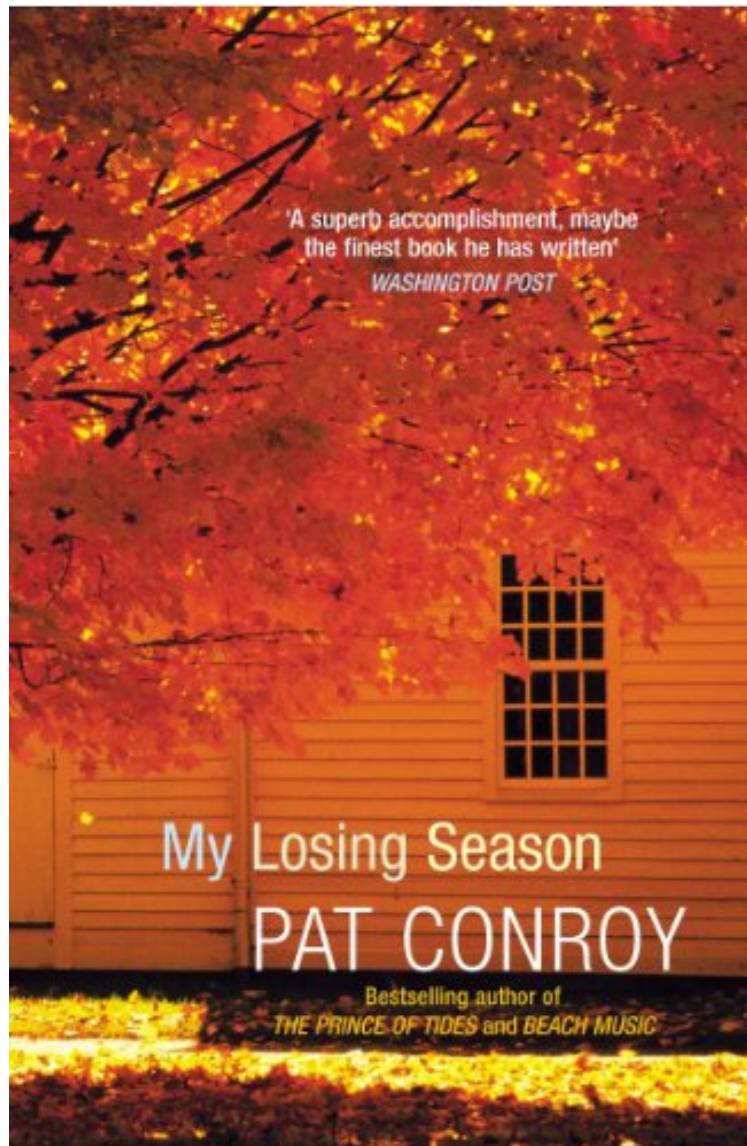


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## My Losing Season

Von Pat Conroy

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**Von Pat Conroy : My Losing Season** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Losing Season:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Der wahre Will McLean und Ben MeechamVon kyrdisMy losing season" liest sich zwar wie ein Roman, ist aber eine (diesmal ungetarnte) Autobiographie Pat Conroys, in der er von seiner letzten Saison als Basketball-Spieler im Team seines Colleges The Citadel" erzählt. Wie der Titel sagt war dies keine erfolgreiche Saison, die Conroy dennoch, oder

gerade deswegen, geprgt hat. Conroy benutzt die Geschichte dieses einen Spieljahres um sein gesamtes Leben mit dem Schwerpunkt auf der Jugend Revue passieren zu lassen. Ein Seelenstrip allererster Klasse, und zwar im doppelten Sinn. Wir lernen Conroys Teamkameraden und seinen Coach kennen, aber auch seine Annie Kate, und erleben seine "Zhmung" mit. Wir lernen, was es heit, sich seine eigene Unzulnglichkeit in etwas, was man liebt - hier: Basketball - eingestehen zu mssen. Man mu nicht das geringste Interesse an Sport oder speziell Basketball haben, um von diesem Buch in seinen Bann gezogen zu werden. Allerdings wre es wohl kein Fehler, mindestens einen von Conroys Romanen gelesen - und genossen - zu haben. Wie Conroy selbst sagt, ist auch dieses Buch, wie alle seine Werke und sein Leben, von der Person seines frchterlichen Vaters berschattet. In den Einblicken in das Familienleben erfahren wir, da der fiktive Groe Santini ein Engel ist im Vergleich zum realen Don Conroy. Aber wieder gelingt es Conroy am Ende des Buches den Leser sprachlos zu machen, wenn er uns erzht, welche Auswirkungen die literarische Abrechnung mit seinem Vater fr die Familie hatte. Ich gestehe, ich war fassungslos. Gegen Ende des Buches zeigt sich Conroys amerikanische Herkunft auf eine Weise, die einem europischen Leser kurzfristig ein wenig Unbehagen bereitet. Aber er ist nun mal Amerikaner und Citadel Man" - trotz der langen Eiszeit zwischen ihm und dem College mit Leib und Seele. Ein exhibitionistisches Buch? Nein, ein ehrliches. Man glaubt Conroy, wenn er schreibt, da das Schreiben eine Art Therapie fr ihn ist. Und beide, der Junge und der Erwachsene, wachsen einem so ans Herz, da man nur hofft, da es Conroy eines Tages gelingen wird, die Dmonen seiner Kindheit und Jugend zu besiegen. Und dennoch weiterhin erstklassige Bcher wie dieses zu schreiben.

**Kurzbeschreibung** In 1954, in Orlando, Florida, nine-year-old Pat Conroy discovered the game of basketball. Orlando was another new hometown for a military kid who had spent his life transferring from one home to another; he was yet again among strangers, still looking for his first Florida friends, but when the 'new kid' got his hands on the ball near the foul line of that unfamiliar court, the course of his life changed dramatically. From that moment until he was twenty-one, the future author defined himself through the game of basketball. In *My Losing Season*, Conroy takes the reader through his last year playing basketball, as point guard and captain of The Citadel Bulldogs, flashing back constantly to the drama of his coming of age, presenting all the conflict and love that have been at the core of his novels. He vividly re-creates his senior year at that now-famous military college in Charleston, South Carolina, but also tells the story of his heartbreaking childhood and of the wonderful series of events that conspired to rescue his spirit. With poignancy and humour Conroy reveals the inspirations behind his unforgettable characters, pinpoints the emotions that shaped his own character as a young boy, and ultimately recaptures his passage from athlete to writer. From *Publishers Weekly* "Loss is a fiercer, more uncompromising teacher, coldhearted but clear-eyed in its understanding that life is more dilemma than game, and more trial than free pass," writes bestselling author Conroy in his first work of nonfiction since *The Water Is Wide* (1972). Conroy is beloved for big, passionate, compulsively readable novels propelled by the emotional jet fuel of an abusive childhood. *The Lords of Discipline*, *The Great Santini*, *The Prince of Tides* and *Beach Music* are each informed by a knowledge of pain and heartache taught to him by a Marine pilot father whose nickname was "the Great Santini." Here, in a re-creation of the losing basketball season Conroy and his team endured during his senior year at the Citadel, 1966- 1967, Conroy gives readers an intimate look at how suffering can be transformed to become a source of strength and inspiration. "I was born to be a point guard, but not a very good one," he admits. Drawing on extensive interviews with his teammates, he chronicles, game by game, their talent and his sheer determination and grit. In Conroy's hands, sports writing becomes a vehicle to describe the love and devotion that can develop between young men. Toward the end of this moving work, Conroy explains that writing books became "the form that praying takes in me." But readers will see how basketball can also be a way of reaching for something finer than a winning score. What emerges is a portrait of a young man who isn't a soldier but a knight with a great and chivalrous heart. Anyone who was a son or knows a son will be touched by this book. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Conroy is the best-selling author of *The Great Santini*, *The Lords of Discipline*, and *The Prince of Tides*. In this memoir, however, he reveals that he considers himself a basketball player more than a writer--and, specifically, a point guard. Similar to John Edgar Wideman in the outstanding *Hoop Roots* [BKL S 1 01], Conroy ascribes a significant portion of his adult success to lessons learned on the court and in the locker room. Conroy weaves a significant amount of nonbasketball material into what is essentially an account of his senior season (1966-67) at the Citadel, but the focus is on what that particular losing season taught him about himself. It isn't all growing from defeat, however; readers will also learn of such early court triumphs as the time Conroy and his fellow fifth-graders beat the big, mean sixth-graders (Conroy led all scorers with nine points). There are church-league games, high-school games, and, of course, college games. Conroy's recall is amazing: not only does he know the scores and how many points he contributed, he knows who stole the crucial pass and who complained about it. The volume of detail is at times numbing, and readers will find themselves skimming over the game accounts. Conroy is at his best when he leaves the games in the background and writes of his growing confidence as a young man despite the setbacks his Citadel team suffered on the court. This is a coming-of-age

memoir, really, and it is in that context that Conroy's fans will most enjoy it, but in the process they will almost certainly learn more than they ever wanted to know about Citadel basketball, circa 1967. Wes Lukowsky Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved