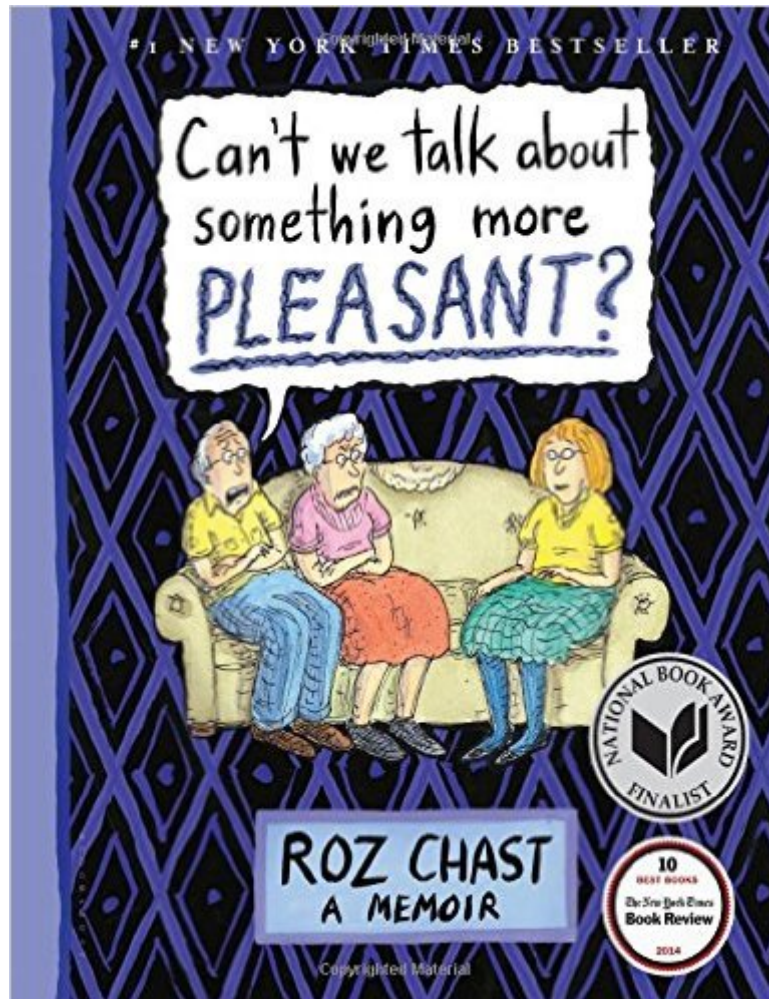


The book was found

# Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir



## Synopsis

**#1 New York Times Bestseller**  
**2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST**  
In her first memoir, Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, and a narrative as rife with laughs as it is with tears, Chast's memoir is both comfort and comic relief for anyone experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents. When it came to her elderly mother and father, Roz held to the practices of denial, avoidance, and distraction. But when Elizabeth Chast climbed a ladder to locate an old souvenir from the "crazy closet" - with predictable results - the tools that had served Roz well through her parents' seventies, eighties, and into their early nineties could no longer be deployed. While the particulars are Chast-ian in their idiosyncrasies - an anxious father who had relied heavily on his wife for stability as he slipped into dementia and a former assistant principal mother whose overbearing personality had sidelined Roz for decades - the themes are universal: adult children accepting a parental role; aging and unstable parents leaving a family home for an institution; dealing with uncomfortable physical intimacies; managing logistics; and hiring strangers to provide the most personal care. An amazing portrait of two lives at their end and an only child coping as best she can, *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant* will show the full range of Roz Chast's talent as cartoonist and storyteller.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA; Later prt. edition (May 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1608198065

ISBN-13: 978-1608198061

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1,098 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,181 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#7 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Educational & Nonfiction](#) [#8 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Aging Parents](#) [#15 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels](#)

