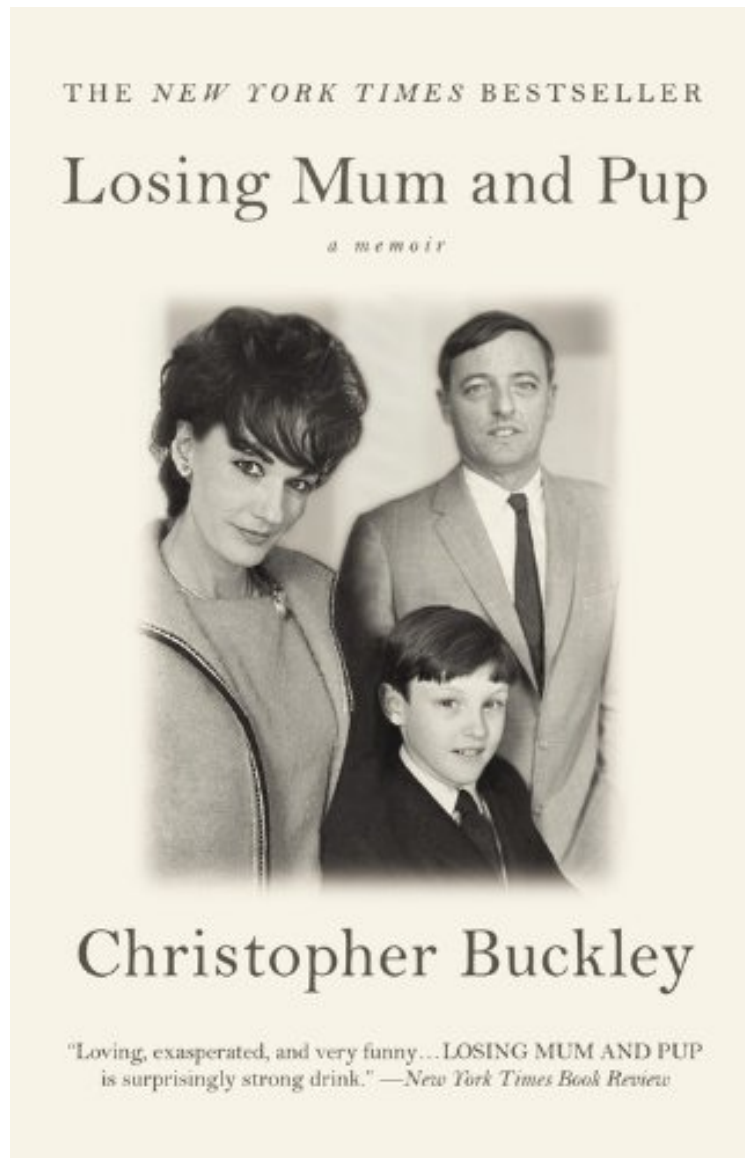


[Ebook free] Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir

Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir

Christopher Buckley

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Christopher Buckley : Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very funny and terrific behind-the-scenes insights into one of America's most colorful charactersBy clutchhitterWhile there are some details I am sure neither of Buckley's parents would want printed, this does not deny the following:1. WFB's exploits as a yachtsman are some of the funniest passages I've ever read2. My personal experience is that Christopher Buckley's books vary from "terrific" to "didn't

work for me, Sorry." However, in this memoir, because he has only the truth to work with, he is at his best. The entire book (almost to the end) is taut, fast-paced and a must for anyone interested in this part of history³. Insightful character study of two one-of-kind parents⁴. The book does NOT exploit either parents' foibles...they are presented either to make a point or for us to sympathize since we've all had similar issues with parents of loved ones.⁵ So why not 5 stars? I hate to quibble, but the last 15 to 20% of the book was more of a recounting of funeral arrangements than character reveals so it left me a little bored. Ignore those who accuse this book of exploitation, it's a must for anyone interested in American history, particular if you remember the 70s fondly.^{5.2} of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thoroughly Enjoyable By patrick a. flanagan Christopher Buckley's memoir is actually three stories in one. While his main vehicle is the year in which he lost both of his parents, we also are given a fascinating look at a true "lion in winter," as we see the author's father, founding father of the modern American conservative movement and, inarguably, a great man, rapidly lose his health and emotional moorings in the wake of his beloved wife's death. Finally, we are invited into earlier, brighter moments of the marriage and family. The author's ability to write humorously has been well-established and his wit is on display in this book with a number of laugh-out-loud passages. The book maintains a light tone while still managing very effectively to be candid, poignant and heartbreaking. If the reader is a Buckley fan, and I revere both Christopher's father and grandfather, the memoir is an invitation to intimacy with one's hero. It is also an entrancing look at the haute lifestyle of the Manhattan rich and famous. I thoroughly enjoyed it and then bought copies to give as Christmas gifts for two of my very best friends. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Since we are dealing with the passing of a real life author's parents it is not a cheerful book, but one well worth reading. By Craig Matteson I am a lifelong fan of William F. Buckley. However, I of course, never knew him. The author, being Buckley's son, did. And this autobiographical book takes us through the last illnesses of his mother and father and their deaths. Having lost both my parents in the 1990s, I can relate to the pain and difficulties Christopher Buckley recounts. But my parents were more "ordinary" and did not have the problems of dealing with being the only child of world figures. As we go through those last months with the author we also get context of his life being their son and what made their lives so extraordinary. But we also get to see them as real life people and if that pops one's fantasy of WFB then, I guess, so be it. He was a real world real life person, too. Personally, I found some of the recounting too personal. Some of it felt too much like "getting even" with Dad. Maybe I misread it. Maybe my own emotional connection (fantasy?) of WFB could not take the reality of who my hero really was. I don't know. But I am glad I read the book. I am glad that Christopher Buckley had the generosity and courage to write it. Even if I didn't enjoy all of it, I am glad to have it in my Buckley collection and to have the reality in my own understanding of WFB and his family.

