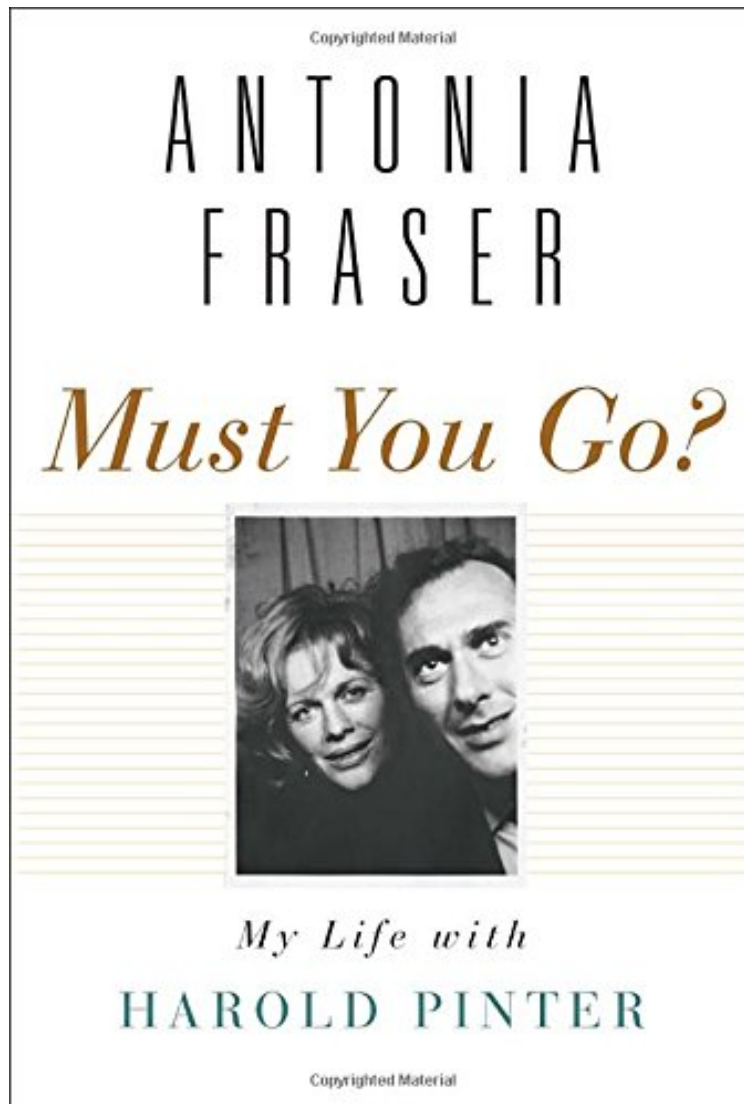


Must You Go?: My Life with Harold Pinter

Antonia Fraser

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Antonia Fraser : Must You Go?: My Life with Harold Pinter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Must You Go?: My Life with Harold Pinter:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. True love say, I need you because I love you. By Natalie Simpsndach This was an easy yet interesting read. I felt very comfortable because I knew how much Antonia and Harold loved each other. Antonia is very relaxed, happy, positive individual. She makes the ordinary things in life sound astonishing. The end is sad but not devastatingly so. I loved it when Harold told Antonia, "I will miss you when I am dead." So profound. I cried all the way thru the serious parts of Harold's illnesses. Each one whispered a portion

