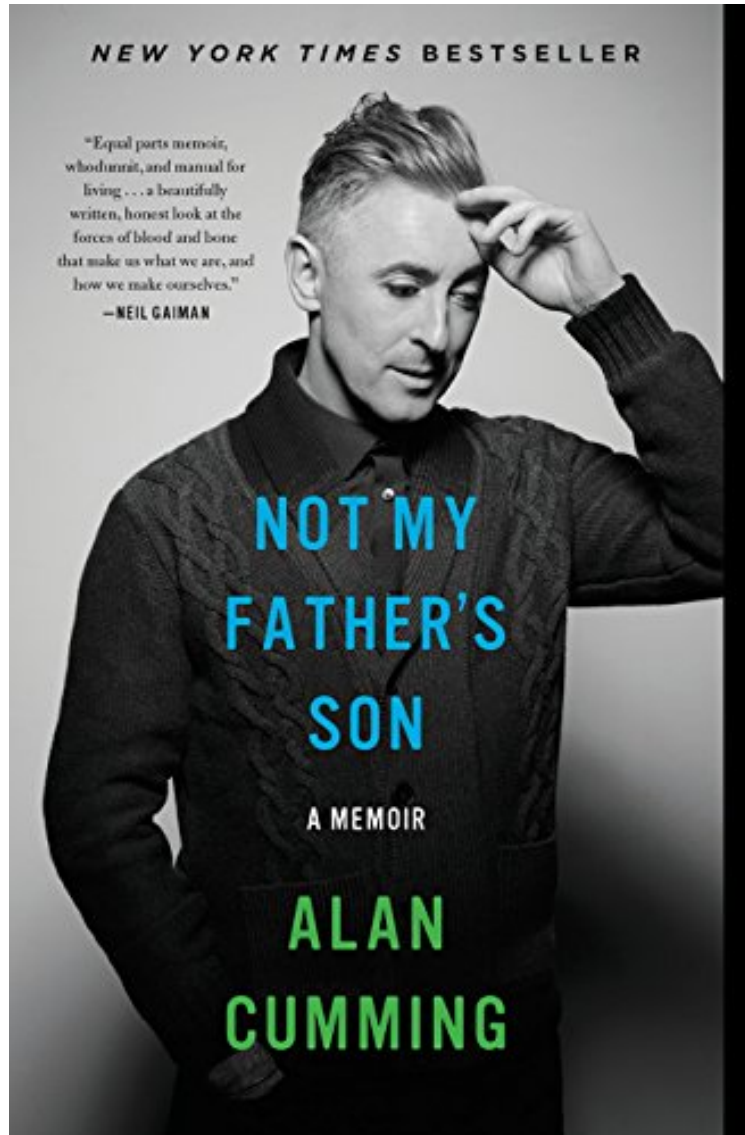


[Mobile book] Not My Father's Son: A Memoir

Not My Father's Son: A Memoir

Alan Cumming

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#166596 in Books Cumming Alan 2015-05-05 2015-05-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062225073304 pagesNot My Father s Son A Memoir | File size: 21.Mb

Alan Cumming : Not My Father's Son: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not My Father's Son: A Memoir:

174 of 180 people found the following review helpful. WonderfulBy half fast farmerI have liked Alan Cummings since I saw him in Spy Kids years ago. He has a innocence and sweetness that can't be faked. His take on the scarecrow in Tin Man was funny and lovely and sad.I was interested to read more about what had made this extraordinary man.His memoir is every bit as wonderful as he is. It is innocent and still too wise. It is sad and lovely.

