



Hitch-22: A Memoir

By Christopher Hitchens

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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 is the story of his life, lived large.

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Hitch-22: A Memoir By Christopher Hitchens Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Christopher Hitchens stands alone among 20th- and 21st-century pundits for his enthusiastic enmity and political flip-flopping, but while he makes no apologies for his beliefs, he does acknowledge their intrinsic contradictions. Critics praised Hitchens's frankness in sharing the details of his mother's suicide and of his breezy bisexuality, but they simultaneously balked at his decision to omit significant people and events (i.e., his wives, his children, and his role in Bill Clinton's impeachment). They also objected to his relentless name-dropping and some overly dense prose, and a few were appalled that Hitchens would continue to insist that Saddam Hussein did indeed possess WMDs. Despite these complaints, *Hitch-22* is a sharp, rebellious, and sometimes bawdy account of the making of a modern mastermind.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Hitchens, who, in his earlier books, has expressed contempt for both God and Mother Teresa (although not in that order), is often described as a contrarian. In fact, in his book *Letters to a Young Contrarian* (2001), he himself noted that he "can appear insufferable and annoying," albeit without intending to. This memoir, bracing, droll, and very revealing, gives him yet another description: storyteller. He writes with a voice you can hear clearly, warmed by smoke and whiskey, and draws readers into his story, which proves as personal as it is political. As with many memoirs, it is not the public moments that are so fascinating, though there are plenty of those. Hitchens takes readers with him to Havana and Prague, Afghanistan and Iraq; tests himself by being waterboarded (he was disappointed in his early capitulation); and hobnobs with politicians and poets. He almost gets himself beaten up by defacing a poster in Iraq with a Hitler mustache. But the most intriguing stories are the personal ones, both from his early days, at home and at boarding school, and from his later life, when he learns that his mother was Jewish, which, if only technically, makes him Jewish as well. This revelation leads Hitchens on a quest to learn the story of his family, many of whom died in the Holocaust. How this new identity squares with his oft-proclaimed atheism sheds a different light on the meaning of religious identity. (He struggles mightily with his political identity as well.) Few authors can rile as easily as Hitchens does, but even his detractors might find it difficult to put down a book so witty, so piercing, so spoiling for a fight. He makes you want to be as good a reader as he is a writer. --Ilene Cooper

Review

"As contemptuous, digressive, righteous, and riotously funny as the rest of the author's incessant output, this memoir is an effective coming-of-age story, regardless of what one may think of the resulting adult . . . Hitchens paints a credible and even affecting self-portrait." *The New Yorker*

"In this frank, often wickedly funny account, Hitchens traces his evolution as a fiercely independent thinker and enemy of people who are convinced of their absolute certainty ... Revealing and riveting." *Kirkus Review*

"The most erudite and astute political and social commentator of this era has written a memoir that not only give the reader a view of the man behind the words but also a perceptive look at society over the past decades. Hitchens fascinates with the life he has lived and observed and, as always, relates his story with precision and consideration." *Bill Cusamano, Nicola's Books*

"Hitch is as Hitch does, and he's not apologizing to anyone." *Drew Toal, Time Out New York*

"[H]e has so many great quotes and quotables . . . that one cannot read his latest masterpiece for having to stop, find a pencil and page stickers in order to underline and signify his many remarks, each greater than the

other."?Liz Smith, *wowOwow.com*

"Few writers can match his cerebral pyrotechnics. Fewer still can emulate his punch as an intellectual character assassin. It is hard not to admire the sheer virtuosity of his prose ... With Hitchens one simply goes along for the ride. The destination hardly matters."?Ed Luce, *The Financial Times*

"[D]electable, sassy fun . . . this book is intelligent and humane . . . Hitch-22 reminded me why I love the author of *The Missionary Position*, his fervent slapping of Mother Teresa, and his book about the war crimes of Henry Kissinger. Hitchens takes no prisoners, not even himself."?Mark Oppenheimer, *The New Haven Review*

"After reading *Hitch-22*, the only thing you can be sure of is that this flawed knight will not breathe contentedly unless he has a dragon to slay."?Ariel Gonzales, *The Miami Herald*

"... a fat and juicy memoir of a fat and juicy life."?Diana McLellan, *The Washington Post*

"... a complex portrait of a public intellectual."?Alexandra Alter, *The Wall Street Journal*

"[An] extraordinary memoir by a truly astonishing figure of our literary age . . . This is among the most awaited books of the season, and while it confounds, misleads, exasperates and, on occasion, even bores, it also entertains to an almost shocking degree and illuminates almost as much. I laughed out loud - raucously and continuously - reading this book."?Jeff Simon, *Buffalo News*

"*Hitch-22* is among the loveliest paeans to the dearness of one's friends . . . I've ever read. The business and pleasure sides of Mr. Hitchens's personality can make him seem, whether you agree with him or not, among the most purely alive people on the planet."?Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

