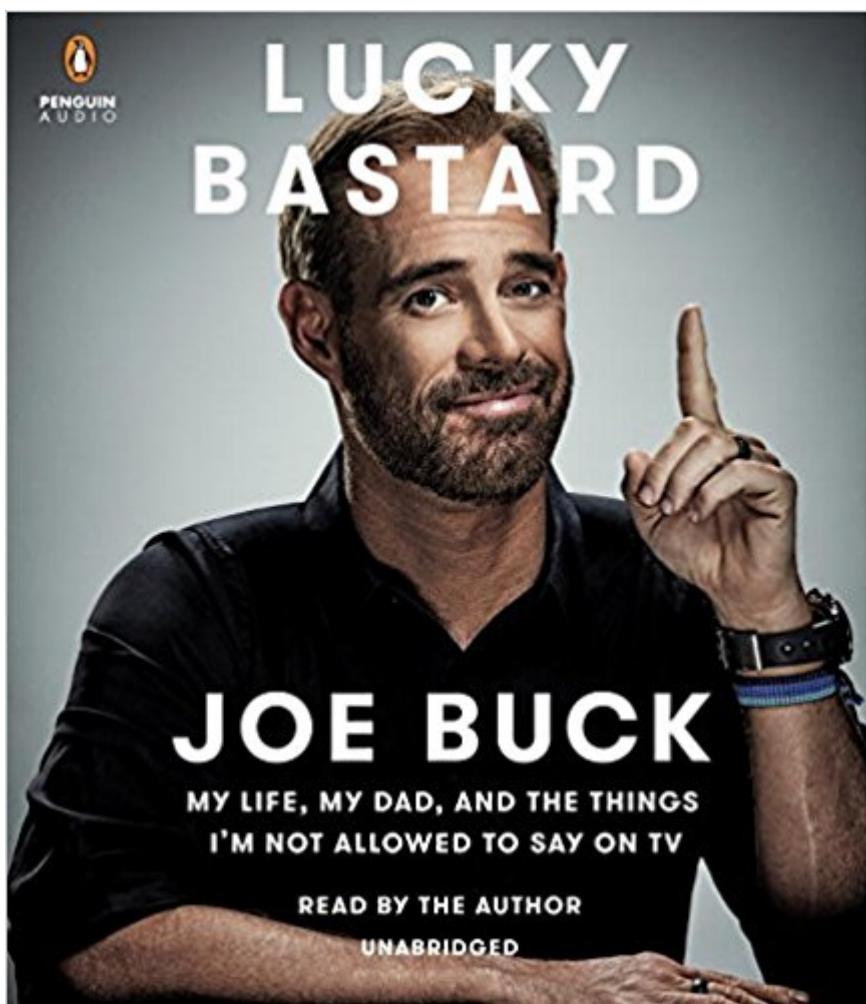


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# Lucky Bastard: My Life, My Dad, And The Things I'm Not Allowed To Say On TV



## Synopsis

In this New York Times bestselling memoir, the announcer of the biggest sporting events in the country— including the 2017 Super Bowl and this century's most-watched, historic, Chicago Cubs— winning World Series— reveals why he is one lucky bastard. Sports fans see Joe Buck everywhere: broadcasting one of the biggest games in the NFL every week, calling the World Series every year, announcing the Super Bowl every three years. They know his father, Jack Buck, is a broadcasting legend and that he was beloved in his adopted hometown of St. Louis. Yet they have no idea who Joe really is. Or how he got here. They don't know how he almost blew his career. They haven't read his funniest and most embarrassing stories or heard about his interactions with the biggest sports stars of this era. They don't know how hard he can laugh at himself—or that he thinks some of his critics have a point. And they don't know what it was really like to grow up in his father's shadow. Joe and Jack were best friends, but it wasn't that simple. Jack, the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals for almost fifty years, helped Joe get his broadcasting start at eighteen. But Joe had to prove himself, first as a minor league radio announcer and then on local TV, national TV with ESPN, and then finally on FOX. He now has a successful, Emmy-winning career, but only after a lot of dues-paying, learning, and pretty damn entertaining mistakes that are recounted in this book. In his memoir, Joe takes us through his life on and off the field. He shares the lessons he learned from his father, the errors he made along the way, and the personal mountain he climbed and conquered, all of which have truly made him a Lucky Bastard.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Lucky Bastard

“[Buck] unleashes his inner stand-up comic, sprinkling the text with surprisingly funny and often self-deprecating wit.” •Booklist “With a comic yet reverent approach to his life and broadcasting, Buck effectively captures the merging of his career and the popularity of American sports.” •Publishers Weekly “Honest, poignant, and full of fun and heart, this is the kind of sports book any fan will love reading.” •Bustle “With light humor and darker emotion, Buck candidly calls the game of his own life.” •Kirkus Reviews “A steady flow of humor, love, pain, loss, and genuine human emotion.” •Sports Illustrated “Emmy Award-winning sportscaster Joe Buck pulls back the curtain on both his public and private lives in the entertaining, but poignant autobiography *Lucky Bastard*. . . . This is a quick, captivating read.” •The Missourian --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Joe Buck grew up in St. Louis, where he still lives. He has two daughters, Natalie and Trudy, and is married to fellow sportscaster Michelle Beisner.

