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The Chris Farley Show: A Biography In Three Acts

THE
**CHRIS
FARLEY
SHOW**

A BIOGRAPHY IN THREE ACTS

TOM FARLEY, JR.
and TANNER COLBY



Synopsis

The New York Times best-selling biography of an American comedy legend. After three years of sobriety, Chris Farley's life was at its creative peak until a string of professional disappointments chased him back to drugs and alcohol. He fought hard against them, but it was a fight he would lose in December 1997. Farley's fans immediately drew parallels between his death and that of his idol, John Belushi. Without looking deeper, however, many failed to see that Farley was much more than just another Hollywood drug overdose. In this officially authorized oral history, Farley's friends and family remember his work and life. Along the way, they tell a remarkable story of boundless energy, determination, and laughter that could only keep the demons at bay for so long.

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Customer Reviews

What can I say about Chris Farley that has not been said before. The good times were good, and the bad times just heart breaking and painful. I was very attracted to this book because it is written by 1 of his brothers, and more than a few of his celebrity friends only agreed to speak about their friendships and experiences with Chris, because the Farley family are behind this book. I found myself laughing hysterically, crying uncontrollably and every emotion in between. Chris was and still is a peoples person, who's quick rise to celebrity coupled with his addictive personality was a recipe for disaster....and it was a disaster at the end sadly enough. Maybe I am so emotional about this book because I am originally from Madison and had the pleasure of meeting Chris at the old Bucks downtown. While I don't ever to claim knowing him, I can proudly say I had the pleasure of meeting

him. He made a huge impact on my life in a mere 30 minutes, and that sparkle will forever shine the rest of my life. I don't really think he fully understood the impact he had on people. That smile alone was enough to draw you in and overlook the bad behavior. I devoured this book in less than 48 hours, but that was me up till all hours of the night fully engrossed in it. This book will run your emotions rampant. You will laugh so hard you have to stuff a pillow over your face as to not wake up your significant other while they are sleeping, you will cringe and mentally yell NO Chris, don't do that! Stop! You will slam the book shut in disgust, that Chris himself couldn't see what lay right around the corner for him. You will cry a salty river of tears for this beautiful, misunderstood, buoy of a man thrown overboard and off course in the waters of life. This book will make your heart ache, but you will be a better person for reading it. Maybe you too will take away a bit of Chris's unbridled zest for life. I know I sure did.

The most difficult thing to deal with after you've read this book is that it's so thorough, so comprehensive in the story it tells that it severely alters your perception of anything featuring Chris Farley that you might watch for the rest of your life. There's the Chippendale's skit, his breakout performance on "SNL." And opinion is split 50/50 among the people interviewed for this oral history. Half thought the skit was great, the other half HATED it with a venom that as to be read to be believed. Bob Odenkirk and Chris Rock are its most vocal detractors and they have perfectly valid points. In their eyes, they saw a skit that used and abused a guy who was so eager to please his new co-workers that he wouldn't complain about being humiliated. There's "The Chris Farley Show," the inspiration for the title, and for good reason. It's unanimously agreed that there was no "character" to that skit and that the writers were writing Chris' true personality, a guy who revered people in show business and wanted to just hear them talk about anything. There's "Matt Foley: Motivational Speaker," which made Chris but may have also destroyed him in the long run. Writer Robert Smigel talks with surprising regret over the ending he wrote for the skit and lays out his theory about how just the ending alone altered Chris' future in show business, and not for the better. Chris Farley had all the elements for an all-time "feel good story" if you didn't go into this knowing how it was going to end. He grew up surrounded by love and support, chased a dream, became a TV star, and then a movie star, and through it all, maintained a fierce loyalty to his friends (he tried to skip his first night on "SNL" to be at a friend's wedding) and always seemed to have a sense of awe about the fact that he actually got to do this with his life. And despite all that, he managed to self-destruct. Some of it just seemed to be hard-wired into him from the very beginning, some of it was outside forces (it's hard not to drink when everybody in every bar on Earth wants to

buy you a beer), and some of it was that very same sense of awe, that lack of cynicism. Chris Farley trusted people that he should not have trusted, and they helped destroy him. There's part of you that wishes that you could go back in time and hug Chris, and just let him know that he's loved and appreciated. But reading this book, you also find yourself thinking that Chris wouldn't have believed you.

Ordered this book not too long ago as I've always been a huge Chris Farley fan even though I was still a kid when he passed. This book gives you a really good insight to all aspects of Chris' personality and just what kind of person he was in general/what kind of life he wanted to lead. I love how it's written from the perspective of those who were closest to him. There was about a chapter or so that was mainly just about the production drama going on with some of the movies and projects he was working on at a particular time that seemed a bit off topic from the main vibe of the book so that's the only part I didn't really care for but other than that, it's an awesome read for anyone, Farley fan or not. He was a legendary comedian with so much potential and a career in show biz filled with endless opportunities that all could have been fulfilled had he stuck around.

I love Chris Farley!! Wish I would have had the pleasure of knowing him. Him leaving us the way he did was absolutely tragic. The book is in an interview style and is very interesting. His antics as told from acquaintances made me laugh as I thought of the scenes they were describing, I just thought he was the funniest & I think he's the bomb, just always had a crush on him--excellent read if you are a Chris Farley lover!!!

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