"If you find yourself in the midst of Christopher Hitchens's memoir and he hasn't said something to anger, inspire, or at least annoy you, wait a few pages. More the account of an intellectual and political odyssey than a conventional autobiography, *HITCH-22* chronicles the critic-journalist-activist's often storm-tossed journey across the ideological spectrum. What makes it a most rewarding trip is that he's a traveling companion with a vigorous mind and a gift for sparkling prose."?www.bookreporter.com

"Whether he's dodging bullets in Sarajevo, dissing Bill Clinton, (with whom he says he shared a girlfriend at Oxford) or explaining his switch from leftist to Iraq war supporter, this foreign correspondent, pundit, and bon vivant makes for an enlightening companion. Give *HITCH 22* an 11 out of 10 for smarts, then double it for entertainment value."?Kyle Smith, *People Magazine*

"a fascinating, absorbing book: the rare contemporary memoir that is the record of a life of true accomplishment and authentic adventure . . . Hitchens is bravely, or at least defiantly, candid about qualities his detractors might use to undermine or perhaps explain his love of war and his rabid hatred for religious people"?Lee Seigel, *The New York Observer*

"[Hitchens] indulges in both an endearing critical self-examination and an action-packed adventure story."?The New Haven Advocate

"Christopher Hitchens may long to be a cogent man of reason, and he can certainly be a pitiless adversary. But he knows there are two sides to any decent match, and it's touching, in *HITCH-22*, to see how often he'll race to the other side of the court to return his own serve. Which may explain why, though he tries to be difficult, he's so hard to dislike."?The New York Times Book Review

"At its heart, Hitch-22 is a celebration of literature and a denunciation of idleness. "Hitchens is inarguably a man of action: He pursues history as it happens . . . eloquent, enlightening, and entertaining."?Gregg LaGambina, *The Onion's AV Club*

Hitchens expresses ambivalence about the term "public intellectual" but, as "Hitch-22" demonstrates, it suits him. The disputatious bon vivant is alive on the page, behind the speaker's podium and in "unglamorous houses on off-peak cable TV."?The Sunday Oregonian

Christopher Hitchens' memoir has the same nerve and frankness that first made me admire him . . . His perspective on becoming an American citizen is refreshing at a time when it's easy to become jaded about our role in the world.?Mark Rahner, *The Seattle Times*

"With the possible exception of Tom Wolfe and Maureen Dowd's, Christopher Hitchens' marvelous byline is the most archly kinetic in current-day American letters. Every article, review and essay has the romantic whiff of a durable vintage. You might disagree with him. You might question his motives. But not for a second will you ever be bored . . . goes on to call the memoir cunning, illuminating . . . Being able to shape-change, shed skins, sit on the hillside overlooking suburbia like a coyote, Hitchens represents a dying breed of public intellectual whose voice matters precisely because it can't be easily pigeonholed or ignored."?Douglas Brinkley, *The Los Angeles Times*

"One of the most engaging, exciting books I've read in years . . . The writing is lovely - introduction aside, which threatens early onset pretentia - Hitchens' cold-eyed evaluation of his younger self feels honest. To be sure, "Hitch 22" is often a chronicle of Hitchens' best efforts. He teaches us that "cheap booze is false economy" and reveals a youth engaged in boarding school homosexuality. But thankfully, Hitchens' efforts, friends, and close calls are rendered wonderfully in this strange book. Ultimately, "Hitch 22" is about cultivating and maintaining one's intellectual integrity. As Hitchens writes, "[I]t is always how people think that counts for much more than what they think." . . . But memoir generates pleasure through voice and sensibility, not through comprehensiveness. Nobody ever said self-awareness must lead to self-revelation, and even if you don't like what Hitchens thinks, it's easy to admire how he thinks."?Michael Washburn, *The Boston Globe*

"When the colorful, prolific journalist shares a tender memory, he quickly converts it into a larger observation about politics, always for him the most crucial sphere of moral and intellectual life."?The New York Times Book Review

"Hitchens offers up surprising revelations about the methods behind his madness as one of the world's most beloved and often hated scribes . . . bold and brassy Hitchens characteristically treats himself as the subject he knows best."?The Philadelphia City Paper

"Reading Hitch-22, his fascinating memoir of a career in combat journalism (both literal and figurative), one gets a sense that those looking for that tragic moment when a reliable man of the left became a fellow traveler of the right are asking the wrong question. On the big political issues that have long animated him-Middle Eastern politics, the dangers of religious messianism-his views have been surprisingly constant."?Michael C. Moynihan, *Reason Magazine*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warren Ford:

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can realize everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A e-book Hitch-22: A Memoir will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that will open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

Theodore Stewart:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire all their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to their book. One of them is this Hitch-22: A Memoir.

Adele Yeager:

This Hitch-22: A Memoir is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great manage word or we can state no rambling sentences included. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Hitch-22: A Memoir in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt that?

John Ray:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended for your requirements is Hitch-22: A Memoir this reserve consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The words styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some study when he makes this book. That is why this book ideal all of you.

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