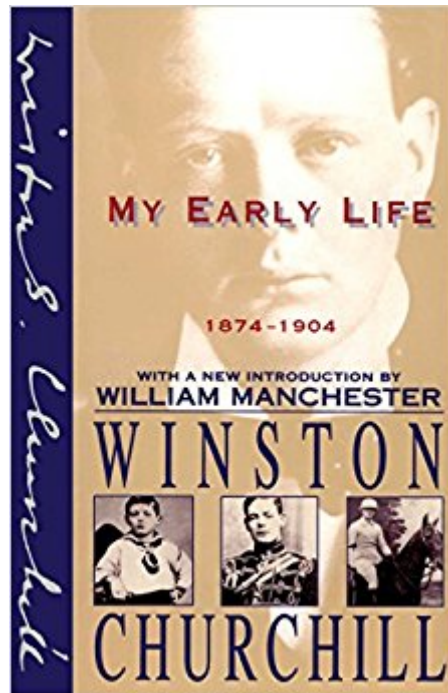




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My Early Life: 1874-1904



Synopsis

Here, in his own words, are the fascinating first thirty years in the life of one of the most provocative and compelling leaders of the twentieth century: Winston Churchill. As a visionary, statesman, and historian, and the most eloquent spokesman against Nazi Germany, Winston Churchill was one of the greatest figures of the twentieth century. In this autobiography, Churchill recalls his childhood, his schooling, his years as a war correspondent in South Africa during the Boer War, and his first forays into politics as a member of Parliament. *My Early Life* not only gives readers insights into the shaping of a great leader but, as Churchill himself wrote, "a picture of a vanished age." To fully understand Winston Churchill and his times, *My Early Life* is essential reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The voice of a vanished England speaks from the pages of Winston Churchill's evocative memoir of his first 30 years (1874-1904). The young Churchill inhabits a world in which men fight like hell in meaningless colonial wars--India, Egypt, South Africa--soldiering across the imperial map then extending the hand of friendship to their erstwhile enemy as if they were schoolmates at Harrow. Yet Churchill, born into a privileged family, was not an uncritical supporter of the Victorian status quo. He himself loathed Harrow; an especially amusing chapter skewers the school's emphasis on an irrelevant classical education and rote learning. A firm Tory, he considered himself a friend of the working class, and in 1899 campaigned for parliament with a Socialist colleague. Looking back from his vantage point of 1930, Churchill expresses the most attractive values of the English aristocracy--honor, loyalty, fair play--without giving the impression he wants to live in the past. The

book's appeal also stems from its magisterial but colloquial prose. Anyone familiar with recordings of Churchill's rousing speeches during Word War II will hear in their minds' ears that growling timbre and unmistakably patrician accent as they read. Though he would have preferred the peace prize, My Early Life offers good evidence that Churchill's 1953 Nobel for literature was aptly awarded.

--Wendy Smith

Narrator Frederick Davidson employs a slight Churchillian drawl, making this one of the most completely satisfying programs in years. --Library Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Winston Churchill is a giant of history. By coincidence he is also my personal favorite foreign author of non fiction. (I am an American.) His writing style is very florid and reads like fiction rather than non fiction. He uses many illusions and has an ironical sense of humor. He was awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. This is a autobiography, composed in mid life, in 1930, but only about his life from 1874 to 1904. As such, the story does not include anything about either World War. World War I had concluded but is not discussed in this book in any detail. World War II and Hitler's Germany remain over the horizon. For me, this creates a fascinating autobiographical "snap shot". Churchill describes his early life of high adventure. He combined a thirst for adventure with an interest and aptitude for writing. While still a young soldier, he wrote for a newspaper. He left the army and continued as a correspondent. He was taken prisoner in South Africa and escaped. Winston Churchill was a celebrity by the time he was in his mid 20s. After achieving fame in his twenties, he came to America to speak and met an elderly Mark Twain. All of this is captured in a very artistic writing style. I found all of this fascinating. I purchased an audiobook along with a Kindle reading edition. I listened to the audiobook while commuting instead of listening to the radio. I memorized passages that I need to reread later. I fell this helps both my listening and memory skills. The audiobook was excellent. My copy was narrated by Fredrick Davidson. This was an excellent reading experience. I am very grateful to have read this fine work. Thank You...

Churchill could make you feel like you are there and in the thick of it. Without being a braggart, he represents himself very well. He had already lived a full life before the age of thirty.

One of the best books I have read. Churchill was a brilliant writer, and this may well be his best book. It is very funny, and incredibly exciting. At times, it is even appalling! It follows Churchill's life

from the nursery, through boarding school, to Sandhurst, and into combat with the 21st Lancers, and then as a correspondent and prisoner of war into South Africa. It reads like a novel, but is entirely factual. You can feel the great man's twinkle in the eye as he wrote it.

While Churchill might have been slightly blind to his parents and their affections, his portrayal of the times and the inside knowledge of the systems at work are enlightening. He describes the historical aspects and his life during this time in clear, illustrative and humorous ways. Yes, he made some colossal mistakes in his lifetime - retrospect provides a clearer picture - but this leader was amazing and I wish there were a few like him around today.

The book was especially interesting at the start. Winston Churchill gave a hilarious recounting of his early days, and his successes and failures at school. Later after joining the military and then becoming a correspondent, he seemed to be everywhere at once and in every fight the British had. There was an interesting account of his great escape, and many other close encounters in Africa. The book gives a nice overview of Churchill's early life and the lead up to his political life. You can also see the origins of his unmistakable tendency to say what he means, come what may. Interesting read.

My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed this book; the narration was superb. The writing style and stories depicted were so engaging, captivating and informative that I spent some hours on biographies of some of the notables. I have Hillsdale College to thank for piquing my interest in actually reading his work rather than merely learning about him. With "The History of the English Speaking Peoples" done, I'm ready for more...

I am choosy about what I read. This book is one of the best - it sparkles with authentic, humble, humorous, intriguing comment on a privileged life lived to the full. The style is superb. I find the author deeply lovable in his courage and self-deprecation, his foibles and reckless pursuit of danger. If there's one book that I commend wholeheartedly to all comers, it is this one. Quite apart from the brilliant style of writing, the passing of the Victorian age and the looming shedding of the British empire are described from within and from the height of aristocracy, without in any way patronizing the masses. Again, one of the best

I never knew Churchill was such a good writer, one of the best I have read in English. He made this

book easy and fun to read. I am very glad I read it and look forward to reading more about him.

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