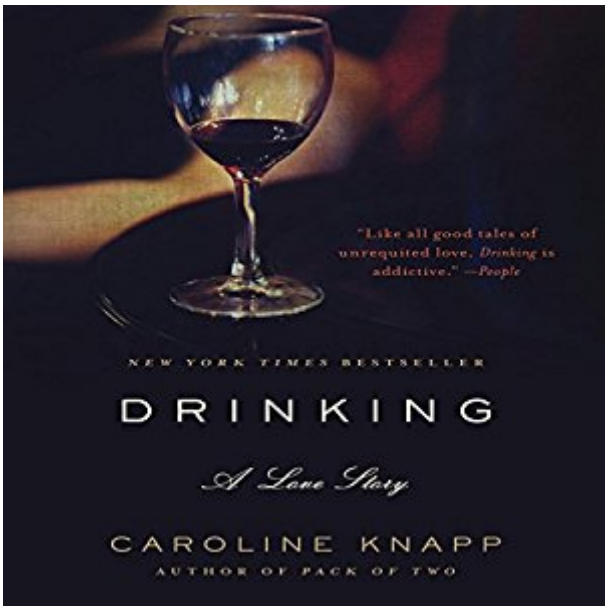
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Drinking: A Love Story



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Synopsis

Fifteen million Americans a year are plagued with alcoholism. Five million of them are women. Many of them, like Caroline Knapp, started in their early teens and began to use alcohol as "liquid armor", a way to protect themselves against the difficult realities of life. In this extraordinarily candid and revealing memoir, Knapp offers important insights not only about alcoholism, but about life itself and how we learn to cope with it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very convincing and compelling testimony! It is not just about alcoholism....it is possibly about her struggle to situate herself in life, looking for peace within herself.... I wish the writer would elaborate more on her recovery, however, she did write about it more in her other book "pack of two" . The fact that Caroline Knapp died a few yers later makes it even more meaningfull but also more depressing.

A brutal look at the horrible negative spiral alcohol can induce people to drain into. Knapp artfully and eloquently describes her descent into hell and the confused, bewildered state of mind which the true alcoholic lives in. While her relationship struggles are extremely demeaning and sometimes repetitive, anyone who has been down this road will identify with the long drawn out nature of the relationship issues which are caused by the active alcoholic.Many of us alkies have wondered if we drank because we had problems or we had problems because we drank. While I believe it’s a little

of both, Knapp makes a good case for the use of alcohol being the bedrock and origin of the secrecy and dishonesty which becomes completely interwoven with the negative end results alkies put themselves and others through.I thought the material covering her parents was a little overdone and long, but there is a lot to be gleaned from their difficulties, which so severely affected the author. I've read the book twice and gleaned different things from it the second time around. Very worthwhile.

For the love of recovery, Caroline tells about jet love affair with life and how unhappy her life was because she drank. She doesn't yell a tale full of porcelain praying, or drunk tank despondency, rather one many of us know all to well and can relate to. Good luck with your journey, I may just start mine.

Beautifully written, but so tragic. She finally gets clean from alcohol, but continues to smoke and dies of lung cancer. Regardless, this is so on point, neither shocking for the sake of shocking, nor candy coating, this book walks the line of the functional alcoholic- it's a lot of people's story and it's her story, She does conquer and that also showed the very real side of how hard recovery is. Read this one.

As I read, almost spellbound, through the pages of this book I was drawn in by the words that caused me to say to myself "this is me; this is the terrible pain and frustration I have felt all of my life". The stories have recognizable 'characters', though certainly not the same people, but almost every one could be transferable to a person or people in my life. This is the most remarkable book I have personally ever read about the 2 diseases that I have faced for over 45 years: depression and alcoholism. The chicken or the egg, which came first. In my case, it was depression. Alcohol was my only source of relief from that pain. But sadly, it then became an entirely 'other' and additional problem. The rage and anger that ensues when that it realized, it so articulately described in this book. The absolute self destruction that results from trying to stop the pain or at least for a short while, ease or avoid it. She mentions that instead of going through emotions, you just go around them. I have had no success with AA but I may have been focusing on the stupid acronyms and cliches. She shines a light on the need to realize that it is about saving your own life. AA stresses that you should "take what works for you and leave the rest". She accomplished that and further goes on to explain that it is an every day effort. This book is written with a 'spot-on' dialogue. I too, as one reviewer mentions, would love to meet Caroline Knapp in person to thank her. I hope so very

much that she has finally realized how valuable and brave she is and how she has given a true gift to this world by putting into words, what far too many of us could not find words to express. I will re-read this book many times!

I originally purchased this in order to find out more about my partner's drinking habit, and it helped with that. But I also learned quite a lot about my own drinking habit, which was surprising. This captures all the facets an addict faces. She was so lucid about her problems. I appreciate that she shared in a way that can help me not end up the same way.

Have never read a more compelling and honest book about addiction than this book by Ms. Knapp.Incredibly honest and sincere, Ms. Knapp reviews her life with an eye toward truth and honesty that many of us might not be able to do.As I read the book, I wanted to know Ms. Knapp, to be able to call her on the phone. To praise her honesty as well as her ability to communicate so clearly and succinctly the pains and sorrows of an "estranged" life as well as its true moments of love--particularly with her dogs.Very sorry such a sensitive and talented women is no longer with us. She was able to give us an unsentimental view of life that is filled with hope, even if she did not always focus on it.

I truly enjoyed this book. It is a book about one woman's life, not just her struggles with alcohol but internal struggles of self loathing and pain and perfectionism. A memoir that really speaks to cultures great love affair with alcohol, a drug that is legal and readily available. If you love stories of recovery, this is for you. Knapp is a haunting writer, honest and self deprecating.

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