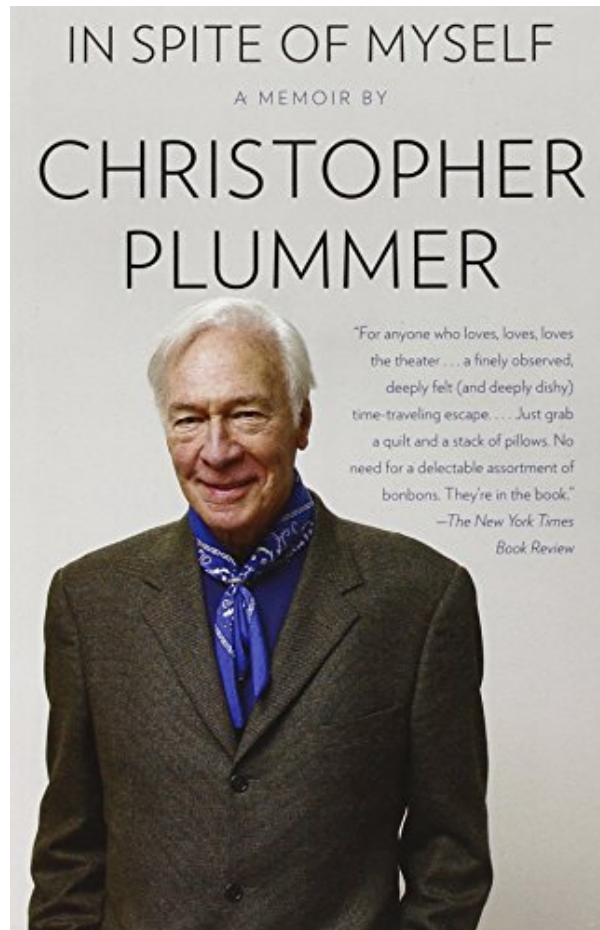


# IN SPITE OF MYSELF BY CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER



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A MEMOIR BY  
CHRISTOPHER  
PLUMMER



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# IN SPITE OF MYSELF BY CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER PDF

A vibrant, exuberant self-portrait of one of today's greatest living actors.

Christopher Plummer's magnificent book recounts the wild adventure that is his life, stretching from a privileged childhood in Canada to the glorious, star-studded New York of the fifties to a sensational career in film appearing in some of our most beloved classics. Here are his late nights out with Carson McCullers, Tennessee Williams, Paddy Chayefsky, and Arthur Miller; his affairs and marriages; his collaborations with famed producers; and his memorable roles alongside fellow young and talented actors, each also destined for stardom: Judi Dench, Vanessa Redgrave, Peter O'Toole, Natalie Wood, and countless others. Plummer weaves delicious anecdotes of a life spent on stages and film sets across the world—from Peter Hall's Royal Shakespeare Theatre to *The Sound of Music* (affectionately dubbed "S&M")—into a boisterous narrative filled with humor and irresistible charm.

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67 of 70 people found the following review helpful.

Plum, Plummer, Plum Beautiful

By enubrius

Since the only review of this book, so far, is by someone who HASN'T read it, I thought I'd take the

opportunity of voicing an opinion of one who has! My first thought upon starting the book was: At 600 plus pages, this would seem to be less a "memoir" and more a full-scale autobiography. But, memoir it is as Mr Plummer seems to be recounting his life not in strict chronological order, but as memories assail him while writing. One can almost hear his thinking: "Oh, I'd forgotten that! Well, it's just too good not to tell! I'll get back to the main "plot" in a minute!" The stories are amazingly entertaining (As one who, as a youth saw the "Ian Keith/Broadway Television Theater" moment I was thrilled to discover I hadn't just imagined the whole thing!). The history of the theater, and its decline (and triumphs) over the last half century, heartening and heart-breaking. The portrait of stars and lesser luminaries of, at least, the past four generations is enthralling. As to the writing: suffice to say Mr Plummer is almost as good a writer as he is an actor (he couldn't be AS good... he'd be Shakespeare!) If you love theater, read this! If you don't, read this and you will!

34 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

In Spite of Himself...Indeed!

By Jenny Moore

I eagerly awaited the release of this book. I have been a lifelong fan of Mr. Plummer's and I have been looking forward to reading his self-penned memoir for several years. The night of its release, I literally stayed up a good portion of the night reading it...long into the early morning hours. I finished it the next night. It was a pretty captivating book, I must say. Overall I cannot give it five stars as I strongly felt the language and explicit sexual descriptions (a few of them actually) were too graphic and the language in my opinion, was unnecessary. I figured he was using it for effect but it really seemed like it could have been toned down. Call me a prude but that's how I feel. I do think that it is a nicely written memoir. I felt, that after seeing him on stage and on screen for so many years, I really walked away knowing him a little better. Throughout the book, he was self-deprecating, honest and frank about his triumphs and his failures as a performer and as a person.

I was left with a few questions though. What happened to his second wife Trish? After surviving a near fatal car accident, which led to a raging alcohol problem, I got the distinct feeling that after their divorce, she succumbed to her alcoholism and passed away. He never cleared up what happened to her. It left a lot of loose ends...whether or not this was intentional, I will never know but I would like to.

I also got the feeling that he has never gotten over the breakup of his marriage to Tammy Grimes. He seemed to leave the reader feeling like his heart had been broken, to his own fault in many ways as he was very much into his partying days then, but still. I would have liked more stories of him and Tammy together. They seemed like, had they been a little older, maybe it would have worked out. Who knows? I know he is crazy about his third wife Elaine and I'm glad he's found true happiness and love with her. I just got the vibe that he never got over Tammy..

I was surprised at how much he seemed to enjoy being a father initially, to baby Amanda "Manders", although by his own admission, he wasn't around very much to really call himself a father. It's interesting that he did the exact same thing to his daughter that his own father did to him and I found that sad. I'm glad he and Amanda have reconciled and are now close. I feel bad that he missed out on all of her growing up years and I get the sense, from his writing, that is one of his biggest regrets as well.

Overall, I found it a very charming and honest memoir. I loved the chapter on The Sound of Music and it seemed like he and Julie have a great fondness for each other, which is so obvious anytime they are around each other, both on and off the screen.

I hope to make it to one of his book signings. It's an excellent read, just be warned there is a lot of bad language and blatant sexual encounters, for those prudes like myself. Bravo on a great job writing this book,

Mr Plummer! I wish you'd write more and I wish you'd release a CD of your amazing gifts as a concert pianist. You are truly gifted. God bless you sir!

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

A terrific, literate and mesmerizing memoir

By Amazon Customer

Mr. Plummer is a splendid writer who takes pains to reveal himself candidly and honestly, warts and all. For anyone interested in theatre in the last half of the 20th century, this is required reading. Though admirably frank about his own failings and failures, he retains a gentleman's charity when discussing others. About his various liaisons, he remains fairly discreet throughout. There is much to learn and even more to enjoy in this absorbing and beautifully written book.

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