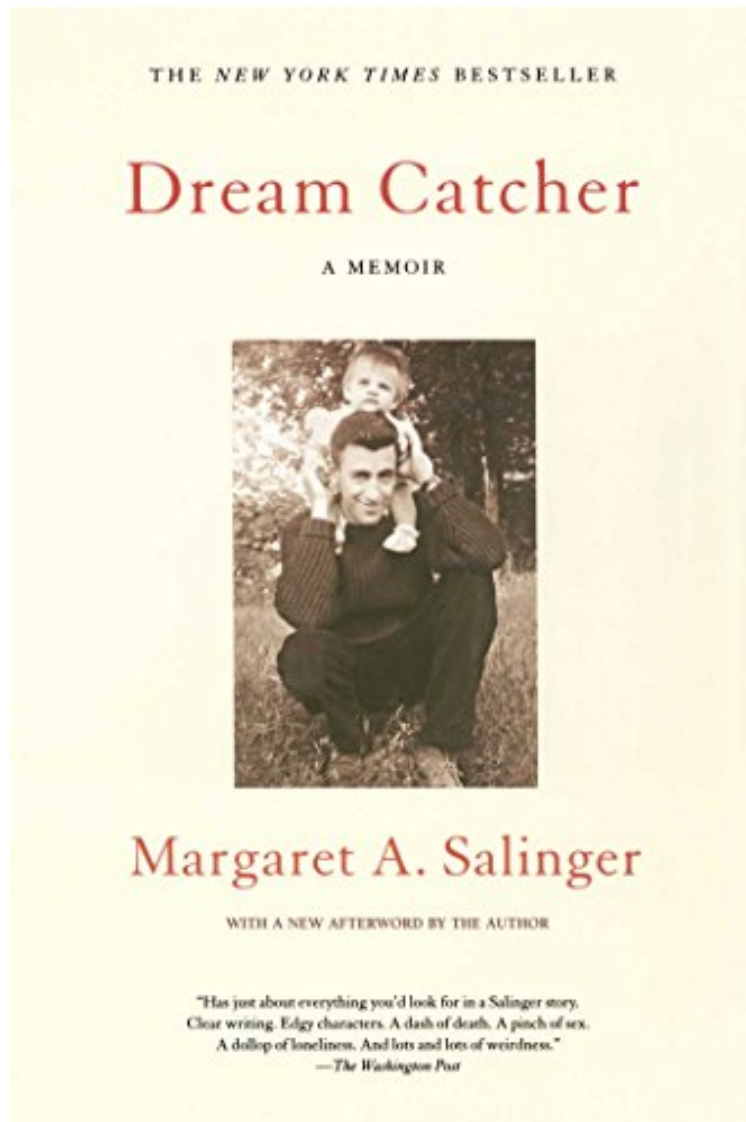


(Read free ebook) Dream Catcher: A Memoir (English Edition)

Dream Catcher: A Memoir (English Edition)

Von Margaret A. Salinger
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Von Margaret A. Salinger : Dream Catcher: A Memoir (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dream Catcher: A Memoir (English Edition):

Kurzbeschreibung In her highly anticipated memoir, Margaret A. Salinger writes about life with her famously reclusive father, J.D. Salinger offering a rare look into the man and the myth, what it is like to be his daughter, and the effect of such a charismatic figure on the girls and women closest to him. With generosity and insight, Ms. Salinger has written a book that is eloquent, spellbinding, and wise, yet at the same time retains the intimacy of a novel. Her story chronicles an almost cultlike environment of extreme isolation and early neglect interwoven with times of laughter, joy, and dazzling beauty. Compassionately exploring the complex dynamics of family relationships, her story is one that seeks to come to terms with the dark parts of her life that, quite literally, nearly killed her, and to pass on a life-affirming heritage to her own child. The story of being a Salinger is unique; the story of being a daughter is universal. This book appeals to anyone, J.D. Salinger fan or no, who has ever had to struggle to sort out who she really is from whom her parents dreamed she might be.

In her memoir *Dream Catcher*, Margaret Salinger—who is, as everyone and their cat must surely now know, the daughter of writer and recluse J.D. Salinger—describes a childhood of unbelievable isolation and emotional stress, "lush with make-believe," "a world both terrible and beautiful ... that dangled between dream and nightmare on a gossamer thread." What she's describing, of course, is madness, first incipient and then in hothouse cultivation. In fact, just reading about it made this reviewer feel like her f-a-c-u-l-t-i-e-s were not quite intact. What was it like to grow up with a father whose love for children amounted almost to a religion? Well, for one thing, there were always those impossibly swell fictional kids around to make you look bad. (J.D. actually wanted to call his daughter Phoebe, after the sister in *The Catcher in the Rye*.) Worse, though, it meant being forced to sacrifice her childhood on the altar of Daddy's saintliness. She quotes the famous paragraph in which Holden envisions standing guard to catch little children from going over a cliff. "When I read this passage as an adult with a child of my own, my first reaction was outrage.... Where are the grown-ups? Why are those kids allowed to play so close to the edge of a cliff?" Salinger's reaction might be literal-minded, but it contains considerable truth—especially considering that she herself went over that cliff once or twice, and ol' J.D. certainly wasn't around to catch anybody. When it comes to the ethics of writing a book about the experience, of course, friends must agree to let friends disagree. No one can deny that Salinger's account is balanced, thorough, and honest—sometimes to a fault. Moreover, it's clear that Peggy Salinger is an admirable person, who has fought long and hard to attain the level of happiness and understanding that made the writing of this memoir possible. And yet, there's also no denying that her book cries out for a strong editing hand. Reading it feels like watching someone sort out complicated feelings in front of you: compelling, certainly, but also a little voyeuristic, and more than occasionally digressive. Salinger's analysis of her father seems psychologically (and literarily) acute, but—urine-drinking aside—there's nothing she tells us about his character that a diligent reader of his books doesn't instinctively know. "Get what you can from his writing, his stories," Salinger writes, "but the author himself will not appear out of nowhere to catch those kids if they get too close to that crazy cliff." Did anyone think he would? *Dream Catcher* is written by the only person who had the right to expect such a thing. Sadly, his fictional creations, those wise children, were given his best self, and his daughter was left with the rest.

--Mary Park

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The Washington Post Has just about everything you'd look for in a Salinger story. Clear writing. Edgy characters. A dash of death. A pinch of sex. A dollop of loneliness. And lots and lots of weirdness.

People A controversial, emotionally charged memoir.

John Leonard CBS News Sunday Morning Margaret A. Salinger has written a memoir that would break the heart even if her father weren't the reclusive author of *The Catcher in the Rye*. Maybe there's a gene for splendid prose.

The New York Times Salinger's daughter's truths are as mesmerizing as his fiction.... There is information here that can't help altering, and enlarging, our estimation of Salinger's work.... This memoir may well prompt a reassessment of the place of Salinger's fiction in American literature, and add a dimension to the marginalized mystic he's become to many.

Buffalo Art News I found myself gaining personal insights from this book that applied to me both as a son and as a father. I could not ask for much more than that. There are, I believe, lessons here for all of us.

The Telegraph (UK) Salinger's writing is vivid and strong.

USA Today An unprecedented look at one of the country's most admired and reclusive writers.

The Jerusalem Report Peggy's diverse achievements and experience make *Dream Catcher* unlike any memoir... darkly comic.

Richmond Times-Dispatch (VA) By fathering Margaret, or Peggy, America's best-known creator of precocious fictional siblings begot a daughter with a level of brilliance and moral fiber that has proved capable of taking on both the challenge of the flesh-and-blood J. D. Salinger and the mystique he has gone to vast lengths to cultivate.... A master interpreter of her father's work, Peggy skillfully balances her incisive readings of the stories with her father's motives and behaviors. What makes it so remarkable is the brilliance with which, in describing the process of winning her own salvation, the author deconstructs the Salinger myth.

Academic Writing Margaret A. Salinger's work shows the brilliance of what can happen when a woman's way of seeing is adroitly applied to a man's writing.... Rarely does a memoir do so much to make readers reconsider a body of fiction by a well-known writer.... This memoir has become one of the best books to surface in the world of Salinger criticism.