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Things That Matter: Three Decades Of Passions, Pastimes And Politics

CHARLES
KRAUTHAMMER

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

THINGS THAT MATTER

Three Decades of Passions, Pastimes and Politics



Synopsis

From America's preeminent columnist, named by the Financial Times the most influential commentator in the nation, the long-awaited collection of Charles Krauthammer's essential, timeless writings. A brilliant stylist known for an uncompromising honesty that challenges conventional wisdom at every turn, Krauthammer has for decades dazzled readers with his keen insight into politics and government. His weekly column is a must-read in Washington and across the country. Now, finally, the best of Krauthammer's intelligence, erudition, and wit are collected in one volume. Listeners will find here not only the country's leading conservative thinker, offering a passionate defense of limited government, but also a highly independent mind whose views - on feminism, evolution, and the death penalty, for example - defy ideological convention. *Things That Matter* also features several of Krauthammer's major path-breaking essays - on bioethics, on Jewish destiny, and on America's role as the world's superpower - that have profoundly influenced the nation's thoughts and policies. And finally, the collection presents a trove of always penetrating, often bemused reflections on everything from border collies to Halley's Comet, from Woody Allen to Winston Churchill, from the punishing pleasures of speed chess to the elegance of the perfectly thrown outfield assist. With a special, highly autobiographical introduction, in which Krauthammer reflects on the events that shaped his career and political philosophy, this indispensable chronicle takes the listener on a fascinating journey through the fashions and follies, the tragedies and triumphs, of the last three decades of American life.

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Customer Reviews

I admit it: I got it wrong in my opinion of Charles Krauthammer. I thought he was just an unoriginal talking head mimicking the latest right-wing rhetoric. After reading this compilation of some three decades of his writing, I see that Krauthammer is a thoughtful intellectual. I may at times disagree with his perspective, but I can absolutely see now how gets to said perspective. The highly personal introduction is fascinating and sets the table for the writings that follow. His sense of humor and his sense of humanity come through in many passages. At times I actually laughed out loud at his writings; at other times I was enthralled by his ability to "paint with words" (most noticeably his column of September 12, 2001). Krauthammer is generally not divisive in his politics and, in fact, has evolved some of his beliefs over time as any reasonable person often does. He also has a real knack for taking difficult and at times abstract concepts and boiling them down to a comprehensible essence. Approach this book with an open mind, you just might find yourself enjoying it.

Charles Krauthammer is one of the most intelligent, lucid commentators and writers of our time. He is always insightful and fair. I trust his wisdom and have been looking forward for weeks for his book to come out. I downloaded it at midnight last night as soon as it was available, and started reading. It is everything I had hoped for and more. His is the voice of reason in politics and society today. Dorothy @hensrule

As Charles admits his views have been an evolving piece of his life, as he started out a liberal. Today he is one of the most influential conservative journalists. But....his views and mine do not mirror each other. He seems to favor beltway politics, much more than a constitutional believer should. This isn't a new book full of new ideas, this is a new book filled with a collection of his writings over a long period of time. While he referenced Reagan in his evolution to conservatism, he isn't nearly as principled as Reagan was. Reagan showed for a period of decades how his views were not only consistent, they were strengthened over time. Charles....while very intelligent and thoughtful, often has quick dismissal of those who disagree with him. So....why 5 stars. Because he is that good. He isn't nearly as polarizing as other conservative thinkers, and his voice carries great weight. Give *Things That Matter* a read, it deserves to be read. You may not agree with some items from 2005 or maybe 1995, but you will often nod in agreement.

What a great book...I'll read it many times over. Not only is Charles positively brilliant but he has the sharpest wit & funniest dry sense of humor of any author!!! I love him on t.v.; his book is pure Charles in insightful, uplifting, clever writing!!

Things That Matter is a brilliant collection of Dr. Krauthammer's writings and work over the past 30 years. It is always great to hear his commentary on television and read his columns in the Washington Post-- this is a great addition to any political library!

Wow, this collection is as good as advertised. Dr. Krauthammer has an uncanny ability to analyze and explain in concise but beautiful prose. I would imagine that self-described progressives may feel offended by some of the passages, but conservatives, centrists, and open-minded folks should thoroughly enjoy this book. Can't wait for the next one!

I love the format and the information/eloquence of this book! I was a fan of Dr. Krauthammer before the book, but this, I hope, is only the introduction of more to come. Thank you! You stretch my mind and my imagination.

Charles' story is fascinating. How he was once a liberal and became the person he has become is a quintessential passage of humanity. You rarely see someone move in the other direction (from conservative to "liberal"). The classic term "liberal" has become twisted over time and what were once "liberals" are now an intolerant bunch who use ad hominem arguments with very little substance. It is obvious why Charles made that passage... because he is brilliant and there is no room in the modern sense of "liberalism," for such a thinker as Charles. If you read the reviews which give this book a low rating, the case is made... ad hominem with no focus on the substance. Well worth the read.

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