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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2006

Augusten Burroughs Is A Liar

At least, it certainly seems that way. Just finished reading his "memoir" *Running With Scissors* and found it difficult in the extreme to believe his story. Not because strange and terrible things happened to him but because he wrote about them unconvincingly. Bad as fiction, but if made up, unconscionable as memoir. [The Independent UK has a lengthy profile that without trying too hard raises all sorts of questions.](#) It quotes his publisher on the truth of the book as saying "His life is in his books." Then the writer quotes a stunning passage in his second memoir *Dry* where the writer's dad and he are fighting in a car and the dad says, "You make crap up" and then crushes a lit cigarette onto Burroughs' forehead leaving a scar between his eyes (a la Harry Potter) that the writer tries very, very hard to see but can't. Did it really happen, he asks the writer? "I'm not sure to this day. I think so. I hope not. But my father was sadistic. He was emotionally cruel." He's NOT SURE if his dad ground a lit cigarette into the writer's head. Liar, liar, liar. [His mom has a website.](#) [His adopted family has a website and is suing -- and a spokesperson for their dad's organization makes them sound flaky in the extreme, so clearly there's some kernel of truth in there.](#) But the movie comes out this year and Augusten Burroughs, it seems, is a big, fat liar.

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 11:32 AM



6 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

I thought the book read fishy too. He isn't sure if his dad crushed a cigarette onto his forehead as an adult? That's absurd.

12:33 PM

Anonymous said...

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