



## Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir

*Mark Critch*

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## **Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir** Mark Critch

A heartfelt and outrageously funny memoir about Newfoundland, family, and being the weirdest kid in school

What could be better than growing up in the 1980s? How about growing up in 1980s Newfoundland, which as Mark Critch will tell you, was more like the 1960s. Critch takes us to where it all began in this tremendously funny and warm look back on his formative years. A "recovering Catholic," he recalls his many misadventures growing up on the outskirts of a small town. And when your radio-star dad is the talk of the town, and your mom can't stop talking at all, life at home is always entertaining.

Best known as the "roving reporter" for CBC's *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, Mark Critch has photo-bombed Justin Trudeau, interviewed Great Big Sea's Alan Doyle (while impersonating Alan Doyle), offered Pamela Anderson a million dollars to stop acting, and crashed White House briefings. But in this hilarious debut, we learn that Critch has been causing trouble his whole life. *Son of a Critch* will have you longing for life in Canada's most unique province--even if you've never been there--and marvelling at how one person's childhood could be so ridiculously funny.

## **Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir Details**

Date : Published October 2nd 2018 by Viking Canada

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Author : Mark Critch

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## **From Reader Review Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir for online ebook**

### **Jill says**

This book hit home for me on so many levels. I laughed, I cried, I laughed til I cried. A coming of age story about growing up in Newfoundland.

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### **Jill Jemmett says**

My favourite comedians are all from Newfoundland: Jonny Harris, Rick Mercer, and, of course, Mark Critch. I was so excited to learn that Mark Critch had written a book, and I knew I had to read it!

Mark Critch is one of the funniest men on TV. The segment on his show, This Hour Has 22 Minutes, that I enjoyed the most was based on the news story of the boy who went up in a homemade hot air balloon a few years ago. The actual news story ended up being a hoax. Mark did a parody of this story, which was a baby in a grocery bag that blew into a tree. I still burst out laughing thinking about that sketch! I became a lifelong fan of Mark Critch.

If you love 22 Minutes, you will love Son of a Critch! This book was hilarious! Mark's storytelling from the show was evident in this book. I learned some of the history of Newfoundland from his stories. I loved the stories and I could hear my own relatives from Bishop's Falls, Newfoundland in this book.

I loved this book! I recommend it to anyone who needs a good laugh!

I received a copy of this book from Penguin Random House Canada in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Belinda says**

So so sooooo good!

It was insightful and real and well written and FUNNY.

I'm pretty sure I laughed at least once per page of this book, and many many times for some pages. I always knew Mark Critch was funny from his TV appearances, however this writing was absolutely fantastic, one of the best autobiographies by a comedian I have ever read!

I sure hope he comes out with another book. This is one I'd read again if he does not.

I'd give it a 6/5 if possible :)

For more reviews (and some videos too!), check out my Facebook page **BELINDA'S BOOK CLUB VLOG**.

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### **Catherine says**

I listened to the audio version of this book and (no offence to Mark Critch) I don't know why anyone would read this book when they can listen to it. It is a fantastic listen! Hearing Critch do the voices for his parents and reading it all with a Newfoundland accent that I found much more pronounced in this book than when I've seen him on TV brings the whole thing to life. The stories were interesting and funny. My husband was laughing as I was retelling him bits, so they must be good to stand up to that!

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### **Susan Waters says**

Terrific read about growing up on this island. It brought back aspects of growing up in Newfoundland that I'd completely forgotten about.

Well-written, well-paced. So funny I was crying at times.

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### **Brian Burhoe says**

Mark's SON OF A CRITCH *A Childish Newfoundland Memoir* is my choice of the Read Of The Season. He takes us from almost drowning and his first day of school through the long years to High School and his first comedy group.

Folks, you've gotta read it to find out how "Poo-pills" got him his first big laugh — a life-changing moment for Mark. And he'll answer the question all good memoirs should answer: "Who knit ya?"

And the people he met on the way, even a young Rex Murphy who had supper with them when appearing on Mark's father's radio show on VOCM. And the day his Mom took them to see the visiting Pope John Paul II and they ended up being chased by Mounties and Canadian soldiers...

Yup, Five Stars!

To See My Complete Book Review of Mark's Newfoundland Memoirs, Go To SON OF A CRITCH: From Poo-pills to Cat Fud – a Best Kind Book Review

- Brian Alan Burhoe

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### **Denise says**

A very enjoyable read about growing up in Newfoundland. Both my husband and I read Mark's book and we both laughed out loud in various places throughout....It was sprinkled with good humour and interesting tales about childhood. Have always loved Mark in This Hour has 22 minutes and in the movie The Grand Seduction. Look forward to hearing and seeing more from this Canadian Treasure.

