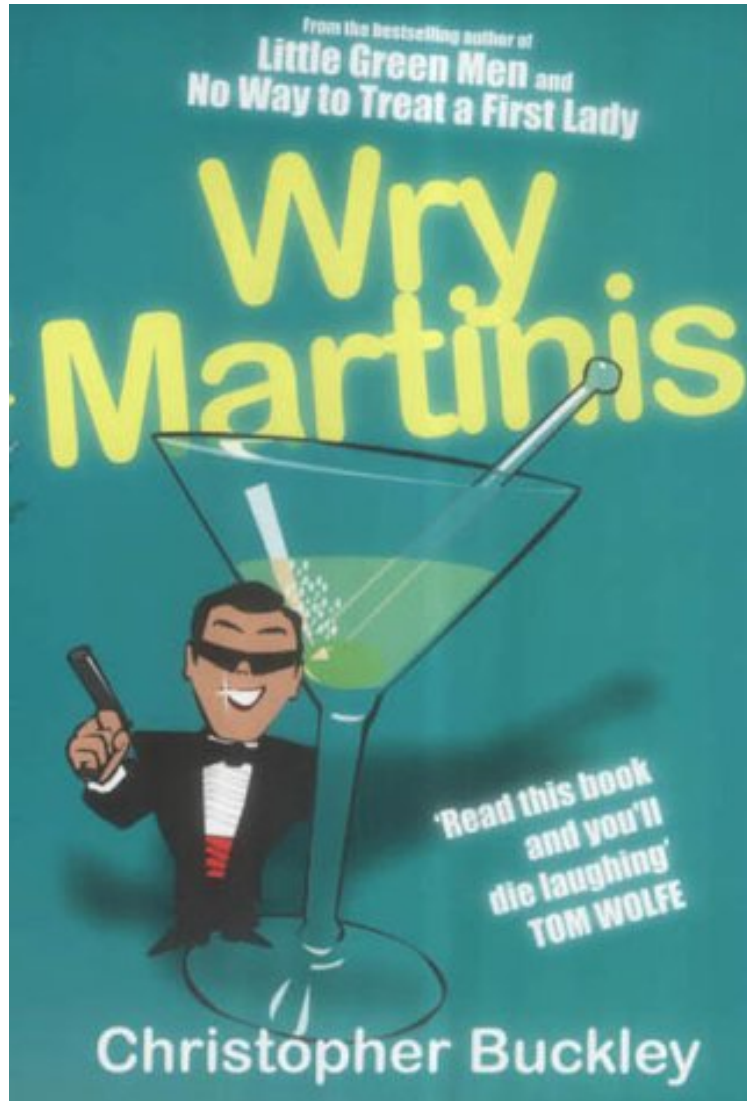


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## Wry Martinis

*Christopher Buckley*

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**Christopher Buckley : Wry Martinis** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wry Martinis:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... opposite sides of the universe but his writing is fantastic and demonstrates the humor and irony in so much ...By Beadrin UristaOur politics are from opposite sides of the universe but his writing is fantastic and demonstrates the humor and irony in so much of the world as we see it. I have loved every book I have read of Mr. Buckley's and not regretted one word.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Days and Years revisited with laughter.By Sherl BakerIt was a very clever and entertainig book. It held so many

memories of my generation and the persona of people who I could identify with. And it was a delight to sincerely be amused for a change in this troubled world. Loved it and plan to read more of Mr. Buckley. This is my third of this author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Bruce Junius I like Christopher Buckley's satire. He is one of a kind!!

Christopher Buckley, author of 'Thank You for Smoking', is the man who persuaded America's ABC News that Russia was auctioning off Lenin's corpse. This book offers a selection of the best of Buckley's recent writing.

