is a shattering chronicle of Colombia's violence. But it is also an inspiring tribute to tolerance and paternal love. Giles Tremlett, *The Guardian* A beautiful, authentic, and moving book. Rosa Montero [A] great and deeply moving testament. Kate Saunders, *The Times* (London) An unbearably moving, eloquent tribute to the author's father who was murdered by Colombian paramilitaries in 1987 that is fit to burst with love and pride. Holly Kyte, *The Telegraph* I store up what I have read by Hector Abad like spherical, polished, luminous little balls of bread, ready for when I have to walk through a vast forest in the nighttime. Manuel Rivas "Colombian author Abad dedicates this loving and sentimental memoir to his father, Hector Abad Gmez, a professor and doctor devoted to his family, "moved to tears by poetry and music," and committed to a better Colombia. The latter aspiration cost him his life when he was assassinated in 1987, and his son began writing this book five years later. Abad spends much of the book expressing his love for his father, but it is his discussion of Gmez's public health and human rights projects such as founding "the Colombian Institute of Family Wellbeing, which built aqueducts and sewer systems in villages, rural districts, and cities" that reveals what a remarkable educator, reformer, and activist the senior Abad was, and how his assassination was a tragedy for a family and a nation." *Publishers Weekly*

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