





*I've Got A Choice*

Excerpt







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DICK PETERSON

Excerpt



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*This book is dedicated to my dear wife, Iva, whose  
love and support has saved my life.*

Excerpt



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## INTRODUCTION

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**A**s a second generation Montanan, a paratrooper, a recovering alcoholic, a public accountant, and a successful racehorse owner, I feel I have a unique perspective to offer. I have lived all but four years of my life in Montana, and during this time I have witnessed a transformation in the culture here. Social drinking, for example, used to be far more prevalent and widely accepted—even idolized to a degree—while now it is generally frowned upon. Privacy, or the willingness to share personal information, has also seen a steady transformation, as have family values and societal norms. I know this firsthand because until I was forty years old, I carried a family secret that became a tremendous personal burden—one I eventually came to terms with.

My goals in writing this book are twofold. First, I wish to record some of my adventures and share my

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knowledge about Montana and its culture. Hopefully, this book will serve as a resource for anyone searching for a glimpse into the Montana experience. My second goal is more general: to reveal a few things I have learned about human nature.

This book is not organized sequentially along the years of my life; rather, I have chosen several “endeavors”—or “focal points” in my life (or whatever you want to call them)—to organize my story around. These endeavors overlap somewhat, so my story is not strictly linear.

Everything herein is true; only the names have been changed in some cases to protect identities.

Hopefully I can make this journey a fun one and clear enough that it is easy to follow. I do appreciate the opportunity to share my life's experiences, and I thank you for taking the time to read this.

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