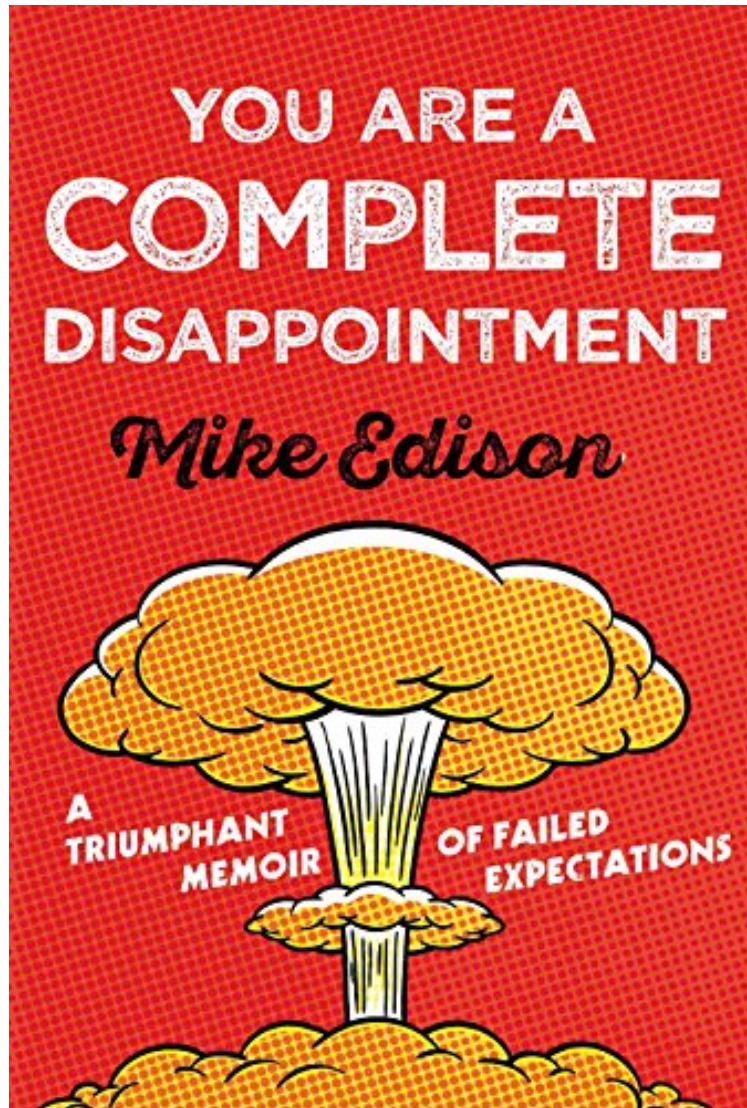


You Are a Complete Disappointment: A Triumphant Memoir of Failed Expectations

Mike Edison

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Mike Edison : You Are a Complete Disappointment: A Triumphant Memoir of Failed Expectations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You Are a Complete Disappointment: A Triumphant Memoir of Failed Expectations:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. funny, and kind of nasty as anything else he ...By Ana BalkaMike Edison successfully walks a challenging line when he details the heartbreak of being raised by (I'm no doctor, but) a

