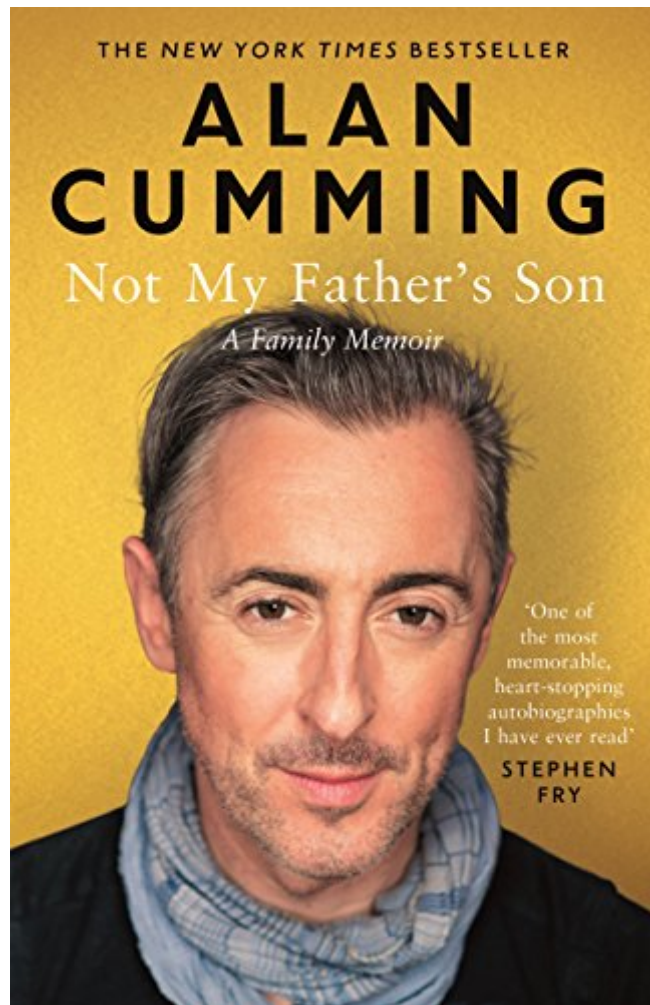


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Not My Father's Son: A Family Memoir



Synopsis

'One of the most memorable, heart-stopping autobiographies I have ever read' STEPHEN FRYWINNER OF THE SLIGHTLY FOXED BEST FIRST BIOGRAPHY PRIZE THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERATTITUDE MAGAZINE'S BOOK OF THE YEARA beloved star of stage and screen, Alan Cumming's life and career have been shaped by a complex and dark family past - full of troubled memories, kept buried away. But then an unexpected phone call from his long-estranged father brought the pain of the past hurtling back into the present, and unravelled everything he thought he knew about himself. Not My Father's Son is the story of his journey of discovery, both a memoir of his childhood in Scotland, and an investigation into his family history which would change him forever.'Equal parts memoir, whodunnit and manual for living . . . beautifully written, honest . . . I was completely sucked in' NEIL GAIMAN

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the 43 years that Alan Cumming writes about in his memoir, he has endured much pain and much happiness. Born in Angus, Scotland, he lived with his parents and brother. His father a brutal man who certainly left his mark on Alan and the entire family. In this book, 'Not My Father's Son',

Alan Cumming moves from 'then' 1965 and his school years to 'now', 2010. The Then and Now occur in alternating chapters. We are introduced to Alan as his father cuts his hair with a rusty pair of clippers, all the while screaming at what a useless boy he was, and worse. This was what his days were like, terrified of his father's outbreaks of violence and abuse, Alan and his brother, Thom, walked and talked as silently as they could. Any little matter could cause pain and injury. Their mother was mostly silent and compliant, we don't know if she was beaten into silence or why she never came to their rescue. Life until Alan was 17 and old enough to go to college was filled with violence, abuse and dislike. Now, brings us to 2010, when Alan was caught up in a television show, 'Who Do You Think You Are', which traced his relatives, and in this case his grandfather, Tom Darling. Alan's mother, Mary, never knew her father, he went off to War and never came home. He lived his later years after the war in Malaysia. No one knew why he had given up on his family. Now, Alan was going to trace his last years, and it would appear on this show. In the process Alan faced his own demons, and, in particular, his father. This is Alan Cumming's story to find the truth of his grandfather, his father and himself. This is a marvelously written memoir. Poetic at times, but always written with such surety that I was confident that Alan would find his true self and his way.

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