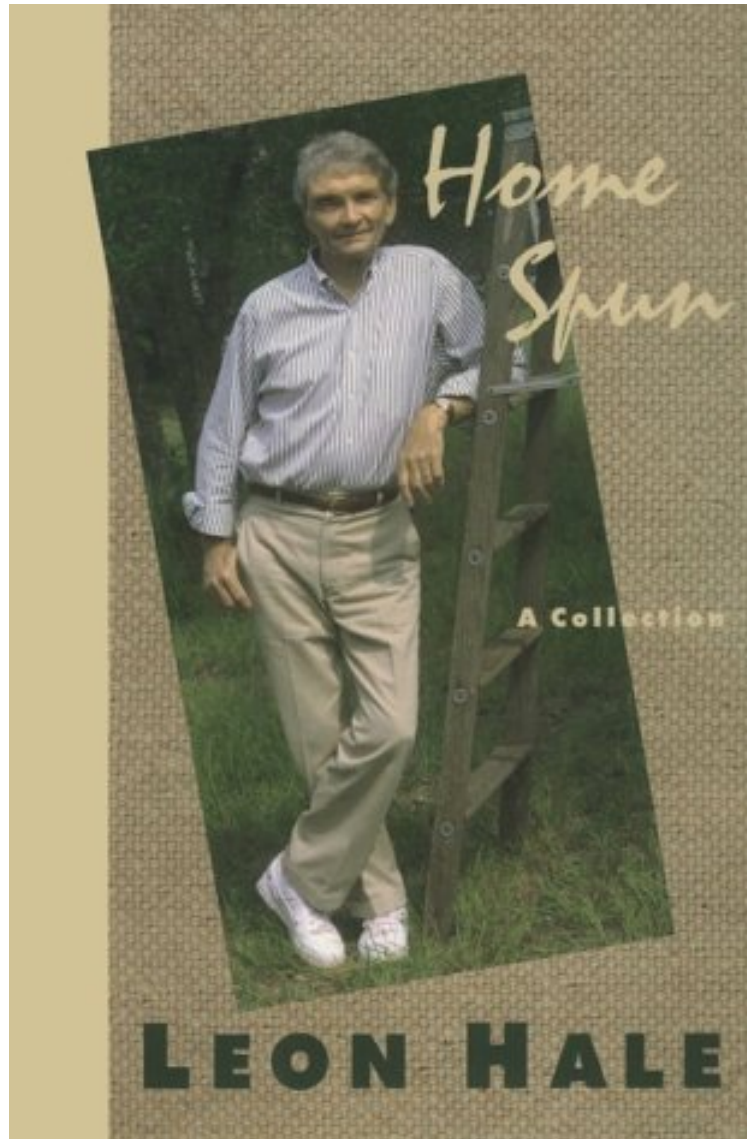


Home Spun: A Collection

Leon Hale

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Leon Hale : Home Spun: A Collection before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Home Spun: A Collection:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Leon HaleBy chloeThis book had much humor and fun to read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Couldn't be better!By gail jenkinsWonderful book by and excellent writer. A collection of some of his best writings.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love going back to the "Good Old Days" and losing myself in a slower and better time.By GrannyI read Leon's column all the tie as I was

growing up and loved every minute of it. Always hate for the book to end but now I have bought all his books and can read the columns whenever I want.

Home Spun is a delightful collection of Hale columns selected from work over the past eight years -- full of humor and wry observation -- presented in the easy-going, graceful prose style for which the author is noted.

From Kirkus sA fetching, down-home sampler of newspaper pieces by Houston Chronicle columnist and novelist Hale (Addison, 1979, etc.) that's by turns tart and sweet. Hale has written a column for nearly 45 years; this collection offers some of his best from 1989 to 1996. Reading these short meditations is like settling in with a box of bourbon candy: It's hard to stop with just a few, and if the booze doesn't buzz you, the sugar will. Much here is standard newspaper columnist fare. Topics include dogs, domestic life, human nature, modern times, old ways, and personal observation. One wishes Hale struck out more often for roads less traveled. (Do we really need another comic essay about the malignant sorcery of sock-swallowing washing machines?) But he tackles all with a charming mix of gruff good humor, jaded cynicism, and an affable, live-and-let-live appreciation for folly (his own and others') that's just crotchety enough to be sweet without being saccharine. He also has an appetite for oddballs and reports he was once ``dedicated to seeking out the most outrageous characters hiding in remote places in Texas, and I don't mind saying I did make a noticeable dent in the total." Madame Z, a retired fortune teller cum card shark, is his enduring favorite. She, Old Friend Morgan, and My Friend Mel are recurring characters and, best of all, good storytellers. Hale displays his own facility with a yarn when indulging in his forte, Texas-size tall tales, the outlandishness of which he divulges with a wink and a nod. As with the best columnists, there's an implied conspiracy between Hale and ``the customers," as he calls his readers--a sense that we're all in on the sometimes pleasurable, sometimes rueful joke that is the world. His enthusiasm for life and for old school newspapering after better than four decades is undeniably infectious. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Reading these short meditations is like settling in with a box of bourbon candy." About the Author Leon Hale is the author of ten books. He has won the Lon Tinkle lifetime achievement award and the Jesse H. Jones best novel award from the Texas Institute of Letters, along with numerous column writing awards, Hale writes a thrice-weekly personal essay column for the Houston Chronicle.