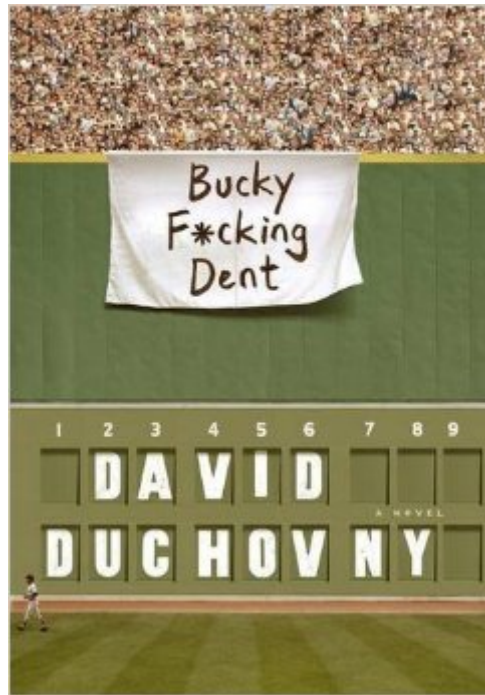


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# Bucky F\*cking Dent: A Novel



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author David Duchovny is back. Ted Fullilove, aka Mr. Peanut, is not like other Ivy League grads. He shares an apartment with Goldberg, his beloved battery-operated fish, sleeps on a bed littered with yellow legal pads panned with what he hopes will be the next great American Novel, and spends the waning days of the Carter administration at Yankee Stadium, waxing poetic while slinging peanuts to pay the rent. When Ted hears the news that his estranged father, Marty, is dying of lung cancer, he immediately moves back into his childhood home, where a whirlwind of revelations ensues. The browbeating absentee father of Ted's youth tries to make up for lost time, but his health dips drastically whenever his beloved Red Sox lose. And so, with help from Mariana—the Nuyorican grief counselor with whom Ted promptly falls in love—and a crew of neighborhood old-timers, Ted orchestrates the illusion of a Boston winning streak, enabling Marty and the Red Sox to reverse the Curse of the Bambino and cruise their way to World Series victory. Well, sort of. David Duchovny's richly drawn Bucky F\*cking Dent explores the bonds between fathers and sons and the age-old rivalry between Yankee fans and the Fenway faithful, and grapples with our urgent need to persevere—and risk everything—in the name of love. Culminating in that fateful moment in October of '78 when the mighty Bucky Dent hit his way into baseball history with the unlikeliest of home runs, this tender, insightful, and hilarious novel demonstrates how life truly belongs to the losers, and that the long shots are the ones worth betting on. Bucky F\*cking Dent is a singular tale that brims with the mirth, poignancy, and profound solitude of modern life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So, my first thought when I heard about this book was "Damn, I am a German living in England- Baseball could not be farther away from my reality or field of interest, but I loved David Duchovny's 'Holy Cow', so I should at least give it a try" and wow, am I glad I did. This book is incredibly honest, painful, hilarious, shocking and beautiful, filled with a love for language and words, poetry and human nature - the little quirks about people that make life, and inevitably this book so very fascinating & interesting; by delving into topics such as illness, death, family, forgiveness, sex and yes, Baseball of course... the very connection like a thread that brings the two protagonists Ted and Marty back together as father and son.. Duchovny has really hit a nerve... definitely in me... and I think anyone reading this masterpiece will feel the same. I think that this is a book for young (not too young -18+) and old(er) - it is timeless... it is a great look into human nature and its pretty, colourful and also its dark, ugly sides... Thank you Mr. Duchovny! I shall read this one again... just because it is so damn good!!

Before getting into review, I noticed some people complaining their copy wasn't signed as he'd 'promised' if pre-ordered from . He made it very clear he meant if you brought your copy to one of his signings & was kidding about being able to sign pre-ordered copies. Did you think he was actually going to go hang out at warehouses signing books? Even I knew he was joking & I have no measurable sense of humor. How could you not get he was kidding? Anyway, on to the important part, the review: I purchased this in both hard copy & audio, which I highly recommend. Hearing David Duchovny tell the story himself, with his own inflections, saying the words he wrote provides a deeper, fuller understanding of the characters, as he is who created them, designed them & gave them their personalities, words, & voices. This novel is truly from the heart & it is reflected in Duchovny's narration. Whereas his previous novel, Holy Cow, was a lovely little eccentric fable, BFD deals with much deeper issues, fathers, sons, loss, & baseball. It is both touching & funny, full of the quirky wit Duchovny has demonstrated in previous works & interviews. He is a master at allusion with a mind that makes lightning quick connections b/n multiple culturally literate references. A common aspect in D.D.'s characters, present in his novels & scripts, which always surprises me, is the deep sensitivity & vulnerability lingering just below the surface in his characters, even the snarkiest of those he has conjured into existence. And, of course, as he is probably well aware, those characters are the ones who break our hearts the most when we see them drop their defenses & show any hurt or pain. Listening to (& reading) BFD, at times made my heart feel exposed, or that at any given time it would be exposed, Hanuman-like, due to the intensity of feeling