Full Disclosure: This review is by an unabashed Joe Buck fan. His voice is the voice of televised sports for me growing up, as his father's voice was the voice of sports for many years for older generations. I didn't even know his dad was a famous broadcaster until I asked someone years ago, "Why does everyone hate Joe Buck? I love the guy." So after admiring his work during every World Series and Fox NFL Super Bowl I was so excited to read this book. Of course a fan is going to be interested and entertained by it but I think even his haters will find a lot to enjoy and hopefully this book will give them a different perspective on this very "lucky" but also very talented "bastard." I wish I was a "little" older (well not really, but) so that I had listened to a game that the elder Buck called but Joe's book definitely shares so many insights on the great man that Jack Buck was. His stories about the "old days" in sports broadcasting are so interesting. Hard to pick out a most favorite quote but this one where Joe is writing about his first tattoos is great. "The other meaning of Bastante [one of his tattoos] is: I can't love my kids enough. I can't enjoy my job enough. I can find infinite joy in those things." Very good book---entertaining, interesting, and for a fan, it was great reading about Joe's journey in life and work.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and I feel like I have a better understanding of the person behind the public image of Joe Buck. Based on the free sample, I expected the book to be a lot of

stories "from the inside" of the broadcast book. However, the book is a lot more about his childhood, professional struggles and successes outside of the broadcast booth itself, and personal fears. If you're looking for a tell all book like NFL Confidential or Slow Getting Up, this book probably isn't what you looking for. If you're looking for a more conventional autobiography of Joe Buck than it. What is special about this book, most biographies I've read provide historical information about a person but feel very detached. Reading this book felt more like getting to know someone over a couple of drinks at the bar. From a writing perspective, it's easy to read and each chapter has a main theme. The only issue is it can be hard to figure out what happened at the same time as each chapter weaves throughout his life differently. Additionally, for piecing things together it assumes the reader knows a lot more about sports (such as when two teams faced each other in the World Series) than I did. That said, I could look up any missing information easy.

I was curious if he would keep his St. Louis focus while trying to reach a national audience. He does. to the point that if you are a St. Louis person and Cardinal fan it really resonates. If not, less so. Buck really broods over how he is perceived, way more than me. I always thought he is a good broadcaster. There are plenty of anecdotes, some of them really good, and the book moves quickly and well. If you are interested in his dad, Jack Buck, you get all you could ever want. Some would say too much, but not me. For me, this was a good way to spend a few hours.

I'm only leaving this review because I'm 1,000% certain Joe can't help but read it. Just kidding. I loved this book and highly recommend it to any sports fan. Buck's honesty, self-deprecating humor and ability to tell great stories are first rate. STL natives will especially enjoy the many local nuances and references - but that's not a prerequisite for enjoying this book. I bought both hard copy and also the audio version read by Joe, which was especially enjoyable since it's really well-delivered in Joe's trademarked inflection you're so familiar with.

Revealing work by a very good sports announcer. We get to read about some of the things that go on during a sports broadcast. We also find out about Buck's relationships with his fellow announcers--not always flattering. He doesn't pull any punches about his life or his families. I could have done without some of the vulgar language. But certainly an interesting read and look at what goes on behind the scenes.

Terrifically witty and intelligently written book by an author who truly seems like a good guy and an

average Joe despite the fact that in reality he leads a celebrity filled and fun filled life and gets paid major bucks to do so. You can tell he was raised correctly in a quality family home and he shows none of the pretensions that other Fox celeb bios currently offer (Hello Megyn Kelly!). His descriptions of key sports events he's covered and the "backstage access" truly make you feel like you are sitting next to him in your home watching a game together. It's a terrific read and would make a great holiday present for the sports fan in your life. Heartily recommend.

Joe carries on the tradition of the voices of our youth we loved- Jack Buck, Harry Caray, and since I am from Pittsburgh, Bob Prince. Joe gives us a love of the game for this time and place, and the book tells us how. Joe's best call may have just come in 2016, game 7 of the World Series. I will always remember coming back from the commercial after 9 innings of a tie game to see a tarp being rolled on the field. Joe says, "well you are not going to believe this but..." -that was up there with "go crazy folks!" in my book.

It took me awhile to warm up to Joe Buck but once he settled in as a Fox NFL play-by-play announcer I began to appreciate his professionalism. This frank book on the highlights of his life makes for an interesting read. I remember his hoarse voice period and wondered when it would clear up. I had a similar problem when I was a radio DJ so that section of the book hits home for me. Read the book and you will know what I'm referring to. I loved his father's work and, after reading this book, it feels like Joe is paying tribute to Jack Buck every time he gets behind the mic. Good work Joe.

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