

ANNE
ROBINSON

Memoirs of an
Unfit Mother


"Honest, heartfelt,
fearless, and one of
the best books I have
read all year"
Lynn Barber
Daily Telegraph



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Memoirs Of An Unfit Mother Anne Robinson

Who is Anne Robinson? She's the notorious grand inquisitor of the television sensation *The Weakest Link*. She's the first woman in nearly half a century to host a prime-time game show. She's the highest-paid female journalist in British history. She warrants fan mail and death threats, fear and loathing, unqualified admiration and unabashed hatred....

But what you *don't* know about the Host from Hell could fill a book.

From pioneering journalist to overnight pop-culture phenomenon, Anne Robinson tells all with the same bar-nothing candor that won her the honor of "rudest woman on TV" (Britain's *TVTimes*). But now Anne Robinson trains her steely-eyed focus on her own past. With unblinking honesty she shares the events of her formative upbringing by a sensitive father and a driven, hardworking mother who was "part magic, part monster." With unreserved pride she reveals the headline-making battles to carve out her own career as a journalist, a controversial consumer reporter, and a BBC anchor -- a calling that took its toll on a troubled marriage and a sensational, highly publicized custody battle.

And with biting humor, Anne Robinson explores what brought her to her latest level of infamy: the autocratic style, withering glance, and stinging lash of the lady in black, landing her in the unique position of being both the most popular and unpopular television personality in history.

Memoirs Of An Unfit Mother Details

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From Reader Review Memoirs Of An Unfit Mother for online ebook

Jan says

Well written, honest and unexpectedly interesting! A great insight into working in the media and press at a time when women were fighting to be taken seriously and sexism was a daily battle. Robert Maxwell makes a cameo appearance revealing a very different view of his character and working style! Her family and childhood memories most unusual too. Worth a read whether your love or loathe her.

Catherine Smyth says

As a journalist I found this book a fascinating read and really got into the story. It was written in a very down to earth, warts and all manner and didn't gloss over the facts. It made me understand the person behind the facade and made me appreciate her far more. It was brutally honest and exceptionally well written.

Cat. says

The woman can write. How refreshing to read a work by an 'entertainer' that is literate!

In case you aren't sure why that name is familiar, Anne Robinson is the host of "The Weakest Link" on TV. The "goodbye" woman. Before going further, let me say that the English version of this show is way more brutal than the nice American version. She is still on the air; we saw her last summer and she is absolutely hilariously nasty.

So this is her story, of which "The Weakest Link" is about 3% of the book. She has worked in print and televised media since the 60s. She was the editor of The Mirror, one of the big British papers, eventually working directly with Rupert Murdoch before his death. And she is a 25-years-dry alcoholic.

This is not a ha-ha funny book. Don't read it for that, although there are some ironical sections. Read it for the survivor story.

Manuel Mangani says

Enjoyed reading it. Seemed a very candid account of Anne Robinson's life. She does not mince her words when she discusses the people close to her, nor does she spare herself any criticism. However, she is a fair, if fierce, critic of the individuals who shaped and shared her life.

I was attracted to the book mostly because of my interest in alcoholism and quizzes. She chronicled her descent into alcoholism very honestly, but I was disappointed that she said absolutely nothing about HOW she stopped drinking. So my professional curiosity remains unsatisfied. What really and ultimately matters,

however, is that when I was right in the middle of the book the book - the 12 December - Anne Robinson celebrated 34 years of sobriety. On that foundation, she rebuilt her life and her career (though at times it's hard to distinguish between the two) as a newspaper columnist and TV personality very successfully indeed, despite having to live in an environment where alcohol flowed freely practically 24 hours a day.

Even more difficult than the constant presence of alcohol was the separation from her daughter whose custody she lost to her ex-husband when her beloved Emma was 2 and a half years old. Robinson's love for her daughter is boundless and the impossibility of spending as much time with her as she would have liked evidently was a source of much pain. Her second husband played second fiddle to Emma who is often described in terms dictated by gushing love rather than detached objectivity. But then what use is a mother who doesn't think you are the best thing in the Cosmos?

The inception of the Weakest Link and its launch in the United States is described in great detail. Marketing techniques obviously had a lot to do with its success on the other side of the pond, but it is ultimately the extraordinary talent Robinson is endowed with which was responsible for the runaway triumph the show initially turned out to be. Robinson ties the final formation of one of the outstanding factors in that success, the catch-phrase "You are the Weakest Link. Goodbye", to a relative's disconcerting habit of dismissing visitors with an abrupt "goodbye" when she had had enough of them.