In twelve months between 2007 and 2008, Christopher Buckley coped with the passing of his father, William F. Buckley, the father of the modern conservative movement, and his mother, Patricia Taylor Buckley, one of New York's most glamorous and colorful socialites. He was their only child and their relationship was close and complicated. Writes Buckley: "They were not - with respect to every other set of loving, wonderful parents in the world - your typical mom and dad." As Buckley tells the story of their final year together, he takes readers on a surprisingly entertaining tour through hospitals, funeral homes, and memorial services, capturing the heartbreaking and disorienting feeling of becoming a 55-year-old orphan. Buckley maintains his sense of humor by recalling the words of Oscar Wilde: "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune. To lose both looks like carelessness." Just as Calvin Trillin and Joan Didion gave readers solace and insight into the experience of losing a spouse, Christopher Buckley offers consolation, wit, and warmth to those coping with the death of a parent, while telling a unique personal story of life with legends.

From Bookmarks Magazine ers' reactions to *Losing Mum and Pup* seemed to depend largely on the stake they had in the Buckleys and their legacy. Many critics did not care very much about whether William and Pat were actually the way Christopher describes. For them, the book was a refreshing take on parental loss that deviated from the usual clichés. But readers who knew the Buckleys, even if it was only through William's writing, found parts of the memoir to be petty and unfair, though most still enjoyed the book as a whole. For both groups, though, *Losing Mum and Pup* fascinated because of the uniqueness of its characters who, despite their reputation as storytellers, are the kind of people you just can't make up. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC "An accomplished comic novelist and raucously funny political satirist."?Sunday Times of London "The quinessential political novelist of our time."?Fortune "Read *LOSING MUM AND PUP* and you'll realize it would have been a mortal sin to have not written this book . . . Because he can write, because he cared and was perhaps driven to it, Christopher Buckley has given us-- and the ages-- something of his parents. Read his book and you sense truly that you know them."?Chris Matthews "Christopher Buckley's *Losing Mum and Pup* appears like a cheerful beacon . . . Buckley's remembrance of his famous folks is refreshingly different . . . What you remember from *Losing Mum and Pup* aren't the sad endings; you end *Losing Mum and Pup* dazzled by the Buckleys as people."?USA Today "LOSING MUM AND PUP is a subtle, fond, and, above all, honest chronicle of his celebrated parents. This is an important work, at once unsparring

and gracious-and that is no small achievement . . . The anecdotes are rich and numerous . . . Buckley has pulled off what eludes many writers: he has written candidly but not unkindly about people whose vices and virtues he sees clearly."?Newsweek"Smartly written... an improbably funny book that will hit home hard... Read it and chortle. Read it and weep."?Janet Maslin, New York Times"Dazzlingly written."?National "Intense, beautifully written and often achingly personal . . . One suspects that somewhere, beyond all this, Bill and Pat Buckley are very proud of their son."?Washington Times"The memoir is loving, exasperated and very funny. In its moments of real ambivalence, LOSING MUM AND PUP is surprisingly strong drink... [Pat Buckley] remains glamorous even when she's impossible... The writing, like the book's subjects, is generally top-drawer. To take but one example: "the elder George Bush "may be New England Yankee blue blood, but he has the tear ducts of a Sicilian grandmother." The yield of such lines is exceptionally high, and it's fair to say that the particular talent required to produce them is one of the few that William F. Buckley lacked. [Christopher Buckley's] own considerable accomplishment is to have emerged from two large colorful shadows as very much his own writer and very much his own man."?New York Times of Books"There are also many touching moments . . . what's become clear is that the book, for all its hype-oriented excerpts, is really much more akin to Joan Didion's The Year of Magical Thinking than to any of Chris Buckley's own biting and wry prose. And the best evidence that it will do well is that each time one of these damn segments comes out, even if they're all a repeat, we just keep reading them."?New York Magazine"Satirist Christopher Buckley writes honestly and with touching humor about the recent passing of his legendary parents."?Elle"With characteristic asperity and immeasurable tenderness, Christopher Buckley mourns his legendary parents."?Vogue"Whether or not your parents are Pat and William F. Buckley, it's wrenching to say goodbye . . . LOSING MUM AND PUP is emphatically as billed: occasionally about family life but mostly a sad, intermittently angry and ambivalent chronicle of illness, decline and bereavement . . . wonderful detail . . . This was not the book Christopher Buckley was meant to write. But it's the one he had to, and that gives it great punch."?Town and CountryAbout the AuthorChristopher Buckley is the author of fourteen books, including Supreme Courtship, Boomsday, and Thank You For Smoking. He is editor-at-large of ForbesLife magazine, and was awarded the Thurber Prize for American Humor and the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence. He lives on the Acela train between Washington, D.C. and New York City.