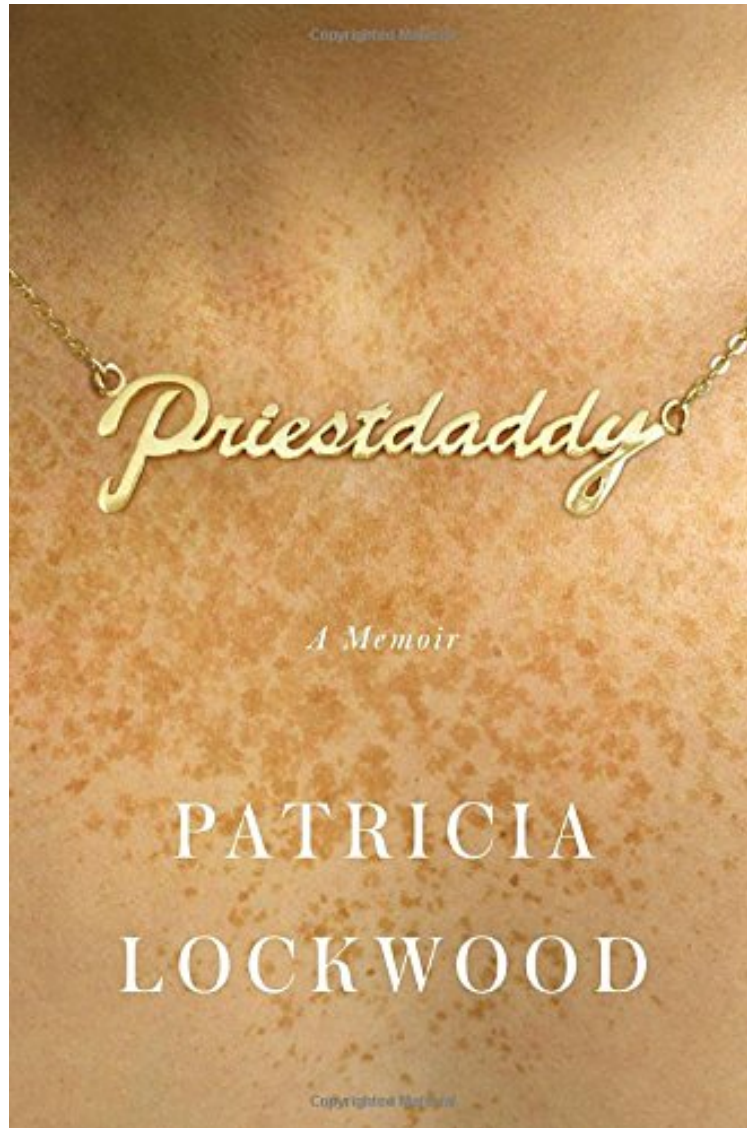


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## Priestdaddy: A Memoir

*Patricia Lockwood*

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**Patricia Lockwood : Priestdaddy: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Priestdaddy: A Memoir:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite Book this Year (Doubly so About Creativity)By CWCThe sentences are like great big treats to wrap your head around. The book is also flat-out funny. Ms. Lockwood finds a unique way to say anything, but what is more gripping is her story: she runs away with a fellow lover of poetry and this man becomes her husband. They move back in with her Father, the all-consuming cheddar-devouring "Homey

don't play that," lead of the book. Patricia never attends a dull MFA, never moves to a cool, hipster city, and still her poems are picked from a New Yorker slush pile because they are that damned good. Better still: the way she sees the world, colored by this early Catholic lens that animates her now secular readings of culture which are filled with all her father's bombast. Then there are sweet, touching moments, like her relaying of the life of a calm church handyman who endured much. I loved this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poignant and Humorous By R. A. Stine Funny in parts, thought provoking in others; in some chapters, a bit slow and tedious. A friend recommended this book to me and set my expectations too high. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Baddaddy By Anne Decker Stayed with the book because the writing was extraordinary, but daddy himself was so unlikable, it was sometimes difficult.

