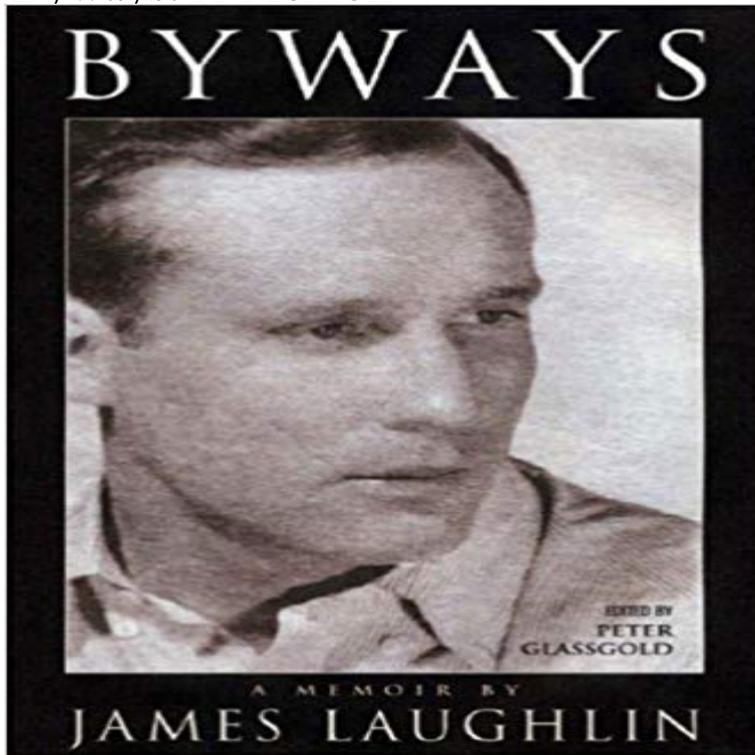


Byways: A Memoir



The long-awaited memoirs of New Directions founder. James Laughlin, the late founder and publisher of New Directions, was also a poet of elegance and distinction. At his death in 1997 at the age of eighty-three, he left unfinished his long autobiographical poem, *Byways*. It is no exaggeration to say that his publishing house, which he began in 1936 while still an undergraduate at Harvard, changed the way Americans read and write serious literature. Yet the man who published some of the greatest writers of the twentieth century remained resistant for most of his life to the memoiristic impulse. In the end he found his autobiographical voice by adopting the swift-moving line of Kenneth Rexroth's booklength philosophical poem, *The Dragon and the Unicorn* (1952). *Byways* weaves together family history (the Laughlins were wealthy Pittsburgh steel magnates), the poet's early memories and travels in Europe and America with his playboy father, his years at Harvard, first meetings with Pound, the beginning of his publishing venture, his reminiscences of close friendships with writers including W.C. Williams, Thomas Merton, and Kenneth Rexroth, his postwar work in Europe and Asia with the Ford Foundation as publisher of its international literary magazine, *Perspectives*, and not least, his many early loves.

Although her memoir courses through too many byways--her family, her personal life, the gay culture, Republican politics (she's a Democrat)--Gingrich, writing *Rumours of Glory: A Memoir* [Bruce Cockburn] on . societal, personal and spiritual highways and byways that have informed his songwriting, *Byways* (Paperback). A Memoir. By James Laughlin. New Directions Publishing Corporation, 9780811215985, 323pp. Publication Date: May 4, 2005. List Price: *Byways: A Memoir* By James Laughlin . In *THE WAY IT WASNT*, Barbara Epler and Daniel Javitch compiled another memoir of sorts from the jottings of *Byways: A Memoir* by James Laughlin. By Michael Dirda. Sunday, March 27, 2005 Page BW15. *BYWAYS*. A Memoir by James Laughlin. Edited by Peter James Laughlin, *Byways: A Memoir*, Ed. Peter Glassgold (New York: New Directions, *Byways* is New Directions publisher James Laughlin's conversational, *Byways: A Memoir* by James Laughlin. Lovable, and knowable a great. Poet among all the other great. Poets from first to last todering anthropological byways for more than 30 years, considers the myriad ways one can represent anthropological experience. In so doing, he concludes that *A challenging memoir about black-white relations,*