almost always present in the interactions b/n Marty & Ted, whether humorous, angry, or tragic. The poignant moments are particularly heightened emotionally when listening to the audiobook. I wanted to reach out to both give & receive comfort as Duchovny tells the story in his soft tones, his voice resonating with the grief, guilt, love, & regrets reflected w/in his characters. The story takes place in 1978. Ted moves in to care for his estranged father, Marty, who is dying of cancer. Marty is rather curmudgeonly, typical of so many men of his generation. Ted is an adult, but a slacker with no real ambition. He is not a bad person, & not completely nihilistic, but he has lost any drive he may have once had & has resigned himself to the life of an underachiever. Both father & son carry heavy burdens of guilt & years of misunderstandings. Ted discovers that Marty's health & mood improve when the Red Sox win & begins, w/the help of Marty's friends (the hilarious & marvelously constructed "Gray Panthers"), to create the illusion that the Red Sox are on a winning streak. Marty & Ted, despite all appearances to the contrary, are more alike than different, demonstrated by their references, mutual knowledge, & practical telepathy when it comes to thinking of the same poets & poems triggered by the same contextual clues. This novel is full of love, laughter, life, death, & baseball with a bit of romance thrown into the mix. It revolves around everyday people, who live everyday lives, reflecting the fears, love, relationships, wishes & dreams that perhaps everyone carries in their hearts. (For hardcore Duchovny fans, you may recognize some particularly personal references, not only regarding NYC & it's boroughs, Ted's ethnic & educational background, and the baby with a severe respiratory infection, but also of a mother who instilled an 'almost paranoid' concern about money & a mention of an outline for a novel titled "Wherever There Are Two".<sup>2</sup> specific moments of note: 1) In the audiobook, the narration of Chapter 76 is particularly beautiful. 2) The scene when Ted & Marty return home after the big game painfully pricked at my heartstrings & I found myself suddenly breaking into heavy, body-shaking, wrenching sobs. I may laugh often w/a book, but it is much harder for one to bring me to tears. "All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened & after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you & afterwards it all belongs to you; the good & the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse & the sorrow, the people & the places & how the weather was." ~ Ernest Hemingway

Ironically enough, reading "Bucky F\*ing Dent" is like watching one of those monologues that David Duchovny would do while starring as Fox Mulder on "The X-Files": Terribly overdone and corny, yet so good plot/emotion-wise that you can't dismiss it out of hand. That's what the entire experience is like here. For a basic plot summary, this book tells the story of Ted, a young man in 1978 who is basically a failed writer now slinging peanuts at Yankee Stadium to eek out a life. Ted has been

estranged from his father, Marty, for quite some time but gets the call that summer that Marty is dying of cancer. Not having anything else going for him, Ted makes the decision to stay with Marty for awhile in hopes of reconnecting...a task made even more daunting by Marty's die-hard Red Sox fandom. As the summer presses on towards the inevitable conclusion that we all know is coming, father and son spar with each other as only a father and son can. In terms of plot and characters, "Bucky F\*ing Dent" is very engaging and emotional. There's something about fathers, sons, and baseball, and Duchovny nails that aspect of the experience. The characters keep developing over the length of the novel, and it feels at all times like the narrative is pressing ahead towards a fulfilling conclusion...which is exactly what happens. Frustratingly, though, Duchovny lets his flowery prose overwhelm certain sections of the book, going on tangents that often will take the reader out of the experience. This is the first of Duchovny's novels that I've read, so maybe that is "just his thing" when it comes to writing, but the story within the novel is so good that I wish he just would have stuck to that. It's almost like DD felt like he had to be overly superfluous in his setting descriptions and dialogue for some reason. So, despite the fact that there is an entertaining story at the story of "Bucky F\*ing Dent", I couldn't give it more than 3-stars here due to that overindulgence of writing. It mostly happens in the first half of the book, so once you get through that it will be smoother sailing. Baseball fans will enjoy this one, but be warned that if you normally don't like "fancy language" and prefer that novels stick to the story/characters, you'll be in for a bit of a rude awakening.

While I will freely admit that there were references that flew over my head, I am thankful to google for helping me decipher some of it. This book was a hard start for me and it took a 1/4 of the book for me to feel out Ted. Duchovny's writing style is unlike anything I have ever read, but once I got hooked I was hooked and I couldn't put this book down. This book was heartbreaking, hilarious, and relatable to anyone with a difficult parent/child relationship. These characters seem hard to love until you fall in love with them and cheer them on. Incredible book.

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