"Consistently alive with feeling. . . Lockwood's prose is cute and dirty and innocent and experienced, Betty Boop in a pas de deux with David Sedaris."--The New York Times "You'll be wowed by Patricia Lockwood's darkly profane and poetic memoir *Priestdaddy*."—Elle Magazine From Patricia Lockwood—a writer acclaimed for her wildly original voice—a vivid, heartbreakingly funny memoir about balancing identity with family and tradition. Father Greg Lockwood is unlike any Catholic priest you have ever met—a man who lounges in boxer shorts, loves action movies, and whose constant jamming on the guitar reverberates “like a whole band dying in a plane crash in 1972.” His daughter is an irreverent poet who long ago left the Church's country. When an unexpected crisis leads her and her husband to move back into her parents' rectory, their two worlds collide. In *Priestdaddy*, Lockwood interweaves emblematic moments from her childhood and adolescence—from an ill-fated family hunting trip and an abortion clinic sit-in where her father was arrested to her involvement in a cultlike Catholic youth group—with scenes that chronicle the eight-month adventure she and her husband had in her parents' household after a decade of living on their own. Lockwood details her education of a seminarian who is also living at the rectory, tries to explain Catholicism to her husband, who is mystified by its bloodthirstiness and arcane laws, and encounters a mysterious substance on a hotel bed with her mother. Lockwood pivots from the raunchy to the sublime, from the comic to the deeply serious, exploring issues of belief, belonging, and personhood. *Priestdaddy* is an entertaining, unforgettable portrait of a deeply odd religious upbringing, and how one balances a hard-won identity with the weight of family and tradition.

.com An Best Book of May 2017: Do not be put off by the slightly creepy title of this memoir: this is no sordid tell-all outing a deviant priest. *Priestdaddy* slides into the “you can never go back” end of the memoir spectrum. When debilitating illness, and the poverty that results, drives poet Patricia Lockwood and her husband to accept her father's offer of shelter, she reluctantly returns to her childhood home. Except in Patricia Lockwood's case, her father is Father Greg Lockwood, a married priest (short explanation: papal dispensation) who likes to lounge about in his boxers, “shredding” his guitar, and raging “HOMEY DON'T PLAY THAT” to signify displeasure. Home for Patricia and her husband will be in a bedroom near that of her parents in the rectory which comes with her father's parish (a sign outside reads ‘God answers kneemail’). Part of the fun in this hilarious memoir is watching Lockwood gamely try to play the part of the straight-man to her parents' shenanigans. The other part is seeing that most of their lunacy has rubbed off on her. Though she attempts a semblance of normalcy for her husband's comfort, it's clear that she's all in with her crazy family. The laughs range from silly to raunchy in a spectrum that might make David Sedaris envious, but the line that stands out the most comes near the end: “A family never recognizes its own idylls while it's living them.” *Priestdaddy* is Patricia Lockwood recognizing her idyll. --Vannessa Cronin, The Book “What I love about this book was the way it feels suffused with love – of literature, nature and the English language; for her family . . . one of the pleasures of this memoir is its particularly tender mother-daughter bond . . . Lockwood's voice is wonderfully grounded and authentic . . . she proves herself a formidably gifted writer who can do pretty much anything she pleases.” – Gemma Sieff, The New York Times Book “*Priestdaddy* roars from the gate. . . it's not just that Lockwood has fresh eyes and quick wits, but that in her father she's lucked upon one of the great characters of this nonfiction decade. . . There is lovely writing in “*Priestdaddy*” about social class. . . a flyway companion to *Hillbilly Elegy*. . . I suspect it may mean a lot to many people, especially the lapsed Catholics among us. It is, for sure, like no book I have read.” --Dwight Garner, The New York Times “Wildly entertaining. . . [Lockwood's] humor and poetic descriptions are both impressively prolific, every sentence somehow funnier than the one you just read.” —New York Magazine's The Cut “[A] vivid, unrelentingly funny memoir. . . [Lockwood's] stories . . . are both savage and tender, shot through with surprises and revelations.”—New Yorker “Gives ‘confessional memoir’ a new layer of meaning. From its hilariously irreverent first sentence, this daughter's story of her guitar-jamming, abortion-protesting, God-fearing father will grab you by the clerical collar and won't let go.”—Vanity Fair “Remarkable . . . Lockwood proceeds with a near unflagging sense of ironic exuberance and verbal inventiveness . . . this superabundance of comic energy and literary vigor is a measure of Lockwood's seriousness.”—Washington Post “With this ferocious, bodacious memoir, Lockwood finally mounts her own pulpit, reclaiming a story that all along was hers alone to tell.”—O, The Oprah Magazine “A sharply written and (I can't overstate this) relentlessly funny family history . . . Lockwood's language swerves into sumptuous poetry several times per chapter.”—Boston Globe “A memoir about growing up different and