There are many reasons why I would recommend this book. Its insights into alcoholism and the world of journalism are fascinating. The honest depiction of the extraordinary character that was Robinson's mother - and the plethora of colourful effects her mothering had on Anne - is another. However, what I found most inspiring and uplifting about the book is the rise from gutter to pinnacle of a woman of infinite resilience who cannily made most of the chances which came her way, once she realised that the evil beast that was alcohol had to be tamed once and for all. The portrait depicted in the book is quite remarkable, despite the warts no amount of face-lifts will ever hide.

Booksdingle says

Interesting biography, the stuff about alcoholism and about losing custody of her daughter was surprising as wasn't what I would imagine seeing how she is now - just shows that you can come back from adversity given the determination. I wasn't really interested in the stuff about her career but did find it fairly entertaining reading nonetheless.

Tracey says

Anne Robinson is a feisty woman who has battled through a lot of problems and has come out strongly on the otherwise. A cynical look at life for a reporter, wife, mother, editor then tv presenter!
I love her relationship with her daughter Emma !

Lisa Bennett says

Really interesting reading. The book itself is a few years old now. I'm not sure if it's been updated since my copy, as I bought mine secondhand, but from what I understand, she's single again now and no longer does Weakest Link in USA. Both of those would be sad editions to her book. She really is a fascinating lady

though, with such a difficult life before she turned it around. Just goes to show, no matter what sh*t you have in your life, you can always turn it around if you work hard enough and make it better. A wonderful woman!

Ginger says

I thought this book was alright. It was a compelling story and I applaud Anne for how she made it to where she is. I've always admired her moxy & found her compelling and witty. Here's the problem though - she is an absolute stickler for grammar, pronunciation, spelling, etc. She's made a career out of this and talks about it repeatedly throughout the book. However; the book is full of grammatical errors, spelling errors, pronunciation errors and definition errors. It is quite obvious that while she won't accept errors like this on the part of other people, she thinks she's 100% correct all of the time, even when she uses the wrong spelling or uses a word that she thinks means something that it doesn't. I found that really annoying and it constantly pulled me out of the story. If it weren't for that, it would actually be a very good read.

Beverley Barrett says

Anne has hidden her deep pain and anger in carelessly flung chirps, but that she suffered deeply by her own actions does not go unnoticed by an observant reader. I give the lady 100% respect for her sincere honesty about her parents, herself and the power shifters of the 60's.

Mhargreaves says

I have no idea why I ever picked this book up, as it has been on my shelf for a long time. I think I bought it because she had admitted to being an alcoholic mother and I wanted to see how she coped with her career and a family with such an illness. I was very shocked at how open this book was about her relationship with her ex husband, her daughter and also drink.

As I began reading the book, I realised there were other things about it I was also going to enjoy. She was a serious journalist in the late 1960's and detailed her life in a 'man's world'. She talks about the rights of women throughout the book and how they were changing and it reminded me that what I take for granted now, has only existed for a very short time. She makes references to Germaine Greer on several occasions, and although I am not a bit fan (surprise)it was interesting to see Anne's take on it.

Loved it from a feminist point of view, detailing the changing of the times and the impact it had on a woman living through those times. Also loved the story of her life and her battle with alcohol and her absolute love for her daughter.

Cried my heart out at the end when she printed a letter from her daughter.

Caz Perrin says

I found the book quite interesting, but it seemed to jump around all over the place losing me in the process. One moment we are in the divorce court seeking custody of her daughter, when up until that point there had

been no mention that she had gotten married let alone given birth!! I would have preferred a lot more substance.

Sally McRogerson says

Have no particular love of Anne Robinson, but Lucy bought it and I was stuck in the car wi nowt to read.... It's hard to imagine her covered in her own vomit but she was an addict, and followed the same path as many other addicts.

Shantelle says

I like the way the author spoke freely about her dysfunctional and socially unacceptable behaviors, thoughts, and attitudes. She paints a revealing picture of addiction and the journey to becoming an addict. The prose seems mostly journalistic in approach. Some spots were a little dry for me. Over all I liked it.

Redfox5 says

Took me a little while to get in to this but once I got going, I enjoyed it. I didn't know anything about Anne other than she was in the Weakest Link. I found her struggle with alcohol interesting (for lack of a better word). I can't believe that it wasn't that long ago that women were facing all sorts of difficulties. I'm glad we don't have those types of prejudice around today. I felt sorry for her when her daughter was taken for her. That must have been awful. It was nice to see that Emma turned out alright though. Pretty decent autobiography.

Louise says

I did enjoy this book, it took me a little while to read however was worth it. Totally honest, through this book is nearly 10 years old, it is still very interesting. The entire 90's seem to have been erased, bar a couple of things through. Enjoyable.
