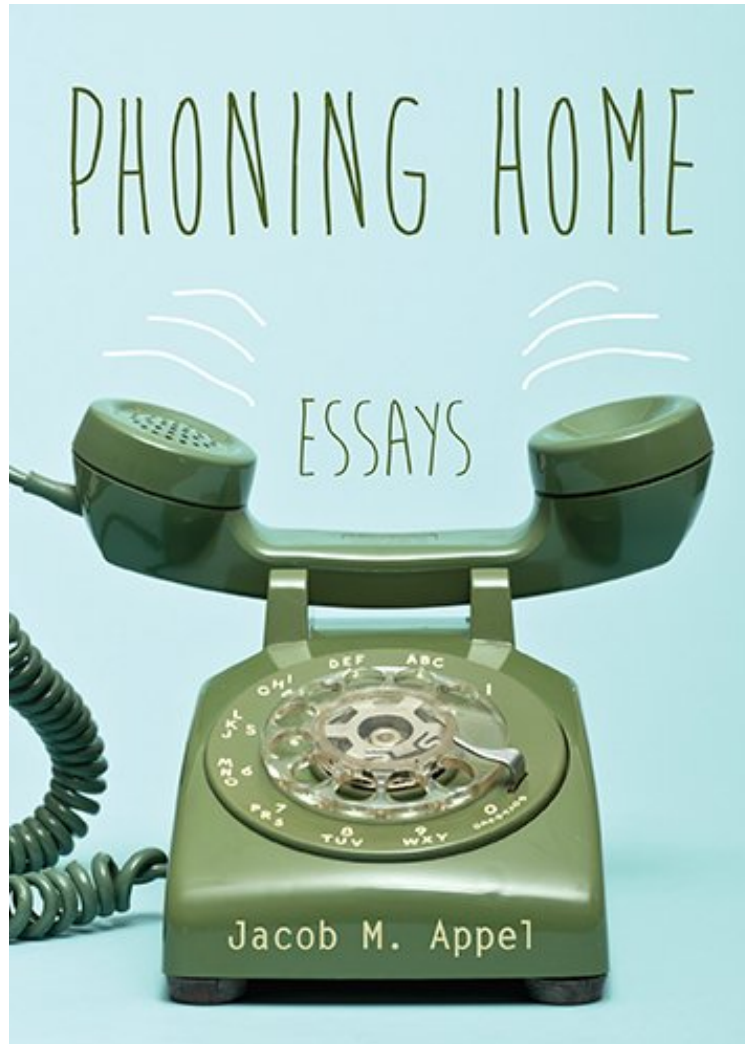


Phoning Home: Essays

Jacob M. Appel

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Jacob M. Appel : Phoning Home: Essays before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Phoning Home: Essays:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I particularly enjoyed his family history By Customer Phoning Home is a charming, witty, and insightful exploration of Appel's development from troublesome child to professional bioethicist and physician. I particularly enjoyed his family history, especially the portraits in draws of his grandfathers in "Mr. Odd and Mr. Even" and of his favorite patient in "Livery." Each of these is really a delightful gem full of surprises. Well worth the investment! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Susan M Grosz Brilliant 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kindle Customer Personal and thought

provoking essays.

Phoning Home is a collection of entertaining and thought-provoking essays featuring the author's quirky family, his Jewish heritage, and his New York City upbringing. Jacob M. Appel's recollections and insights, informed and filtered by his advanced degrees in medicine, law, and ethics, not only inspire nostalgic feelings but also offer insight into contemporary medical and ethical issues. At times sardonic and at others self-deprecating, Appel lays bare the most private aspects of his emotional life. "We'd just visited my grandaunt in Miami Beach, the last time we would ever see her. I had my two travel companions, Fat and Thin, securely buckled into the backseat of my mother's foul-tempered Dodge Dart," writes Appel of his family vacation with his two favorite rubber cat toys. Shortly thereafter Fat and Thin were lost forever--beginning, when Appel was just six years old, what he calls his "private apocalypse." Both erudite and full-hearted, Appel recounts storylines ranging from a bout of unrequited love gone awry to the poignant romance of his grandparents. We learn of the crank phone calls he made to his own family, the conspicuous absence of Jell-O at his grandaunt's house, and family secrets long believed buried. The stories capture the author's distinctive voice--a blend of a physician's compassion and an ethicist's constant questioning.

"Entertaining, intelligent and compassionate essays that provoke reflection." - Kirkus (starred review)"Superbly written and replete with deftly crafted character sketches, these are essays as candid as they are entertaining, and as entertaining as they are memorable."--JACK MASON, Midwest Book About the Author Jacob M. Appel is a physician, attorney, and bioethicist based in New York City. He is the author of two novels, *The Man Who Wouldn't Stand Up* and *The Biology of Luck*; a short fiction collection *Scouting for the Reaper*; and more than two hundred published stories. He also writes about the nexus of law and medicine, contributing to many leading publications including the *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Detroit Free Press*. His work has been nominated for the O. Henry Award, Best American Short Stories, Best American Non-required Reading, Best American Essays, and the Pushcart Prize anthology on multiple occasions.