Heartbreaking violence towards a child is slipped in next to celebrity memories. His wondering about where he could come from is written with longing and the same enthusiasm with which he distances himself from the father he knows is part of his past. But even as we explore the answers to his mysteries we see what Alan does not. He is his father's son in absolute negative. Where his father looks over a small child to find fault, Cumming writes about his father with grace. Perhaps, he posits, there were good and happy times with his father that he and his brother were just too traumatized to remember. Where his father rages, Cummings is gentle and wry. Alan looks deeply and he sees. Cummings is a lovely writer. Each vignette hands the reader one small part of him. It is up to the reader to put them together. Along the way we are treated to thoughts on what Shakespeare would be doing if he were alive today, the Eurovision Song contest, and the story of his blue sweater vest. His father's relentless cruelty never diminishes but Alan grows far beyond it. He makes it beautiful.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended. By Tina Poignant and unashamed, a compelling read. I don't usually read memoirs and I didn't know what to expect, but I could not put it down and it was the first book I thought about during my workday in a long time. Loved the focus on Mary Darling, especially toward the end, maybe because I'm a mom, too. It showed the progression of life for all of the family. Also loved the insight into the life of a working actor.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NOT Your Average Celebrity Tell All By Hal Kid 23.5 stars. A compelling autobiographical offering from actor Alan Cumming, the entertainer who introduces PBS's MYSTERY series. But this is no celebrity tell-all. Instead, it's the story of the actor coming to terms with his family, including the childhood abuse he suffered at the hands of his father, and the family secrets concerning his grandfather who died mysteriously in Malaysia some 60 years ago. Cumming's writing is forthright, powerful, and his story grabs you from the very first page. Some chapters tell stories from his youth. Others are more contemporary and revolve around a British genealogy program which helps Cumming uncover some of his own story. It's a quick read and an interesting one.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Equal parts memoir, whodunnit, and manual for living . . . a beautifully written, honest look at the forces of blood and bone that make us who we are, and how we make ourselves. --Neil Gaiman

In his unique and engaging voice, the acclaimed actor of stage and screen shares the emotional story of his complicated relationship with his father and the deeply buried family secrets that shaped his life and career. A beloved star of stage, television, and film one of the most fun people in show business (Time magazine) Alan Cumming is a successful artist whose diversity and fearlessness is unparalleled. His success masks a painful childhood growing up under the heavy rule of an emotionally and physically abusive father a relationship that tormented him long into adulthood. When television producers in the UK approached him to appear on a popular celebrity genealogy show in 2010, Alan enthusiastically agreed. He hoped the show would solve a family mystery involving his maternal grandfather, a celebrated WWII hero who disappeared in the Far East. But as the truth of his family ancestors revealed itself, Alan learned far more than he bargained for about himself, his past, and his own father. With ribald humor, wit, and incredible insight, Alan seamlessly moves back and forth in time, integrating stories from his childhood in Scotland and his experiences today as a film, television, and theater star. At times suspenseful, deeply moving, and wickedly funny, Not My Father's Son will make readers laugh even as it breaks their hearts.

Alan Cummings moving memoir NOT MY FATHERS SON is a beautiful book sad, funny, haunting, surprising, suspenseful, gut-wrenching, endearing. It will linger inside of you long after you turn the final page. (Harlan Coben, author of New York Times bestsellers Missing You and Six Years)

Equal parts memoir, whodunnit, and manual for living, NOT MY FATHERS SON is a beautifully written, honest look at the forces of blood and bone that make us what we are, and how we make ourselves. I was completely sucked in. (Neil Gaiman, author of American Gods and Ocean at the End of the Lane)

From the Back Cover Dark, painful memories can be put away to be forgotten. Until one day they all flood back in horrible detail. When television producers approached Alan Cumming to appear on a popular celebrity genealogy show, he hoped to solve the mystery of his maternal grandfather's disappearance that had long cast a shadow over his family. But this was not the only mystery laid before Alan. Alan grew up in the grip of a man who held his family hostage, someone who meted out violence with a frightening ease, who waged a silent war with himself that sometimes spilled over onto everyone around him. That man was Alex Cumming, Alan's father, whom Alan had not seen or spoken to for more than a decade when he reconnected just before filming for Who Do You Think You Are? began. He had a secret he had to share, one that would shock his son to his very core and set into motion a journey that would change Alan's life forever. With ribald humor, wit, and incredible insight, Alan seamlessly moves back and forth in time, integrating stories from his childhood in Scotland and his experiences today as the celebrated actor of film, television, and stage. At times suspenseful, at times deeply moving, but always incredibly brave and honest, Not My Father's Son is a powerful story of embracing the best aspects of the past and triumphantly pushing the darkness aside.

About the Author Alan Cumming is an award-winning actor, singer, writer, producer, and director. He recently starred in an acclaimed one-man staging of Macbeth on Broadway, and appears on the Emmy Award-winning television show The Good Wife. He won a Tony Award for his portrayal of the Emcee in the Broadway musical Cabaret, a role he reprised in 2014. He hosts Masterpiece Mystery! on PBS and has appeared in

numerous films, including *Spy Kids*, *Titus*, *X2: X-Men United*, *The Anniversary Party*, *Any Day Now*, and *Eyes Wide Shut*. He lives in New York and London.