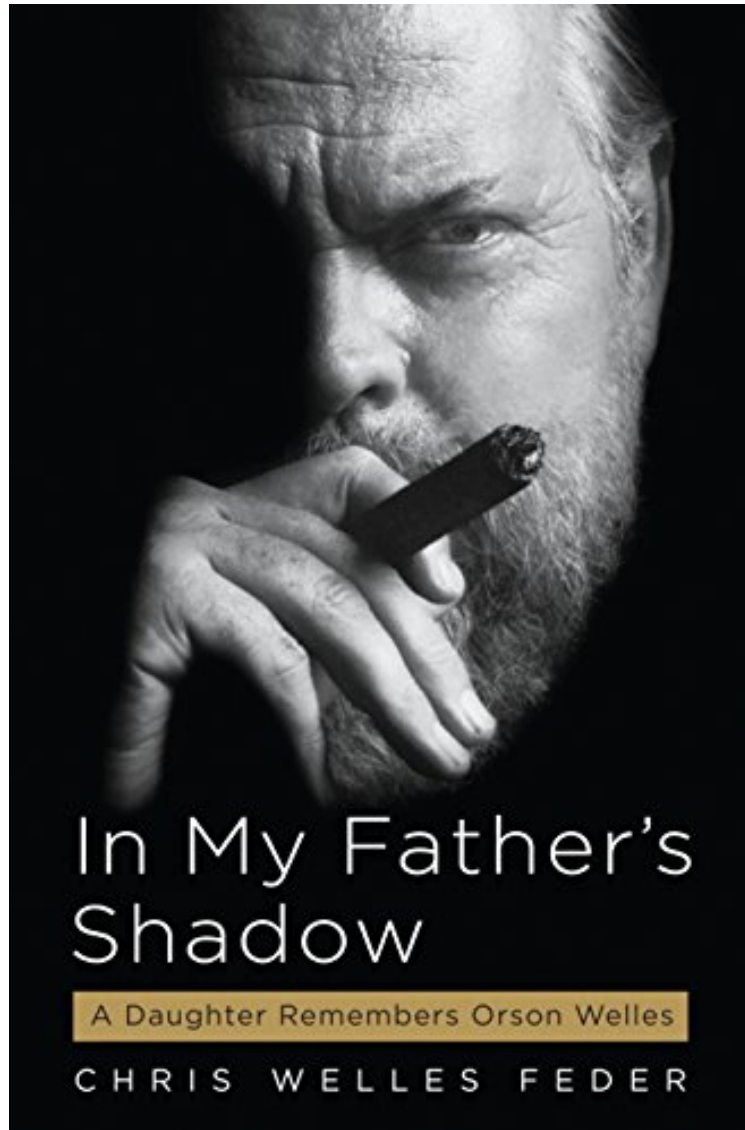


(Free) In My Father's Shadow: A Daughter Remembers Orson Welles

## In My Father's Shadow: A Daughter Remembers Orson Welles

*Chris Welles Feder*

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**Chris Welles Feder : In My Father's Shadow: A Daughter Remembers Orson Welles** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In My Father's Shadow: A Daughter Remembers Orson Welles:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read, more than meets the eye. By Voltaire A great read. Christopher Welles Feder (the first daughter of Orson Welles) really impressed me as a person, an extremely intelligent person with the soul of an artist. One can view this book as a look at Orson Welles. I view it more of a study of the need of children to have a relationship with their parents and the importance of real parenting. A bit sad but in the end I think she is at peace with herself and her father. One should note, Christopher was the creator of an

extremely popular educational material which is still a best seller and money maker, the Brain Quest series so she carried her father's love of the word and found a great outlet. She has also been extensively involved in honoring her father and his work. I really liked Ms. Welles Feder. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Deeper Than Expected By Glenn Hopp Most people will probably take up this book for its information about Orson Welles, looking perhaps for anecdotes and comments not previously mentioned by biographers of Welles, and that type of detail is here, but mainly a reader notices the discernment and depth of the discussion and especially how the author realizes that her intense, rare moments with her father must be cherished and gleaned for all the guidance and nurturing they can offer. It is smart to frame the material about her father in the broader context of Chris Welles Feder's own life-- probably the only way a really good book (as opposed to a shallow, gossipy one) could come about. As so many other reviewers have rightly said, this book is a deep and pleasant surprise from beginning to end. I don't recall seeing any other review making this next claim, but I have read many books about Orson Welles, and even though this one frankly depicts his shortcomings (as well as his many endearing, laudable traits), I think he would have proudly approved of this book. He was too deep and too candid a person not to. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Sins of the Fathers By ilprofessore In this case, did not pass on to the daughter. Books about father-sons/ father-daughters are always affecting, and this one is a particularly moving tale of how one such abandoned child lost, and won, and lost her father's love. Great artists, as Orson was, are often great narcissists. When they are not adoring themselves in lake or mirror, they can charm others, none so susceptible as a young daughter lost and found. What distinguishes Chris' books from so many similar tell-alls is that her father, a larger than life figure literally and physically, is not depicted as a monster, but as an infallible man so taken up with a lifetime of futile pursuits to raise money to direct that he had little time for anyone else, let alone his adoring daughter. Chris came to understand this, and rather than take the obligatory plunge into drugs and alcohol, she moved on bravely, eventually marrying a good man, unlike her father, and creating her own life. It can be done. That might be the moral of this absorbing story.

Out of all the many stars and celebrities Hollywood has produced, only a handful have achieved the fame; and, some would say, infamy; of Orson Welles, the creator and star of what is arguably the greatest American film, Citizen Kane. Many books have been written about him, detailing his achievements as an artist as well as his foibles as a human being. None of them, however, has gotten so close to the real man as does Chris Welles Feder's beautifully realized portrait of her father. In *My Father's Shadow* is a classic story of a life lived in the public eye, told with affection and the wide-eyed wonder of a daughter who never stopped believing that someday she would truly know and understand her elusive and larger-than-life father. The result is a moving and insightful look at life in the shadow of a legendary figure and an immensely entertaining story of growing up in the unreal reality of Hollywood, enhanced by Welles Feder's collection of many never-before-seen family photographs.

From Publishers Weekly Feder, the daughter of Orson Welles and his first wife, Virginia, tells the story of her search for a relationship with her famous father as well as creating an independent identity through a childhood and adolescence influenced by a list of affectionate guardians and brilliant but dysfunctional grownups. The latter category included her own parents: the author was still a child when they separated and her father married Rita Hayworth; her mother, meanwhile, went on to her own second and third marriages. Feder found affection at times, but it was her years in Illinois with her father's former headmaster and the headmaster's wife that provided her first experience of domestic stability. Her peripatetic life resumed, however, while her father arrived irregularly for extended one-on-one visits that shaped his daughter's budding intellect, but left her hungry for a deeper, more permanent connection. Her story conveys a powerful, intimate sense of Welles's creative struggles and her own part in preserving his artistic legacy. (Nov.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "An intimate, candid yet loving, very personal yet clear-eyed portrait of the complicated, contradictory, mercurial and surpassingly brilliant man ... a beautifully written and moving memoir which should have a most special place in the extraordinary world of Welles" -- Peter Bogdanovich "Full of illuminating details ... genuinely revelatory" The Guardian "[Feder] gives touching insights on her father" The Observer "Refreshingly insightful, intimately well observed" Metro "Fascinating ... the opening of the book is haunting" Daily Telegraph About the Author Chris Welles Feder has spent a great part of her life working in the field of education and is known to many as a writer for the children's educational series Brain Quest. She lives with her husband in New York City.