.com Wry Martinis is the perfect title for this intoxicating volume--though Christopher Buckley pretends he had a hard time coming up with it. But as his fans know, effortless superiority is Buckley's main m.o. In this collection of 20 years' of occasional pieces for such magazines as the New Yorker and the New Republic, he ranges from deadpan parody to devastating takes on all manner of American preoccupations, from celebrity to fly fishing to the Times bestseller list. (No. 2 in Advice, How-to, and Miscellaneous: "Becoming God, by Beepah Doolik. Self-deification in a single afternoon.") Usually all it takes is a single sentence to set Buckley off. In 1994, when USA Today announced the expected launch of a 24-hour conservative cable network, he happily riffed on morning, afternoon, and nighttime programming. Suffice it to say that between 9 and 11 a.m., Phyllis! With Phyllis Schafly will hold the screen. That day's episode? "Pacific tuna fishermen explain how dolphins commit suicide by hurling themselves into the nets; also: how to tell if your son is queer." (Please head straight to page 12 for further listings.) Not that our provocateur doesn't have his serious side, too. It shows up in his explorations of his own military envy, asthma, and cluster headaches, but also in some unlikely zones--including a sympathetic profile of Eppie Lederer, better known as agony aunt Ann Landers. (When Eppie tells Buckley that her husband left her, "an eyebrow arches, the right dimple deepens like a Florida sinkhole.") And then there is "My Own Private Sunday School," two pages on talking to his 6-year-old daughter about belief and death. Of course, even here the mischief-maker shines through, since the beginner's Bible Buckley buys is sorely lacking in verbal panache: "The chapter about the Roman discovering Jesus' empty tomb is titled 'Surprise!'--which is sort of cute, even if it does make a pretty crucial New Testament event sound a bit like a panel from Where's Waldo?" Buckley is ever on the hunt for our foibles and endless absurdities; and despite his seemingly straight-up hilarity, his method requires the utmost skill, imagination, and--oddly enough--affection. -- Kerry Fried From Publishers Weekly The author of Thank You for Smoking has put together more than 65 bits and pieces of journeyman work (much of it very amusing indeed) from sources ranging from the New Yorker to the New York Times to Forbes to the Portsmouth Abbey Alumni magazine. Touched on, usually quite briefly, are subjects such as mad cow disease (could the animals be used to counteract illegal emigration from Mexico?), drunken Yale undergraduates (a growth industry, it seems), presidential debates (which, he observes, would be improved if all involved had three martinis before things got under way) and the Unabomber (the next client of O.J.'s dream team?). There are also accounts of hoaxes successfully perpetrated by Buckley, including the well-publicized "rumor" that an impoverished Russia plans to auction off Lenin's embalmed corpse. The section called "Homage to Tom Clancy" is typical of the book's variety. It begins with a none-too-serious profile of the author written soon after the success of The Hunt for Red October, followed by a parody of Clancy as a U.S. senator, then a savage review of Debt of Honor (Clancy is "the James Fenimore Cooper of his day, which is to say the most successful bad writer of his generation"), followed by an exchange of actual faxes between an unamused Clancy and a puckish Buckley. As a comic, Buckley frequently suffers from the Saturday Night Live syndrome: his ideas are often funnier than his punch lines. But readers hell-bent on amusing themselves will find laughs enough here. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This collection of magazine articles by Buckley ranges from satire to introspection. In one of his works the author describes the frustrations of Captain Kirk (from Star Trek) who faces his greatest challenge in programming a VCR. In another he examines his envy of Vietnam veterans. While his articles on Tom Clancy, O.J. Simpson, and Oprah Winfrey are hilarious, others are dated and seem a little too precious. This work is a "garage sale" of articles that probably would not have been published in any other form. These criticisms aside, Buckley is a skilled writer, and his insights are pertinent and amusing. Narrator Lloyd James does a commendable job in capturing the many different nuances of these articles, e.g., he's a very convincing Ensign Chekov. Recommended, but not a priority purchase. A Ray Vignovich, West Des Moines, P.L., Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.