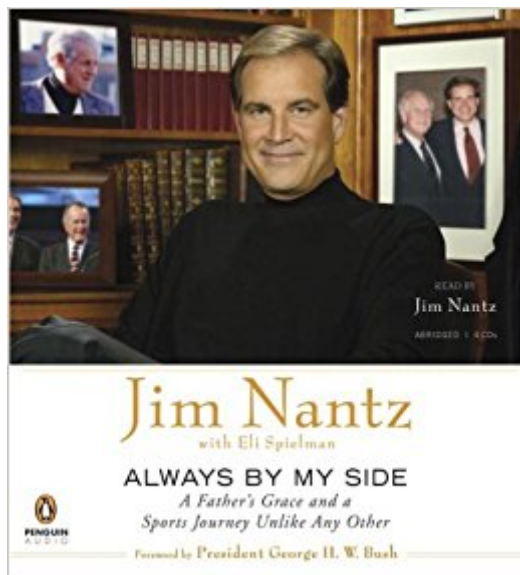


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Always By My Side



Synopsis

In the bestselling tradition of *Big Russ and Me*, America's most visible sports commentator tells the stories of some of the most dramatic moments in American sports and pays tribute to the man who inspired him to pursue his broadcasting dream; his beloved father, who has fallen victim to the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. Vividly written in exciting, you-are-there replay, *Always by My Side* gives readers an insider's look into an unprecedented sixty-three-day stretch from February to April of 2007 when Jim Nantz became the first broadcaster to call the Super Bowl, the Final Four, and the Masters. Because Nantz was unable to share the voyage with his dad, however, this remarkable journey through America's premier sporting events took on a bittersweet tinge. Nonetheless, the devoted son felt his father's presence every step of the way, and used this championship odyssey to celebrate the people, venues, and moments that tapped into all the goodness that his dad; and his dad's generation; represent. In recounting the highlights of more than two thrilling decades with CBS Sports, this broadcasting hall of famer recalls the legends of the industry; Dick Enberg, Curt Gowdy, Jim McKay, Chris Schenkel, Pat Summerall, Jack Whitaker, and others; who sparked his imagination and shaped his style. *Always by My Side* traces Nantz's career, from creating his own imaginary studio as a boy to his college days rooming with future PGA Tour golfers Fred Couples and Blaine McCallister to his successful network audition at age twenty-six. Along the way, readers are treated to an array of memories, including Nantz's special relationship with the former president George H. W. Bush, as well as his friendships with such sports royalty as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Peyton Manning, Tony Dungy, Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, Mike Krzyzewski, John Wooden, and many others. Poignant stories that explore the theme of fathers and sons who have bonded through a common love of sports complete this sparkling narrative. *Always by My Side* promises to be the most cherished Father's Day gift of the year.

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Customer Reviews

In this sentimental look back, Nantz recounts his beloved father's descent into illness during his own rise to success in sports broadcasting. Nantz's early ambition was to announce sporting events, and he got his start by taking advantage of even the smallest opportunity; his first job was driving Houston Open announcers from the parking lot to the clubhouse. Meanwhile, his jolly, curious and encouraging father was fielding the first symptoms of Alzheimers; sadly, as Nance finds greater recognition within the industry, the man who inspired him becomes more distant. Nantz finds father figures in his friendships with George H.W. Bush and golfer/broadcaster Ken Venturi, and turns up charming stories of others he admires like Tony Dungy, Arnold Palmer and former college roommate Freddie Couples. Though it has a saccharine streak, Nantz's on-the-job memoir fulfills his old man's vision ("Good people with good stories... To him, that was what sports-and sportsmanship-were all about") with a gentle, anecdote-heavy tour. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

CBS sportscaster Nantz, who has broadcast every major sporting event from the Olympics to the Super Bowl to the Masters, is one of those rare people who defined his professional goals early in life and set about reaching them. While in college in Houston, he worked his way through a series of low-level jobs, all related to broadcasting, and then, with his businessman father serving as mentor, he negotiated his way upstream in an incredibly competitive field. The elder Nantz, who developed Alzheimer's just as Jim was entering the most satisfying stage of his career, has served as a constant benchmark for his son, who approaches his life seemingly armed with one question: What would Dad do? This professional memoir works best when Nantz reflects on memories of his father's irrepressible optimism. When Nantz the elder isn't a presence, the book devolves into a series of anecdotes—interesting enough but hardly revelatory—about the big events in sports over the last 20 years and the machinations of sports broadcasting. One of Nantz's best qualities as a broadcaster is his ability to fade into the background while

emphasizing the action in front of him. That's his approach here, too, and if it works slightly less well in a memoir, it does offer a refreshing change from the typical all-about-me celebrity bio. --Wes Lukowsky --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I bought this for my mom because her sister is going through something similar to what Jim's father went through. She isn't a big sports person but does like basketball and football and watches some baseball. She preferred Pat Summitt's book because it dealt more with the actual disease and the issues that come with it. She liked this book but the sports announcing part was a bit much for her taste. Over all a good book but the 1st person story told by Pat resonated more with her. It probably helps she is a big Tennessee fan as well :)

I've always thought Jim Nantz is the best, or at least my favorite, sports announcer. I admire his background and accomplishments and his way with words, and most of all what seems to be an inherent goodness. His auto biography and story of his relationship with his father gives many great insights into his life as a successful network broadcaster as well as how the bonds between a father and son influence each other's lives. Exceptionally well written by a master story teller with so many cool stories to tell. A quick, engaging and thought provoking read. I would recommend to all highly!

Longtime CBS sports broadcaster Jim Nantz has distinguished himself on the air as a masterful storyteller. Whenever he speaks, you can be sure he will not bombard you with the clichés that have become commonplace among most announcers. Fortunately for readers, he carries his straightforward, succinct style into this compelling book. The book's first track centers around Nantz's close relationship with his father. As Jim's career blossomed, he turned to his father for companionship and advice. Yet in May of 1995, their consistently close and clear communication began to fade, as Jim heard the dreaded diagnosis: His father had Alzheimer's. Quite candidly, Jim writes: "Night and day I struggle with the question, what did my father ever do to deserve this living hell?" The second track traces Jim Nantz's broadcasting career, which began during his student days at the University of Houston. He started practicing what he had learned from observing sport broadcasters Jim McKay, Win Elliott, and Pat Summerall. As he transitioned quickly into network appearances, he remembered his father's counsel: "Aiming for the stars is what Dad always encouraged us to do." Definitely, Jim Nantz achieved his professional dream. Yet as my video review confirms, he missed out on one major dream--to have his father continue to accompany Jim to major sports events, with keen intellect intact and awareness undimmed. Once you read this

book, I'm confident you will recommend it to your friends and colleagues, as I am doing with mine.

I have always thought that Jim Nantz had one of life's greatest gigs. He gets to do The Super Bowl, The NCAA Basketball Tournament and The Masters in sequence as well as covering the PGA and the NFL for CBS. Not bad. Little did any of us know that he did much of it while dealing with the loss of his Dad to Alzheimer's. This book recounts that episode in his life and tells of the anguish and the pain that this terrible disease inflicts on loved ones. Before reading this book and learning more about Jim Nantz, his family and his life experiences it has always been clear to me that he is a genuine gentleman and a caring and thoughtful person. After reading it, this is confirmed in spades. For those who have never had to experience the heartbreaking realization of what Alzheimer's does to its victims and their families, this book will open your eyes and tug at your heart. For those that just love to learn some of the inside stories of what it is like to be Jim Nantz and rub elbows with some of the most interesting people around this book delivers on that score as well. For those who hope to pick up some dirt or gossip about some of the issues and people that Nantz has been associated with during his time at CBS Sports, you will be disappointed. He may kiss, but he doesn't tell. That's not the kind of person he is. Nantz still has a long career ahead of him and this is not intended to be an autobiography. It opens a window on his life that he wanted to share, to honor his father and tell the world what he meant to him. It does that quite well.

This Book is awesome, it shows love & Friendship and respect for our fellow man that gets right to your Heart. Have some tissues ready.

Great book, and his love for his father.

It was ok. A lot of interesting sports facts, but I wanted more details about his father's care?

Have been a Jim Nantz fan forever. Down to basics allowing his "expert" counterpart to speak. His Personal background interesting.

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