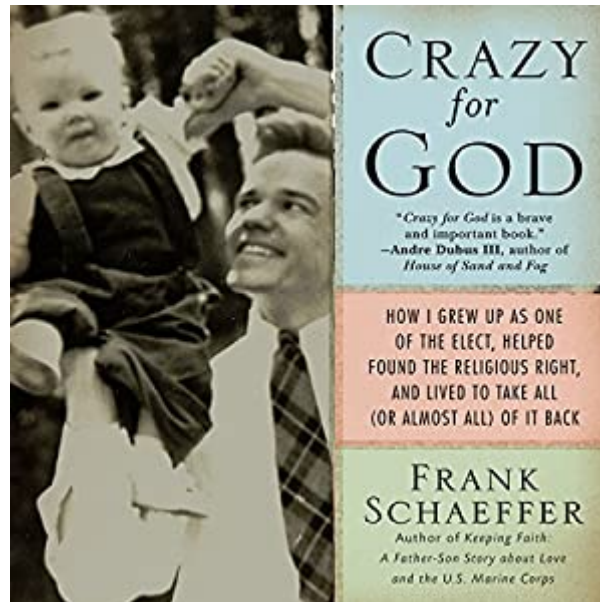




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# Crazy For God



## Synopsis

How I Grew Up as One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right, and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of it Back By the time he was 19, Frank Schaeffer's parents, Francis and Edith Schaeffer, had achieved global fame as best-selling evangelical authors and speakers, and Frank had joined his father on the evangelical circuit. He would go on to speak before thousands in arenas around America, publish his own evangelical best seller, and work with such figures as Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Dr. James Dobson. But while coming of age as a rising evangelical star, Schaeffer felt increasingly alienated, and as a result, he experienced a crisis of faith that would ultimately lead to his journey out of the fold - even if it meant losing everything.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although this book was published in 2007, it is even more relevant today, given the political environment we now face in America with the craziness of the 2016 Presidential election. "Crazy for God" is a must-read for anybody wondering how on earth we got into the current situation, with one of the strong GOP candidates openly promoting theonomy (imposition of biblical law as the law of the land). Mr. Schaeffer is in a great position to explain this, as he was one of the central figures who helped found the Religious Right, the unholy alliance between the GOP and evangelical Christianity in the 1970s, and now (as the book subtitle says) "lived to take all (or almost all) of it back." But like Frank's other books that I have read, this one is not just interesting from an historical viewpoint. The author has a gift for presenting historical events and explaining philosophical and theological concepts in a refreshingly readable conversational manner from his own unique

perspective as if we were sitting down talking in person. His writing style is so engaging that it's difficult to put his books down, including this one. Many times Frank has kept me up until dawn when I intended to just read a chapter before going to sleep. And I say this as someone who had become jaded with reading. I have degrees in philosophy and psychology and have eagerly read so many books since early childhood that after a while everything started to sound the same. That changed when I happened across Mr. Schaeffer's blog, "Why I Still Talk to Jesus in Spite of Everything" and got his book, "Sex, Mom and God." I was immediately hooked, then went on to his latest (highly recommended!) "Why I am an atheist who believes in God," and then "Patience with God." I look forward to reading "Portofino" next.

It was an enjoyable & easy read . . but two things bothered me: 1. Frank has an inordinate affection with masturbation . . I have no idea why he felt the need to have this all throughout the book . . & worst of all 2. At the very end of the book he said his daughter was a "mistake" b/c he was too lazy to put on a condom . . what a terrible thing to say about your child . . there is one thing about being honest but these two issues could have died on the editing room floor & should have . . . other than that it wasn't that bad of a read . .

I've often wondered if best-selling evangelical Christian authors ever actually make themselves sick enough to call a spade a spade and walk away from the cash-cow because they can no longer stomach the game. I've always thought they must realize what they are doing. They're not stupid and they can't all be delusional. So are they charlatans? Or are they, as Frank Schaeffer says, "smart ones who still believe a sort of but can't figure out any way to earn as good as a living doing anything else." Well, if you take the time to read Schaeffer's memoir, you will learn that at least one dared to be honest. And I do think this is an honest book. Sure, there might be a little megalomania lurking throughout the pages and perhaps Frank wasn't as influential in the evangelical community as he appears to give himself credit for, but there is no doubt he was one of them. And now he isn't. I found his story fascinating, entertaining, thought-provoking, genuine, humorous, in many ways tragic, but also strangely liberating. Thank you, Frank, for sharing.

This book was charming, funny and heartbreaking at once! The story, much more honest than most dare to be, rips the lovely veneer off an iconic institution while making plain the love and

earnestness that began it. If my children, in their adult years, can see my failings as clearly and yet love and understand me as deeply as Mr. Schaeffer does his parents, I will be very proud.

I became a Christian around the time of the rise of The Evangelical Religious Right. I enjoyed The author's behind the scenes insights of this powerful political movement and his stories of growing up in a conservative Christian home. His descriptions of his childhood growing up Europe and the cast of characters involved was engaging. I especially wanted to understand the experiences of someone raised with both parents involved in full time ministry during a period when many found the political brand of Christianity here in America at that time much too harsh and judgmental. I respect Mr Schaeffer's opinions and have empathy for his ongoing struggles with faith even after all these years, however the irony is that I found him much too angry and judgmental in general. I have moved far away from my earlier fundamentalist roots but I would still describe myself as a follower of the Jesus Christ of the Bible. Mr Schaeffer seems to want to reinvent the guy and put down anyone who actually believes that faith can radically change someone's life. All in all I found the book eye opening and challenging however it may not be a good read for religious folks who are easily offended by any criticism of American Christianity or its media personalities such as Falwell, Robertson and Dobson etc.

More in the tradition of good storytelling than the dryness of a linear biography, the writing is so organic that you see, feel and even smell the experiences right along with the author. This is an intensely personal diary of American child raised in the breathtaking landscape of Switzerland, immersed in the rich culture of the Europe and enchanted by the sultry beaches of Italy. His journey carries us with him from the engaging intensity of family life in a Christian retreat to cold loneliness of English board school to the exclusionary world of Christian celebrity as he introduces us to the people, both fascinatingly real and tragically false, he meets along the way. In this story of becoming, we journey with him like a trusted comrade as he is shaped, carried, conflicted and enhanced on this path of personal emerging.

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