



A Twist of Lemmon: A Tribute to My Father

Christopher Lemmon

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Jack Lemmon was one of our most beloved movie stars. A two-time Academy Award winner, he appeared in dozens of memorable films, including such classics as *Some Like It Hot*, *Mister Roberts*, *The Odd Couple*, *Grumpy Old Men*, *Missing*, *The Apartment*, and *The China Syndrome*. On-screen, he came across as a kind of "everyman"—audiences loved him because they felt they knew him, because he was one of them.

In *A Twist of Lemmon*, Chris Lemmon shares family tales, intimate father-son conversations, and anecdotes from and about his dad. The result is a vivid and enchanting portrait of a less-than-perfect father who in some ways assumed a greater reality for his fans than he did for his son. Chris writes about the difficulty of growing up in a broken home, the treasured time spent with his father, and the friendship that evolved as they came to share their passions for both music and golf. This very personal portrait provides new insight into a man who charmed millions with his rascal's smile and his very human vulnerability.

When Jack Lemmon died in 2001, the world lost one of its favorite actors, but Chris Lemmon lost the man he had admired above all others. *A Twist of Lemmon* is his warm and moving and often very funny celebration of his larger-than-life father.

Joining Chris in his tribute are a number of the people who worked with Jack Lemmon over the years, including actor Kevin Spacey. In his foreword, Spacey writes, "He was a credit to his profession because he was a man whose humanity was bigger than his talent. And when you think for a moment about the size and depth of that talent, then you begin to understand how seriously he took his role as a human being."

In this first book of its kind written about Jack Lemmon, that "human being" comes fully alive—as an actor, a father, and a best friend. It is a heartwarming and discerning look at a true American legend.

A Twist of Lemmon: A Tribute to My Father Details

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Joclyn says

I can't resist a Jack Lemmon movie. This book is lovingly written by Jack's son Chris, honest, heartfelt and not always complementary, a tribute to an extraordinary icon. Each character he played was a piece of Jack Lemmon, his smile was his signature. "Now that's a touch of terrific," Jack Lemmon. I love this guy!

Eric Smith says

This is a terrific book. Not so much a dictation on the legendary actor's life (although there are some good anecdotes) but rather a rare glimpse through the eyes of a Hollywood actor's son. It digs deep into the relationship (both good and bad) between the famous Jack Lemmon and his son, Chris. There's even a couple tearjerking moments, as well as some solid laughs.

Janeen says

Thought it would be all about Jack Lemmon's life. It turns out to be a biography about his son's life with Jack mixed in.

Chuck says

Exactly what the title proclaims...a tribute from son to father. Some of the stories were enlightening, but the book left me wanting to read an impartial biography of the Hollywood legend.

Hawkgrrrl says

This was a very enjoyable read about one of my favorite actors of all time, Jack Lemmon, by his son Chris. This book is for men's men: golf, fishing, alcoholism, chasing women, craving one's father's approval, etc. It's full of funny anecdotes and a father-son theme that I confess was somewhat lost on me at times.

One criticism I have is the overuse of the name Lemmon (Lilac Lemmon, Lemmon Legacy, etc.) which oddly disenfranchises the female family members, even though it was clear that his father Jack in many ways had more of his mother's traits than his father's. The women are relegated to the role of furniture, not even supporting characters. Even the author's devotion to wife Gina is expressed in such over-the-top terms as to be both tender and completely unrealistic.

Still, it's a touching and tender tribute and above all funny and human life experience on paper.

John Kennedy says

The book could have incorporated more insights about Jack Lemmon's life as an actor, and less time about his outings as a father on fishing trips and golf tournaments. Too much time is consumed by a son trying to come to grips with a divorced dad who was his best friend yet not present much during his formative years.

Steve Kemp says

I like to read these kind of books (written by the person or a family member) ,kinda a brief glimpse into the private lives of the stars we have come to love. If you are a fan of Jack Lemmon and his work ,you will have a good ride for sure ! Once you start this book ,you won't stop until a few hours have passed and you are staring at the back cover wondering why it had to end so soon ! Thank you Chris Lemmon for letting me feel a little closer to your father ,he was one of the best !

Gry says

There is no option for 3 1/2 stars on here, but that is more accurately what I'd rate this book. At times the sentimentality gets a little over the top--the author lays it on thick with constant talk of the "Lemmon Legacy"--but the anecdotes of life with Jack Lemmon as his dad are absolutely wonderful. Through countless stories, Chris Lemmon creates a vivid picture of his dad as a warm, kind, funny, imperfect, and very human individual. He paints a picture of a life well-lived and the moments he and his dad shared through the years. This is a book that will make you laugh and make you cry. Intermittently, we are given short scenes of Jack's final days in the hospital, and at the end of the book, his death from cancer, but thankfully, the majority of the book consists of anecdotal stories of the good times, many of which are downright hilarious. If you are a fan of Jack Lemmon, this is a very worthy read.

Luann says

A wonderfully touching memoir told by Jack Lemmon's son Chris. Fortunately, it's not one of the typical "I hate my celebrity parent" stories but rather a collection of happy memories spent with his dad during his youth and as an adult.

Spencer Rich says

A well-intentioned sentimental piece of tripe with a handful of good anecdotes.

Joy says

Chris Lemmon did a good job of reviewing his father's life and films as well as Chris own relation to his father. Chris' parents were divorced and Jack had a second family that was a priority, but the camping trips in Chris' teens and later the joint interest in golf helped build the relationship. Kevin Spacey said of Jack Lemmon: "His humility was bigger than his talents." Too much drinking and estrangements and rough language for me to be a great Jack Lemmon fan. Gotta admire the forgiving attitude of Chris and focus on the strengths of his father -- except for the drinking, estrangements, and rough language.

Mike says

As I get older, I am enjoying reading the stories about the lives of our great celebrities. This book, written by Chris Lemmon, tells the story of growing up with his dad, the famous Jack Lemmon.

Chapter after chapter reveals a side of Jack Lemmon we may never have seen, but witnessed through the eyes of his son.

A great story on a Hollywood dad who did good.

Regina says

As a big admirer of Jack Lemmon, I was very happy to read about his life from the perspective of his son, who is also a musician and also a big admirer of Jack Lemmon. I enjoyed the read and found myself sorry that I had never met the man because he seemed to be one of those talented, complete individuals who lived his life fully. I was also very happy to learn more about the work that he did. Nicely done.

Mama says

Too sad. I loved the stories in between the minute-by-minute account of jack dying. That wasn't him. the stories were him.

Colleen Chrome Skies says

A very nostalgic piece written through memories of Jack Lemmon through the eyes of his son, Chris. Filled with quite hilarious anecdotes (the one about Jack walking along a trail back to camp while fishing in Alaska and unknowingly having a conversation with some baby bears stands out) makes this book more like an afternoon reminiscing with the Lemmon men and a very enjoyable read.
