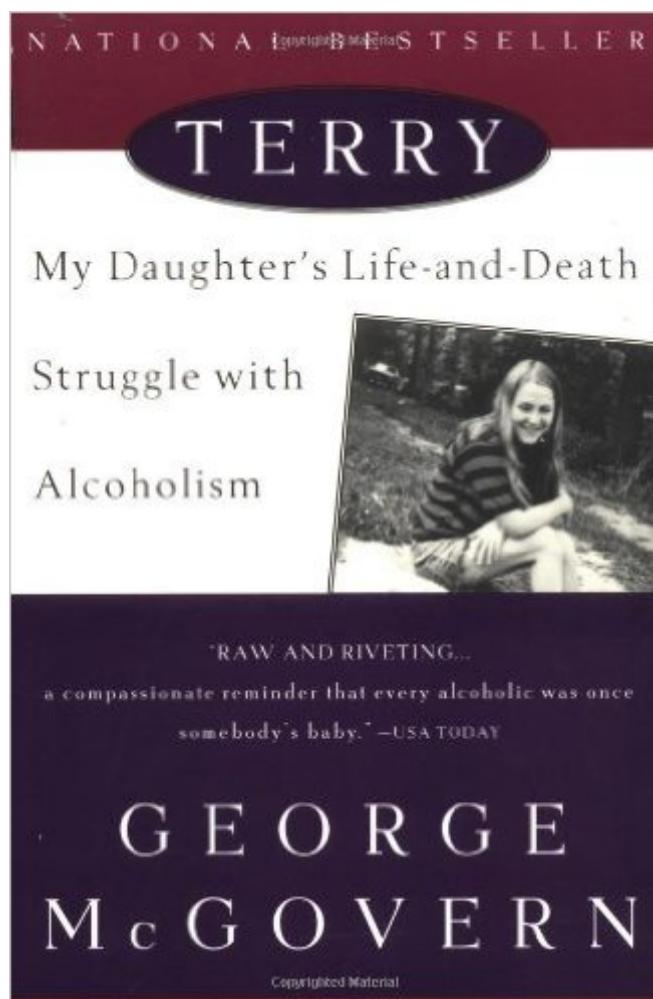


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# Terry: My Daughter's Life-and-Death Struggle With Alcoholism



## Synopsis

"McGovern's story is riveting as he investigates his daughter's life, reads her anguished and accusatory diaries, interviews her friends and doctors, sifts through the sordid police and medical records...a family drama of love and loss." *The New York Times Book Review*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this book when it first came out. At the time I was suffering from depression and alcoholism. I wept as I read the pages because I knew that I too could end up like Terry. I felt for Terry and her family all through out the book. I also realized how my family must have felt and how they might feel if I too fell victim to myself and alcohol. You have to give credit to the courageous George McGovern to share his families sacred secrets and tragedy. This is a must have book for anyone who is an alcoholic, heavy drinker or depressed or anyone who knows or lives with an alcoholic or heavy drinker.

Former South Dakota senator, and one time Presidential hopeful, George McGovern relates the sad story of his daughter Terry, who's alcoholism finally killed her when she passed out in a snowfilled alley outside of a bar one cold December night. With an objective honest and insight into both his daughter and the nature of addiction, McGovern tells how his middle daughter grew up and became mired in an inescapable quicksand of addiction. Having recently lost my wife to the ravages of this disease (ironically this book was one of hers and one she quite enjoyed reading) I can relate

to McGovern's feelings of anger, frustration, and helpless regret over how the disease warped both his daughter's spirit and mind. This book is an essential for anyone who has ever had to battle, or has a loved one who battles, this wretched, life eating disease. Highest recommendation.

I heard George McGovern talking about this book on NPR when it first came out, but it wasn't till recently that I had a chance to read it. I thoroughly enjoyed it, because it gave me some insight on addiction that I did not have before. Sen. McGovern's intentions in writing this book are laudable, and I have a lot of respect for him. I can only imagine how painful it must have been to research the material (Terry's journals, social workers' reports, etc), and to actually write the book and go through those memories. He is sincere and acknowledges his responsibility as a father, and does not try to place blame on alcohol, society, or many of the other targets of anti-abuse groups. Terry might as well have been born with CF, because she suffered from (in her case) an incurable disease. If you want to understand the incredible power of addiction, this book is a great place to start.

This story holds a grip on me that I can't get over. Maybe I am like George McGovern myself in that I too can't explain what causes a beloved child in the family to grow up and self destruct. This story haunts me in that I am watching my own daughter at the age of 43 create similar suffering for every member of her family and friends who love her. I relate so strongly to the McGovern family on every page of this book, even to our own happy 50th wedding anniversary last year, that it frightens me based on Terry's tragic outcome just a year after the McGovern's celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. At the same time, I am so grateful for McGovern's advice as to what he would have done differently, especially in the last several months of Terry's life. I just bought several books for family members, and one to donate to a Milwaukee area hospital Women's Pavilion library that has every subject covered but alcoholism! This book documents one of the most heart rending accounts of alcohol addiction that I could ever imagine. Your tears may stain these pages, but Terry is continuing to help others, like me as she did in life through the courageous words of her father.

First of all, my hat off to George McGovern for making this sad, personal tragedy public. Most families with a son or daughter who spiraled as far out of control as Terry did would try to bury the memory deep in guilt or shame. McGovern chooses to show us by example that, no matter how much money or expertise you throw at finding a solution to a killer problem, in some cases an answer always remains elusive, a mystery. The man tried nearly everything humanly possible to help save his child - nothing worked, all the highest paid experts failed. This story is every parent's

nightmare. If I were an educator of high authority, I would make this book mandatory reading for every high school student in the United States to clearly show what kind of drug they are messing with in alcohol - it's not a pretty picture.

This book was an incredible read. I was riveted from page one. Terry McGovern's death was such a senseless one. It serves to remind me that not all alcoholic deaths are due to cirrhosis(sp?) Alcohol can claim lives in the strangest of ways. Terry McGovern stumbled out of a bar and fell into a bank of snow, freezing to death. I still am shaken up when I think of this. George McGovern is a great writer but I gave the book 4 stars because his belief that he could have somehow prevented his daughter's death is unfathomable to me. I can't imagine what it must be like to lose a child, it must be the most painful thing in the world. This book feels like a catharsis for his grief and he expresses a lot of irrational thinking in his dealing with it. I don't think there's anything he could have done differently to prevent Terry's death and prolong her life. I'm sure it's little consolation to her parents but Terry is at peace now. I pray the family has come to grips with this tragedy in some way in the 10 years since Terry's passing.

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