of their final good bye which was near. Yet, both Harold and Antonia noticed and appreciated every moment of joy they experienced. I learned from this novel. that it does not matter how much time two people who are truly in love spend together because it will be a life time. When Harold died, he continued to live in Antonia's heart. A few minutes after he died she kissed him several times, and said "must you go," she answered her own question yes you must. I will never forget this novel. I will not be the same after reading it.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. She Wrote This For Her Husband's FansBy Anna V. CarrollPerhaps I am wrong in saying this, but her book is for an audience of a certain age. My 37 yr. old dtr. has no idea who she is and has never read her books. Not that my daughter is not interested in literature, just not that style of writing. I have never read any of her books because I am not a fan of the periods she writes about nor the people. I prefer 20th Century biographies. Sorry.However, I am quite familiar with Harold Pinter and have been my entire adult life. His plays, the films from his books. Heady stuff back in the 60s when I was in my 20's. Black and white films, taboo subjects, the beginning of the envelope push. John Osborne was another author whose works shocked and inspired me. Perhaps they are why I ended up living in London.Her book. I do remember the gasps from the newspaper journalists when word leaked out she and Mr. Pinter were a couple. She a Catholic girl (married) with six children! He a nice Jewish boy married to a famous actress. The ultimate forbidden fruit. A Jewish boyfriend for the Catholic girl and even worse, the blond, aristocratic shiksa to cause heartburn for the Jewish parents. Been there. Done that.It is my personal belief that she felt she owed this book to the millions of Harold Pinter fans around the world. Some people comment that this book consists of diary entries and a whole lotta name droppin'! Well, England is a tiny island. The actors, writers and playwrights all know each other very well. Who was she supposed to write about? The salesgirl at her local Boot's Chemist shop?I agree with everyone who has commented here that I would have enjoyed more detail about their lives beyond breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner dates with famous friends. Trips to Paris, Italy, NY, etc. It was fascinating to learn that the nephew of billionaire financier George Soros married into the family. That I did not know.The chapters on his fight with cancer (which he ultimately lost) are difficult to read. There is no doubt they loved each other from the day they met until the moment he died. No one could make a film of this relationship as there are no actors/actresses who could play their parts. Unique. One-of-a-kind. We shall not see their like again. Their love shines through each page and it is a joy to read about it. Enduring and touching.The last page is heartbreaking and left me in a puddle of tears. I felt as if I was standing next to her as the love of her life took his last breath and passed into immortality. It was a dagger through the heart. That was where the book ended. Perfect. The portrait was complete. One more brush stroke would have ruined it. Surely her life since has been full of children, grandchildren and friends. She writes, travels, enjoys life. It will never be the same. Even now, years later, she must see or hear something fun and say to herself, "I must share this with Harold." Love like they had never ends. I am sure she feels his spirit all around her. Even though the book does not tell the whole story of their lives together, I am so thankful she shared this little bit with us who loved her husband and his work.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's hard to imagine someone was lucky enough to have ...By Barbara O. GeshekerIt's hard to imagine someone was lucky enough to have this life - and we're lucky she was so talented as to be able to share bits of it with us. Her gifts for writing, observing and appreciating the unique circumstances and opportunities her life afforded her shine through from the very first page. I sped through it only to take 8 days to read the last few pages...not wanting it to end.

A moving testament to one of the literary world's most celebrated marriages: that of the greatest playwright of our age, Harold Pinter, and the beautiful and famous prize-winning biographer Antonia Fraser. In this exquisite memoir, Antonia Fraser recounts the life she shared with the internationally renowned dramatist. In essence, it is a love story and a marvelously insightful account of their years together, beginning with their initial meeting when Fraser was the wife of a member of Parliament and mother of six, and Pinter was married to a distinguished actress. Over the years, they experienced much joy, a shared devotion to their work, crises and laughter, and, in the end, great courage and love as Pinter battled the illness to which he eventually succumbed on Christmas Eve 2008. *Must You Go?* is based on Frasers recollections and on the diaries she has kept since October 1968. She shares Pinters own revelations about his past, as well as observations by his friends. Frasers diarieswritten by a biographer living with a creative artist and observing the process firsthandalso provide a unique insight into his writing. Harold Pinter and Antonia Fraser lived together from August 1975 until his death thirty-three years later. O! call back yesterday, bid time return, cries one of the courtiers to Richard II. This is Antonia Frasers uniquely compelling way of doing so.

From BooklistFraser is a highly regarded British biographer, and the late Harold Pinter, her husband, was a Nobel-winning British playwright. So, the circle they generally traveled in was made up of not only fellow writers but also, because of their individual and combined celebrity, fellow celebrities. Frasers latest book is both joyous and sad. The former because she shares diary entries concerning her relationship with Pinter (they lived together from August 1975 until Christmas 2008), and it was obviously a stimulating love-match. And sad because the book ends when it does because of Pinters death from cancer; his struggle with the disease had been years-long. As expected, given their fame and the fame of their associates, lots of name-dropping goes on here. This is not, of course, the story of two starving

