



Stuart: A Life Backwards

By Alexander Masters

Download now

Read Online 

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters

In this extraordinary book, Alexander Masters has created a moving portrait of a troubled man, an unlikely friendship, and a desperate world few ever see. A gripping who-done-it journey back in time, it begins with Masters meeting a drunken Stuart lying on a sidewalk in Cambridge, England, and leads through layers of hell...back through crimes and misdemeanors, prison and homelessness, suicide attempts, violence, drugs, juvenile halls and special schools—to expose the smiling, gregarious thirteen-year-old boy who was Stuart before his long, sprawling, dangerous fall.

Shocking, inspiring, and hilarious by turns, **Stuart: A Life Backwards** is a writer's quest to give voice to a man who, beneath his forbidding exterior, has a message for us all: that every life—even the most chaotic and disreputable—is a story worthy of being told.

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download Stuart: A Life Backwards ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Stuart: A Life Backwards ...pdf](#)

Stuart: A Life Backwards

By Alexander Masters

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters

In this extraordinary book, Alexander Masters has created a moving portrait of a troubled man, an unlikely friendship, and a desperate world few ever see. A gripping who-done-it journey back in time, it begins with Masters meeting a drunken Stuart lying on a sidewalk in Cambridge, England, and leads through layers of hell...back through crimes and misdemeanors, prison and homelessness, suicide attempts, violence, drugs, juvenile halls and special schools—to expose the smiling, gregarious thirteen-year-old boy who was Stuart before his long, sprawling, dangerous fall.

Shocking, inspiring, and hilarious by turns, **Stuart: A Life Backwards** is a writer's quest to give voice to a man who, beneath his forbidding exterior, has a message for us all: that every life—even the most chaotic and disreputable—is a story worthy of being told.

From the Hardcover edition.

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #264249 in Books
- Brand: Masters, Alexander
- Published on: 2007-05-29
- Released on: 2007-05-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .90" w x 5.60" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 324 pages

 [Download Stuart: A Life Backwards ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Stuart: A Life Backwards ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The British antihero of this moving biography started with teenage glue-sniffing, petty thievery and gang brawls, then graduated to heroin and major thievery. He endured prison stints and led a "medieval existence" on the streets, finally emerging into triumphant semistability as an "ex-homeless, ex-junkie psychopath" with only occasional episodes of violence and suicidal impulses. In Cambridge, England, Masters, an advocate for the homeless, befriended Stuart—someone for whom "cause and effect are not connected in the usual way"—and found him at times obnoxious and repellent, but also funny and honest. Masters notes bad genes and childhood sexual molestation, and critiques "the System" of British welfare and criminal justice institutions that help with one hand and brutalize with the other, but he doesn't reduce Stuart's intractable problems to simple dysfunction or societal neglect. By eschewing easy answers (the easy answers—don't drink, don't use, don't steal, don't play with knives—are precisely the hardest for Stuart), he accords full humanity to Stuart's stumbling efforts to grapple with his demons. Hilarious and clear-eyed, the author's superbly drawn portrait of Stuart is an unforgettable literary evocation and a small masterpiece of moral empathy and imagination. Photos. (June 6)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [The New Yorker](#)

Masters's tragicomic portrait of Stuart Shorter, an "ex-homeless, ex-junkie psychopath" whom he befriended while studying at Cambridge University, starts in the present and moves backward. Through the particulars of a fractured life, including stays in seventeen prisons and a parking garage, Masters hopes to answer Stuart's question "What murdered the boy I was?" Masters is candid about his exasperation with Stuart—he confesses at one point to feeling "sated" with his subject's troubles—and achieves a perfect balance of empathy and comedy. The real attraction, however, is Stuart's own voice, as when he recalls "getting rageous" or offers recipes for "prison hooch" and "convict curry." His life resists easy explanation, which makes Masters's patient attention to its concrete details all the more affecting.

Copyright © 2006 *The New Yorker*

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Alexander Masters successfully manages to humanize the enigmatic Stuart. His personality is random enough and many of his faults considerable enough that a less-skilled observer might have labored to create empathy for—and even bring humor and life to—such a character. The recent and quite public outrage over James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces* calls into question Masters's pithier dialogues with Stuart, and critic Carolyn See takes issue with the author's judgment in his handling of the subject. The majority of reviewers, however, find the book, which has been adapted to the small screen for HBO, enlightening, poignant, and hauntingly humorous.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Hollars:

With other case, little folks like to read book Stuart: A Life Backwards. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Given that we know about how is important any book Stuart: A Life Backwards. You

can add know-how and of course you can around the world by a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can recognize everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple issue until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or even searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's examine.

Joyce Adam:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know which you should start with. This Stuart: A Life Backwards is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

William Emmer:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like Stuart: A Life Backwards which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

Alex Miller:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book way, more simple and reachable. That Stuart: A Life Backwards can give you a lot of pals because by you looking at this one book you have issue that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This book offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than some other make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? Let's have Stuart: A Life Backwards.

Download and Read Online Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters #YVKW1MIFNR0

Read Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters for online ebook

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters books to read online.

Online Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters ebook PDF download

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters Doc

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters Mobipocket

Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters EPub

YVKW1MIFNR0: Stuart: A Life Backwards By Alexander Masters