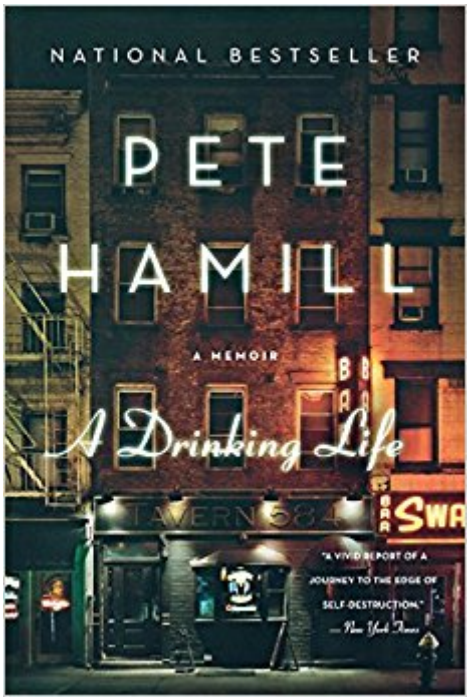
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

A Drinking Life: A Memoir



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

20 years after his last drink Pete Hamill looks back on his early life. As a child during the depression and World War II he learnt that drinking was to be an essential part of being a man, it was only later he discovered its ability to destroy lives.

Book Information

Paperback: 265 pages

Publisher: Back Bay Books (April 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316341029

ISBN-13: 978-0316341028

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #175 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Journalists #3138 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs

Customer Reviews

Hamill’s autobiography entails his long odyssey to sobriety. This is not a jeremiad condemning drink, however, but a thoughtful, funny, street-smart reflection on its consequences. To understand Hamill (Loving Women), one must know his immigrant parents: Anne, gentle and fair; Billy, one-legged and alcoholic. The first offspring of this union--Republicans in Belfast, Democrats in Brooklyn--Hamill has a special gift for relating the events of his childhood. He recreates a time extinct, a Brooklyn of trolley cars, Dodgers, pails of beer and pals like No Toes Nocera. He recalls such adventures as the Dodgers’ 1941 pennant and viewing the liner Normandie lying on its side in the Hudson River. We partake in the glory of V-J day and learn what life in Hamill’s neighborhood was centered on: "Part of being a man was to drink." Puberty hits him and booze helps him to overcome his sexual shyness. But Hamill’s childhood ended early. After dropping out of high school he lived on his own, working at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and drinking with his workmates. Wanting more, he studied art, soon meeting a nude model named Laura who was a lot different from the neighborhood girls, those "noble defenders of the holy hymen." And escape was always on Hamill’s mind. First it was the Navy, then Mexico, but it was always the same--drinking nights which today he can’t remember. There were fist-fights and jail time in Mexico and he learned that "drinking could be

a huge fuck you to Authority." Back home with a job at the New York Post , he mastered his trade at the Page One bar every morning, drinking with other reporters. Much time was spent in saloons away from his wife and two daughters and he remembers the taunts of his childhood, "Your old man’s an Irish drunk!" Then one New Year’s Eve 20 years ago he noticed all the drunkenness and had his last vodka. When asked why, he said, "I have no talent for it." It may be the only talent Hamill lacks. Author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Readers expecting a gossipy "How I became a newspaper man" autobiography won’t find it in reporter-novelist Hamill’s first nonfiction book. The title notwithstanding, this is also no powerful Days of Wine and Roses memoir. Hamill devotes many pages to an almost year-by-year account of his Depression and World War II Brooklyn childhood. The son of Irish immigrants, Hamill soon learns about the "culture of drinking" from his alcoholic father. Hamill at first seeks escape through pulp fiction and comic books (he longs to be a cartoonist), but as a teenager he gets drunk with his street pals and becomes sexually confident under booze’s liberating influence. The rest of Hamill’s book is a sketchy overview of his Navy years, his turbulent first marriage, his early career at the New York Post , and of course his "drinking life." While a skillful writer, Hamill strangely fails to convey the true horror of alcoholism. Recommended for libraries where his novels are popular. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/1/93-- Wilda Wil liams, "Library Journal"Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Pete Hamill and I are the same age-77. He grew up on the East coast while I split my coming of age years between Wisconsin and Los Angeles. Consequently, we have some of the same childhood memories, before the war, the war and after the war. we both collected bacon grease, he was told it was for oiling guns. I was told it was for ammunition. I think I my version was right.He and I both started drinking beer at an early age...we both were flummoxed by girls...at first. I went on to marry my high school sweetheart. Pete dropped out of school to chase women and his dreams. We both continued to drink. I think Pete became a serious alcoholic while I, of course, was just a "hard drinker". He finally quit and so did I.We both wrote a coming of age memoir. Mine is called, "20 YEARS TO LIFE...A Memoir" the self imposed sentence about an only child with an attitude whose crime was he thought growing up would be an easy ride.Reading Pete’s cool memoir led me to compose this short poem called, "I Quit".The day I quit hadnothing much to dowith Holy Writ.And, I’d have to say,it wasn’t AA.It was just a simplethought,that I ought.Of course there’s remorsewhen

friends fade away.Just no fun, they'll say.But often they'll twitterthey aren't really bitter.Some even will admire the spunkit takes to stop being a drunk.And in a show of serious class,They'll raise yet another glassthen perhaps sigh, and even admitthey, too, think it's time to quit

This is a story about a very textured life, lived fully and successfully, with a persistent and painful subtext of alcohol. I am in awe of people who achieve much in life in spite of drinking quantities of alcohol that would have disabled me completely - Pete Hamill is one of these people. As Hamill states in the book, after he finally quit drinking, he never wanted to moralize or preach about his decision to quit drinking. This attitude is informs the book, which is more a story of his life & times and his improbable path to writing that almost parenthetically happens to include a lot of drinking. One of the book's contributions to the literature of alcohol addiction is Hamill's depiction of the way in which drinking was so densely woven into the world in which he grew up. Finally, Hamill did the unthinkable and broke free.

I guess I had heard of Pete Hamill when "NYC old timers" were referenced. However, it was when reading "A Drinking Life" by Caroline Knapp did I feel compelled to seek out this book. I understand other reviwers' disappointment that Hamill's memoir wasn't at all like Caroline Knapp's hard-core and raw experience with alcohol addicition. To be fair, Hamill's letter in the very beginning of the book primes you for his life story and the eventual discovery that his drinking had been riding side-saddle with him for as long as he could remember. It sure helped me understand how drinking can cloak itself in merriment and celebration, but that its long-term effects can (and will) erode and destroy pretty much everything in its path. And it helps shed light on why, culturally, we equate the Irish with big-time drinking. I also appreciated the history lesson you receive through the eyes of a young boy. It was easy to visualize Hamill's world with his intimate descriptions of the places he lived and the characters who helped shape his life.Because of Hamill's ambitious undertaking with this memoir, I felt the book was uneven at times. In my mind, more minor anecdotes received a larger spotlight with more detail, while more critical turning points in his life faded out as a sub-chapter was coming to a close.Overall, I enjoyed the book and would recommend it. Not only is Pete Hamill a living NYC legend, he has lived a legendary life that is worth taking in.

Love this book! Pete Hammil's descriptions of Irish life in Brooklyn during WWII, post-war and the 50s, and Greenwich Village in the 60s is spot on, reflecting my own parents' upbringing and memorable visits to my aunts and uncles during those years. Hammill was a very admired columnist

and role model for aspiring journalists in NYC in the late seventies and eighties, and this honest portrayal of the man behind the image is a true delight.

Quite frankly, I don’t understand all the glowing reviews of this book. Hamill writes very well, and apparently has excellent memories of his childhood. And that’s why I didn’t care for this book; more than 2/3 of this book deals with his childhood. Also, he delves into his teenage years and his sexual experiences in graphic detail; I didn’t buy this book to read about that.A much better read is his "Why Sinatra Matters", one of the very best books I’ve ever read about my idol...that book I rate 5 stars, but not "A Drinking Life".

Download to continue reading...

Stop Drinking Now: The Easy Way To Stop Drinking (quit drinking Book 1) I Need to Stop Drinking!: How to Stop Drinking and Get Your Self-Respect Back The Drinking Water Book: A Complete Guide to Safe Drinking Water A Drinking Life: A Memoir Lighting Up: How I Stopped Smoking, Drinking, and Everything Else I Loved in Life Except Sex Frequently Asked Questions about Alcohol Abuse and Binge Drinking (FAQ: Teen Life) Kilimanjaro Diaries: Or, How I Spent a Week Dreaming of Toilets, Drinking Crappy Water, and Making Bad Jokes While Having the Time of My Life Summary - Hillbilly Elegy: Book by J. D. Vance - A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis (Hillbilly Elegy - A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis ... - Book, Paperback, Hardcover, Audible 1) Second Chances: The Memoir of a Teenage Mom: The Memoir of a Teenage Mom Daughters of the Grasslands: A Memoir (Memoir Series) Beer, Art And Philosophy: The Art of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art Buenos Aires Travel Guide, A Short Guide to The Seedy Side: Drugs, Drinking, Smoking, Sex, Strippers and Gambling Essential Buenos Aires City Guide: Eating | Drinking | Sightseeing | Tango | Hotels | Football | Shopping | Nightlife | And More... Drinking: A Love Story The 30-Day Sobriety Solution: How to Cut Back or Quit Drinking in the Privacy of Your Own Home Understanding Alcoholism as a Brain Disease (Rethinking Drinking Book 2) From Binge to Blackout: A Mother and Son Struggle with Teen Drinking I Need To Stop Drinking! The AA Effect & Why You’ve Never Heard of the FDA-Approved Drugs that Treat Alcoholism (Rethinking Drinking Book 1) Stop Drinking Now

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy