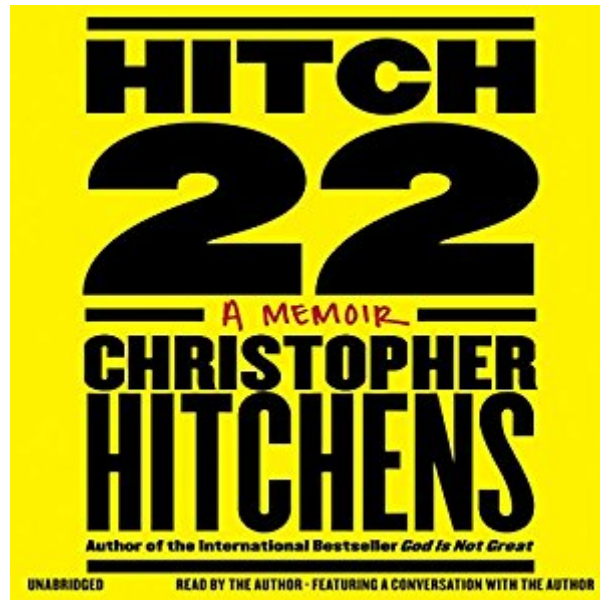




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Hitch-22: A Memoir



Synopsis

Over the course of his 60 years, Christopher Hitchens has been a citizen of both the United States and the United Kingdom. He has been both a socialist opposed to the war in Vietnam and a supporter of the U.S. war against Islamic extremism in Iraq. He has been both a foreign correspondent in some of the world's most dangerous places and a legendary bon vivant with an unquenchable thirst for alcohol and literature. He is a fervent atheist, raised as a Christian, by a mother whose Jewish heritage was not revealed to him until her suicide. In other words, Christopher Hitchens contains multitudes. He sees all sides of an argument. And he believes the personal is political. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hours 34 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: June 2, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B003P64NR2

Best Sellers Rank: #76 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians #116 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Journalists #183 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical & Political Figures

Customer Reviews

Well, folks, eventually one comes to realize that anything/everything Hitch said and/or wrote is worth our time to notice. Whether in agreement with him or not, his view on any subject is informative, presented in a most entertaining, non-offensive manner, and worth consideration. Read and enjoy "Hitch 22, A Memoir." As Hitch stated during a debate, "Language is my business; it's the only thing I care about"--and he is a master of the English language, for sure, and a pure delight to read. Hitch begins this memoir with a chapter focusing on his mother. I think an in-depth study of the relationship between Hitch and his mother would help us to know and understand him on a much more intimate level, she having been at the center of his life. Interestingly, although there is a chapter wherein Hitch reflects on his father, the "Commander," his brother Peter is only briefly

mentioned a couple of times, likewise Hitch's children; Carol Blue, second wife (and now surviving widow) is granted only three or four sentences of recognition throughout and then not to her own personal merit. Yet, Hitch finds space to devote entire chapters to friends Martin and Salman.

High praise indeed from none other than Christopher Buckley but an accolade well warranted. Wit, intelligence, honesty, a master of the appropriate obscure word or phrase, also a partisan polemicist of the far left, atheist, outrageously anti religious, but surprisingly non doctrinaire, in short a complex and fascinating mind. Full disclosure... I am totally on the other end of the political, cultural, and metaphysical spectrum and my life encompassed the same period and yet have always been an admirer even when outraged at his positions in that they are always reasoned from his own integrity, much as I admire Camille Paglia on a likewise ambivalent basis. In reading some of the negative reviews the term 'name dropper' was cast. Well what is a memoir but a compilation of one man's trials, victories and the cast of characters that formed his life. And what a cast it was. And what a period of national and international upheaval. Ironically and sadly publication of his bio coincided with the news of his probably terminal cancer. True to character, that too is grist for the mill of this clear eyed mordant thinker as he describes that last journey beginning with his first essay "Topic of Cancer". Read this only if you can be open to a mind with contradictory facets but one totally engaged with life and events and an unmatched command of the language. A fun and fascinating read from an impressive mind.

I spent 17 hours riding with Christopher Hitchens, listening avidly as he talked about his life and his life's work. It was a one - way conversation -- a monologue really -- but what could I add to his intelligent commentary, his wit, his insight, his iconoclasm and his opinions -- always strong but always rigorously reasoned; and his reminiscences -- humorous, touching, sad, but never maudlin. That 17 hours -- the length this audiobook -- stretched over three weeks of commutes, and the time could not have been better spent. Even the sometimes- puerile schoolboy humor was tolerable when delivered in the author's characteristic style. My one regret is that I couldn't stop the CD to jot down choice nuggets, to metaphorically underline favorite phrases and dog- ear lengthy passages worth noting for future reference. So of course I had to purchase the regular book -- in hardback of course, through which I shall revisit to prose and thought of this most remarkable and fascinating of public intellectuals.

Hitch-22 is the memoir of the notorious Christopher Hitchens. Before I tell you how much I love this

guy and this book I do feel the need to throw out the disclaimer that I don't agree with 85% of his view of either politics or religion. Disclaimer given this book was a total shock to my "Public School" education. Christopher Hitchens was always a polemic and for years found work as a political Journalist. Marxism, Communism, Trotskyism and Fascism all now have a real definition for me and real world examples. This was an eye opener and truly awesome. However because of this, Hitch-22 sat on my shelf for a while before I read it mainly due to intimidation. I knew that Christopher Hitchens was a brain and so figured (going back to that public school thing) I wouldn't be able to keep up. This was not a problem as Hitchens is a fantastic writer who knows how to be both accessible and yet sophisticated in his writing at the same time. Here are some of his more memorable sections:* "...Havana itself is run by a wrinkled Oligarchy of communist gargoyles" - Pg. 110* In regards to Thomas Jefferson's tombstone "...he had not cared to recall that he has been president, vice president, and secretary of state of the United States. Instead, he had asked to be remembered as the author of the Declaration of Independence, The founder of the University of Virginia, and the drafter of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom" Pg. 259And of Course* Alcohol makes other people less tedious, and food less bland, and can provide what the Greeks called entheos, or the slight buzz of inspiration when reading or writing" Pg. 351Recommended - Just make sure and read it with Mr. Hitchen's own prescription of a glass "Mr. Walker's amber restorative"

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