artists trying to scratch together a living in some cold-water flat. But privileged as they were, they nevertheless experienced the normal highs and lows together, and the result is a poignant read. Serious readers will generate demand for this title, and they will respond with gratitude to Fraser's intimacy. --Brad Hooper *Glowing*. . . . There's hardly a dull page. Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* "Entertaining and ultimately touching in its determination to recapture lost time, to portray a younger, more carefree self and to bring back a lost loved one, if only on the page." Francine Prose, *New York Times Book* "A stirring celebration of what Fraser, reflecting near the end of Pinter's life, observed as a union 'to the infinite degree happy beyond all possible expectations.'" *The New Yorker* "Bold, intimate, madly entertaining. . . . Fraser simultaneously creates a tender portrait of an exciting marriage, and a deliciously detailed account of living in the thick of creativity and fame. A "Entertainment Weekly" "An engrossing, anecdote-rich feat for theater lovers whose tastes extend beyond the glitter of Broadway. . . . The book ultimately sheds humanizing new light on a writer with a public reputation for his stern sense of ethics and the clammy, unsettling spell cast by his plays." Charles Isherwood, *The New York Times* "It takes a daring biographer to turn her sharp eye on her own life as Antonia Fraser does so movingly and beautifully in her memoir *Must You Go? My Life with Harold Pinter*. It's a compelling diary of a passionate love affair, marriage, and 40-year conversation of two soul mates in the milieu of London's chattering classes." Tina Brown, *The Daily Beast* "Written with a very English, very literate brand of grace and restraint, Fraser's account of their life together (culled from her diaries) is fond and touching. But it's also a crisp, clear-eyed portrait of a shared life of creative work, political activism, wide-ranging travels, family not always smooth going, sometimes rocky and controversial, but remarkable and fascinating nonetheless. In short, theirs was a fine romance, and Fraser shares that with us." *The Seattle Times* "Fraser has used more than three decades worth of pithy, clever and frequent diary entries as the backbone of this tremendously engaging account. . . . The book works beautifully as both a rare love story and a sharp portrait of life in the upper echelons of British literary society." *Obit Magazine* "A lovely, intimate portrayal of a marriage . . . A wonderful testament to romance, love, shared humor, and true partnership." *Library Journal*, starred review "A moving compilation of diary entries written during the course of an artistically fruitful three-decade partnership . . . A devoted, respectful tribute." *Kirkus* "Must You Go? is a love story (with a dash of scandal for spice), but it succeeds on many other levels as well. It is a window into British high society, a glimpse of the inspiration behind some of Pinter's finest achievements and a kaleidoscope of historical and personal events. Most significantly, it is a testament to the 'private happiness' possible in a supportive marriage between two dynamic and ambitious people." *BookPage* "Praise from the UK: This book full of funny and tender things satisfies on more than one level. It is an intimate account of the life and habits of a major artist; it is a pencil sketch of British high society in the second half of the 20th century; and it is, more than either of these things, and much more unusually, a wonderfully full description of the deep pleasures and comforts of married love." *Spectator* "Must You Go? is extraordinary by any standards. Based on the diaries she kept during her 33-year relationship with the dramatist, it is simultaneously a love story, an intimate portrait of a great writer and an exercise in self-revelation." *The Guardian* "Neither autobiography nor biography but a love story, romantic, poignant and very funny, illuminating her husband's character and creativity." *The Times* "[Writing] with exemplary clarity and courage . . . Fraser keeps her gaze steady and her heart open." *The Independent* "Unremittingly delicious: strange, rarefied, frequently hilarious." *The Observer* "[Must You Go? is] told from a privileged backstage perspective, and observed with a sharp eye for social and behavioural detail . . . This book works, just as it appears their lives worked, as the most touching and enduring of love stories . . . The ending, brutal and unsentimentally presented yet filled with a Tolstoyan directness of feeling, is almost unbearably moving. The whole of this lovely book fills you with a gratitude that happenstance can, once in a while, not screw up and find the right girl for the right boy." *Financial Times* "About the Author" ANTONIA FRASER is the author of many internationally bestselling historical works, including *Love and Louis XIV*, *Marie Antoinette*, which was made into a film by Sofia Coppola, *The Wives of Henry VIII*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, and *Faith and Treason: The Story of the Gunpowder Plot*. She has received the Wolfson Prize for History, the 2000 Norton Medlicott Medal of Britain's Historical Association, and the Franco-British Society's Enid McLeod Literary Prize.