



devotion

a memoir

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Dani Shapiro

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For Michael and Jacob

Being human cannot be borne alone. We need other presences. We need soft night noises—a mother speaking downstairs, a grandfather rumbling in response, cars swishing past on Philadelphia Avenue and their headlights wheeling around the room. We need the little clicks and signs of a sustaining otherness. We need the Gods.

—JOHN UPDIKE

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A woman named Sandra was cradling my head in her...

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Jacob ran ahead of us toward the wooded banks of...

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I had reached the middle of my life and knew...

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Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green! Here...

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Just a few months ago, Michael and Jacob had been...

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Maybe books weren't enough. Maybe I needed to travel to...

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Were there signs in the universe? And if so, when...

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On our last afternoon in Venice, Michael, Jacob, and I...

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These days, when I am in the middle of my...

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"We have an answer, and it isn't the one we..."

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I didn't believe that God had caused this to happen.

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I sat on a meditation cushion near the back of...

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"Did you pray when Jacob was sick?" I asked Michael,...

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I was watching Jacob build a tower of alphabet blocks...

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I went to see the osteopath in his Connecticut office...

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The small white leather-bound prayer book is embossed on the...

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When we were still living in Brooklyn I craved comfort...

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