Catholic, but unlike any you've read before. Poet and writer Patricia Lockwood brings her uniquely bracing yet humorous prose to the story of where it all began: home.”—Glamour Magazine“Here, using the same offbeat intelligence, comic timing, gimlet skill for observation and verbal dexterity that she uses in both her poetry and her tweets, [Lockwood] delivers an unsparing yet ultimately affectionate portrait of faith and family... Priestdaddy gives both believers and nonbelievers a great deal to contemplate.”—Chicago Tribune“Funny and gorgeously written, with scenes so witty and zany they could be lifted from a Broadway show, Priestdaddy will be one of the major prose debuts of the year.” —The Huffington Post“Priestdaddy is a revelatory debut, a meditation on family and art that finds poetry in the unlikeliest things, including poetry. Patricia Lockwood's prose is nothing short of ecstatic; every sentence hums with vibrant, anarchic delight, and her portrait of her epically eccentric family life is funny, warm, and stuffed to bursting with emotional insight. If I could write like this, I would.” —Joss Whedon “Lockwood is antic, deadpan, heartbreaking. . . each sentence shimmies with wonderful, obscene life.”—npr.org“Lockwood’s humor can shape-shift into something else entirely, something quite moving. . . Priestdaddy is a book necessary for 2017—a meditation on living in the house of an unabashed patriarch, of asserting one’s humanity and continuing to take up space.” – The Rumpus “Lockwood is one of the great original voices of this new century and she is in total control of it here.”—The Awl “The story of a very loving and eccentric family, full of American contradictions and dense with brilliant sentences that Lockwood seems to toss off as if she were brushing lint from her sweater.” – Vulture.com“Patricia Lockwood's side-splitting Priestdaddy puts the poetry back in memoir. Her verbal verve creates a reading experience of effervescent joy, even as Lockwood takes you through some of her life’s darker passages. Destined to be a classic, Priestdaddy is this year's must-read memoir.” —Mary Karr, author of *The Liars’ Club*“Beautiful, funny and poignant. I wish I'd written this book.” —Jenny Lawson, author of *Furiously Happy*“Lockwood has the singular ability to sear you with its often comical, but rarely less than sublime beauty. Her words work as lightning; they devastate with extreme efficiency, you continue to see them in front of you even when you’ve closed your eyes.”—Nylon“This is a story about all kinds of sacred things... Lockwood’s estrangement is born of intimacy, and she chronicles it with clear eyes.”—Guernica“ A sidesplittingly funny, and simply gorgeously written reflection on her father’s decision to become a Catholic priest. As poignantly self-reflective as it is authoritative and enlightening about the state of the Catholic Church—and modern religion—today, PRIESTDADDY’s buzz is sure to sustain us all summer long.”—Harper's Bazaar“ A powerful true story from one of America’s most relevant and funniest writers. . . the commandingly written Priestdaddy—about family, religion, identity and trauma—will certainly make you laugh out loud. But it may also move you to tears.”—Playboy“ Irreverently reverent . . . It is easy to be distracted and delighted by [Lockwood’s] strange, phosphorescent prose, but the wisp of an idea brushes against you, and before you know it, there’s a welt.”—New Republic “These vignettes of growing up as the daughter of a married Catholic priest (rare but possible) are so darkly funny that I found myself hooting with laughter and highlighting passages like crazy.”—Omnivoracious“Lockwood’s book is really a rather deliciously old-school, big-R Romantic endeavor: a chronicle of the growth of a mind, the evolution of an imagination.”—The Atlantic “I’m an agnostic, but I truly believe that we are all blessed by Patricia Lockwood's decision to lend her amazing facility for language to prose with Priestdaddy. It's a hilarious book full of heavy truths; a wonderful study of one of life's most precious resources - beautiful weirdos.” —Andy Richter

About the Author Patricia Lockwood was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and raised in all the worst cities of the Midwest. She is the author of two poetry collections, *Balloon Pop* and *Outlaw Black* and *Motherland Fatherland Homelandsexuals*, a New York Times Notable Book. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, and *the London of Books*. Lockwood lives in Lawrence, Kansas.