raging narcissist in a book that is also as entertaining, funny, and kind of nasty as anything else he has written. Stories about meatball pizza and army field jackets made me cringe with memories of my own agonizing family episodes and encounters with junior high bullies, and if you're like me you'll be grateful to see a guy who was raised to doubt himself choose instead to claim absolute, unapologetic ownership of his story, while also succeeding at being a mensch. "Complete Disappointment" is engrossing and full of references to professional wrestling, girlfriends, rock and roll, and a cat named Manly. I recommend it for anyone. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THIS IS A COMPLETELY EXCELLENT READ!!! By Durmund StrangFar exceeding my expectations, this is a funny, soulful, sometimes heartbreaking, book of wisdom that's never preachy. A kind of Tao Te Ching for All-American Alien Boys Girls, men women. I sometimes wondered "how did he not become a serial killer" as I read. It's perhaps because the author seems to have an outsized heart, acutely perceptive mind and rare ability to understand and forgive. Plus a rare strength of character that, despite the long shot odds, makes the author come through a winner. A truly enriching read that's always clear, hip and never cheaply sentimental. I've gifted 3 copies to friends and they've all loved the book. Here's a comment from one: "I finished DISAPPOINTMENT last night. It got richer and deeper (while never losing it's bawdy sense of humor) as it went on. His purposely non-literary style made for an even deeper impression. I needed the humor but it was the man's steadfastness and righteousness that was the real take-away. I'm sure there were many aspects of Edison's life that reminded you of your upbringing—an adventurous kid surrounded by piles of dirt left over from the ruts that most people dig for themselves. I can see what a threat you might have been to your immediate community members. Thanks. It was an excellent read. Sara is next and then I'll send it to Kathleen. Triple trouble!" BUY THIS BOOK AND READ IT, YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Masterpiece of Wit By Alexandra S. This small but potent book crystallizes decades of pain into incisive, relentless humor delivered at so brisk a pace you'll want to read it in one sitting. How can a book about an abusive father-son relationship be so damn funny? Is it because it's happening to someone else? Or is it because Edison's irreverent style charts such new territory on the journey of self-healing? (I challenge you to find any comparable memoir that so touchingly deploys professional wrestling and cocaine-covered erections as motifs in transcending painful family conflict). Edison's light touch compassionately explores the complexities of his dad's chronic asshole-ism, and ultimately illuminates the struggle to be an individual in a "square world." Snorting mystery dust off a frisbee at a David Bowie concert is a transcendent moment in the effervescent, lifelong countercultural spree that elevates Edison above the morbid perfectionism of his family of origin. A genuine masterpiece of wit and heart, this book is a must for any Edison fan and - for new readers - will be a gateway drug into his rich and colorful world.

"You are a complete disappointment." On his deathbed, Mike Edison's father gasped those words to his son—and that was just the beginning of his devastating salvo. For anyone who has ever suffered from parental bullying, this often-hilarious yet intensely heartbreaking memoir from the former High Times publisher will provide both solace and laughter. It begins with a child's hunger for love and acceptance and continues through years of withering criticism, perverse expectations, and unfounded competition from a narcissistic father who couldn't tolerate his son's happiness and libertine spirit. In the end, the author unravels a relationship that could never be fixed—but perhaps didn't need to be. In the spirit of Augusten Burroughs by way of Jeannette Walls, Edison's memoir is a candid, devastating, and deeply funny read.

"Edison writes like Hunter S. Thompson, if Hunter S. Thompson was not a self-medicating misanthrope but instead a big-hearted teddy bear with a taste for professional wrestling and narratives of joy and redemption—which is what Edison's marvelous new memoir is: a must-read for anyone who craves instruction for how to get out from under a soul-murdering childhood." —Rick Perlstein, author of The New York Times bestseller *The Invisible Bridge: the Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan* "Telling Mike Edison he was a complete disappointment was just the first salvo of his father's deathbed diatribe. In the same way this list of complaints is both amusing and profoundly upsetting, Edison's memoir about his troubled relationship with his straitlaced dad is a work of humor and pathos. A musician and former editor and publisher of High Times magazine, Edison never fit the constraining mold that his parents considered the only path to success. After his father's parting words put the capstone on a relationship that had been contentious for decades, Edison looks to discover where exactly he and his father got so off-track. Uncovering the truth takes Edison beyond even his childhood to the formation of his parents' belief systems as part of a generation that valued conformity above almost all else. Edison is a fine storyteller, quick and witty, who gives the heavy stuff appropriate weight without letting it pull down the lighter moments, like his father's memorable outburst over a meatball pizza. Edison's soul-searching creates a moving tribute to being oneself." —Booklist