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Anything Your Little Heart Desires: An American Family Story

Patricia Bosworth

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Patricia Bosworth : Anything Your Little Heart Desires: An American Family Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anything Your Little Heart Desires: An American Family Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. perceptiveness and in both volumes the sensitivity of a young girl and an intelligent woman. Both books are a delight and worth reading for one who's interested in the history of our times told from a unique and inside view.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. RevelatoryBy Lin F.A prelude of sorts to the Summer of Love in that it describes the intensity and politicalHorror that came before, that generated the Beats and then an overwhelming need for love and communication.I was a middle class, middle western child of the 50's and totally ignorant of all that was happening in the world. My parents didn't discuss or even acknowledge any of it.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Painful TimesBy Emilie DebrigardI was looking for context for the Hollywood Blacklist. Although Bosworth's father, Bart Crum, played a fairly minor role in the Blacklist affair, as he defended only two of the accused screenwriters, nonetheless his involvement was crucial. He was a liberal Republican in a crowd of New Dealers, fellow travelers, and Communists. In the end he wasn't able to

get off scot free. Bosworth lets the reader draw conclusions about what led to Crum's suicide. It's a horrible story and bears repeating, over and over again. Bosworth is also good at delineating the personality and actions of her mother, a charming hostess who was also capable of drowning puppies in the bathtub. Finally, the description of 1940's upper-middle-class milieu is superbly done.

"A memorable and moving book about a man -- indeed, a family -- of Fitzgeraldian proportions -- a distinguished and gripping American saga". -- Todd Gitlin, Chicago Tribune
Through the prism of her father's life as a lawyer and well-known political activist, Patricia Bosworth sheds light on an important era in modern American history -- from the heady, hope-filled days of Roosevelt's New Deal to the dawn of the Cold War. In the course of a remarkable career, Bartley Crum represented movie stars and labor leaders, advised presidents and presidential hopefuls, emerged as a key figure in the creation of Israel, and became a forceful voice for civil rights. But when his defense of the Hollywood Ten made him a target of the FBI's and communist hysteria, public pressures and personal demons brought his once-charmed life to a tragic end. Interweaving public and private vignettes, his daughter's memoir re-creates Crum's life and times with rare and moving honesty. "Consider this beautiful, saddening book on a par with Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*.... It is an extraordinary document... written with blood and tears". -- Carolyn See, The Washington Post Book World
"Extraordinary... as beautifully written as any memoir I have ever read". -- Charles Kaiser, The New York Observer

.com The author profiles her relatives with the same sensitivity she brought to biographies of Montgomery Clift and Diane Arbus. She pays tribute to the liberal idealism that led her father, Bartley C. Crum, to defend unpopular leftists at home and Jewish refugees desperate to get into Palestine abroad, even as she depicts his lengthy absences and financial carelessness wreaking havoc on his wife and children. Patricia Bosworth's portraits of her unhappy, adulterous mother and withdrawn, suicidal brother are equally nuanced. The subtitle says it all: "An American Family Story." From Library Journal
Writers of familial reminiscences often reveal a taste for treacly superlatives and insincere endearments. No such charge can be leveled here against Bosworth (e.g., Diane Arbus, LJ 6/1/84), the daughter of Bartley C. Crum. Crum was perhaps best known as one of the six lawyers who defended the Hollywood Ten when the House Un-American Activities Committee was pursuing its investigations of the "Communist peril" at the start of the Cold War in 1947. In presenting the story of Crum's remarkable career as lawyer to such notables as Rita Hayworth, adviser to President Truman, publisher of a liberal tabloid, and champion of the First Amendment, Bosworth maintains an admirable combination of sympathetic understanding and never-cold detachment. One feels that she has accomplished what she evidently set out to do: come to terms with her brother's and her father's suicides and reconcile herself to her father's having named names to prove his own loyalty. An engrossing study of personalities and motivations; strongly recommended. ?A.J. Anderson, GSLIS, Simmons Coll., Boston
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Bartley C. Crum is not as familiar as Bosworth's previous subjects: Montgomery Clift (1978), and photographer Diane Arbus (1984); newer editions of these best-selling biographies are still in print. But Bart Crum, a flashy, crusading attorney who campaigned for Wendell Willkie and represented everyone from William Randolph Hearst and Rita Hayward to the Hollywood Ten, was Bosworth's father. In reconstructing his life and tragic suicide at age 59, Bosworth is also coming to terms with her own past and creating an unforgettable portrait of the early stages of U.S. celebrity subculture, from the Depression to the McCarthy era. In San Francisco, New York, Hollywood, and Washington, Bart Crum and his reporter-novelist wife, Gertrude "Cutsie" Bosworth, swam with the big fish. The victories Crum scored, and the conflict and decline that led him to barbiturate addiction and suicide, make this intimate family memoir a compelling, involving story of Crum's times as well as his life. Mary Carroll