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### **Laura says**

We listened to this audiobook book on a road trip through Northern Ontario and did we ever make a great choice! He certainly has a very detailed memory about his childhood-it felt like we were in the house with him, dangling the long green phone cord and listening to his parents. He shared some very personal reflections about the whole Catholic priest scandal and his childhood school stories are hilarious! The audiobook is excellent-he often speaks in his Newfoundland accent-we laughed a great deal!

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### **Teena in Toronto says**

Mark Critch is a Canadian comedian, actor and writer. He is best known for his work on the CBC comedy series, This Hour Has 22 Minutes. I must admit that I've never watched This Hour Has 22 Minutes but I do know who Mark Critch is ... he was in The Grand Seduction, a fun movie I've seen quite a few times.

I like reading bios/autobios, he's Canadian and I grew up in the Atlantic provinces so that's why it caught my eye.

This book focuses on Mark's childhood. His stories about growing up in Newfoundland, being in a Catholic school, living on the outskirts of town, having a dad who was on the radio (the station was next door), being a weird naïve kid (someone put a condom in his sandwich and he had no idea what it was) and more were amusing. There are lots of pictures of him and his family over the years.

I liked this book ... I found it funny and I liked the writing style. Fans of Critch and This Hour Has 22 Minutes and Newfoundlanders will probably really enjoy it.

Blog review post: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2018/11...>

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### **Amber Daugherty says**

If you're a Mark Critch fan, you'll love this book. If, like me, you don't know a lot about Mark Critch, you'll still probably really enjoy this book. In it, Mark tells stories from his childhood - about his house in the middle of nowhere, his mom who constantly shouts things at a rapid-fire pace (she sounds like the best, honestly), his dad who can see in the kitchen window from his desk at work, and a range of characters from school including Fox who's up to no good but sometimes makes it worthwhile for Mark to go along for the ride. This is a Newfoundland childhood - an innocent, confusing time (there's a story in here about Mark almost eating a condom - before he knows what a condom is) - but ultimately, a time that shapes who Mark becomes (i.e. of Canadian 22 Minutes fame). It's cute, it's entertaining, it's fun - would recommend for anyone looking for something different to read and someone new to learn about.

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## **Jill S says**

3.5

I was laughing out loud by the first page of this book. I think Mark Critch is hilarious so I suspected this book would tickle my funny bone. There are some excellent moments where Mark recalls life in Newfoundland in the '70s and '80s; having grown up in St. John's 90's and 00's, not too much had changed, and I could relate to a lot of his experience.

I did find that the comedy dragged this book down a bit, in parts. Mark really milked particular moments, pushing them past their comedy limit and instead making it tedious to read about. I wish he'd written less about his very young childhood (i.e. the dragged out bits) and more about his high school years and how he got into sketch comedy. He glossed over the later, and I suspect just as, if not more, interesting parts of his life.

All in all a very enjoyable read!

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## **Kimberly Ryan says**

NL's own, comedian Mark Critch wrote a book. NL's own, comedian Mark Critch wrote a great book! One for those coast to coast, no matter the country.

I teared up. I laughed until it left me crying again. It is a work showing the joy of life and love of family. Make sure there is a box of tissues near by. Worth the read!

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## **Mark Archibald says**

Reading books by Newfoundlanders remind me waaay too much of growing up in South Shore Nova Scotia. It's a good thing.

Well told, with some very big laugh out loud moments. I really appreciated his honesty in growing up Catholic, and the genuine pluses and minuses he took from that upbringing. A surprising amount of faith talk in this memoir- more on the profane side of things than preachy.

Reading this book feels like home.

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## **Helen T says**

**a childish Newfoundland memoir...** What a hilarious and delightful gift Critch has given us with this memoir. Mark Critch shares his childhood memories with intensity, detail and humour - I found myself laughing until I cried as I read. As a Canadian, I found his narrative of Newfoundlanders particularly heartwarming. Definitely I will be buying more copies and giving them as gifts this year!

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## **Dwayne A Milley says**

I used the Overdrive app to read “Son of a Critch”, borrowed from the Toronto Public Library. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but as a Newfoundland, felt it was my duty. =).

Critch does a great job in sharing his story, in making me smile, and in honouring some of the really bad circumstances that occurred in his community and our province in this years. I think my eyes gave way to a few tears as much as my lips gave way to smiles as I read.

I noted to a friend from St. John’s that she’d enjoy the book even more, because she’d recognize the places he mentions more than I do.

If you weren’t thinking of reading it, and if you know who Mark Critch is, take a chance. I think you’ll enjoy it. And if you don’t know who he is and don’t know much about Newfoundland, you might learn a thing or two.

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