## Customer Reviews

\* As I write this, my 83-year-old dad is withering away in an assisted living facility, riddled with Alzheimer's. Sometimes I want my Dad to die now - because he's unaware of his suffering - and

he'd cuss me out if he knew he is turning into what Roz Chast's mother describes as "a pulsating piece of protoplasm." I feel guilty feeling this way - but "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" makes such forbidden thoughts feel normal.\* (BTW, don't buy the Kindle version. This title, with its colorful cartoons and photos - as well as its handsome construction as a hardcover book - truly belongs on your coffee table. I sampled the Kindle version, didn't like it, and bought the hardcover.)\* This book feels weirdly clairvoyant. It exposed my doubts, fears and paradoxical feelings about watching my parents die slowly before my eyes. I've read almost everything about the subject of aging and dying. And yet this is the first book that captures the exhausting experience of caring for aging parents, e.g., that it's sometimes gross - (see passages about hoarding, incontinence and "grime") - AND funny - (see "The Wheel of Doom" and Roz Chast's father's obsession with myriad bank books, decades old).\* The author's hand-wringing about whether there's going to be enough money to pay for her parents' care is spot on. How long will the money last if they live "X" more years vs. "Y" more years? I do these calculations every month, constantly updating and trying to prepare for the worst. Any savings will be drained by expenses which will have no effect on terminal outcomes. If the daily care and feeding of your parents doesn't kill you - then the avalanche of paperwork and legal stuff that must be done - will.

Cartoonist Roz Chast has written/drawn a book about her parents' final years, "Can't We Talk About Something Pleasant?". In it she describes both her own upbringing - only child, born late-in-life to older and neurotic parents - and how her feelings as a child hindered her dealing with the parents as they aged. She is certainly not alone in her mixed-up emotions towards her parents; most of us have the same feelings. Roz Chast can just express them better. This is a difficult book to read. It must have been excruciating to live through and then put down on paper. But it is a book that all us "boomers" (hate the word but what else is there? "Lunch meat in the sandwich generation"?) should read. Because I'm not sure too much is going to change when we reach our 80's and 90's. We tend to have fewer children - Roz was an only child, as I noted above - and so fewer people to share the burdens of us as we age. Will we be put in Assisted Living "places" with the alacrity we seem to be putting our own parents into? For the record, both my parents died in nursing homes where they received excellent care. Roz Chast's parents - George and Elizabeth - lived well into their 90's. And they aged "together". They tried to take care of themselves and each other in their dingy Brooklyn apartment, but it came the time to get them the extra care they could no longer give themselves. Roz describes how going through her parents' vacated apartment was like going through a junk store haven. And she shows photographs - as well as using her drawings - to show how crowded

the apartment truly was. The reader may come away thinking Roz had conflicted feelings about her parents. She sure did and she was certainly entitled to those feelings.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir A Queer and Pleasant Danger: A Memoir Plays Pleasant: Arms And The Man Candida The Man Of Destiny You Never Can Tell (Penguin plays & screenplays) What I Talk About When I Talk About Running: A Memoir (Vintage International) What I Talk about When I Talk about Running: A Memoir Restoring Shakertown: The Struggle to Save the Historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill A Queer and Pleasant Danger: The true story of a nice Jewish boy who joins the Church of Scientology, and leaves twelve years later to become the lovely lady she is today Letters from a Young Shaker: William S. Byrd at Pleasant Hill Something to Talk About The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop--and Why It Matters How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk How to Talk So Teens Will Listen and Listen So Teens Will Talk Sex Positions & Dirty Talk Examples: Two Books in One: The Best Sex Positions Ever, How to Talk Dirty, and Kama Sutra Small Talk Hacks: The People and Communication Skills You Need to Talk to Anyone & Be Instantly Likeable Chatter: Small Talk, Charisma, and How to Talk to Anyone, The People Skills & Communication Skills You Need to Win Friends and Get Jobs 200 Dirty Talk Examples: How to Dirty Talk Your Way to the Most Graphic, Mind-Blowing Sex of Your Life How to Talk Dirty : Dirty Talk Examples, Secrets for Women and Men, Straight, Gay and Bi, Spice Up Your Sex Life and Have Mindblowing Sex: Great Sex Book, Series 1 Effortless Small Talk: Learn How to Talk to Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere...Even If You're Painfully Shy What I Talk About When I Talk About Running How to Deliver a Great TED Talk: Presentation Secrets of the World's Best Speakers (How to Give a TED Talk Book 1)

[Dmca](#)