

PRAISE FOR
GONVILLE

"By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, Peter Birkenhead's *Gonville* is a son's-eye view of growing up with an emotional terrorist: his father. The memoir is a deft and cunning performance, told in jaunty prose which elegantly maps the geography of fear and of a child's sad little wish to be loved."

—John Lahr, senior drama critic, *The New Yorker*

"Few books I've ever read succeed like *Gonville* at capturing the crazed inventiveness of which the unhappy family is capable. Given the character of Peter Birkenhead's father, it's unsurprising that his son's terrific memoir is full of sadness, humor, and high absurdity. More remarkable is the tolerance, sanity, and good humor that Birkenhead has won from experiences hardly conducive to those traits."

—Benjamin Kunkel, author of *Indecision* and co-editor of *n + 1*

"Peter Birkenhead's candor, humor, and insight about his father and ultimately himself combine to make this a highly enjoyable page-turner. It's Birkenhead's gift as a writer that the book is as laugh-out-loud funny as it is kick-you-in-the-chest brutal, and you'll be ready for the second volume as soon as you finish this one."

—Elizabeth Crane, author of *You Must Be This Happy to Enter*

"In his debut memoir, *Gonville*, Peter Birkenhead breezily performs some of the most challenging creative magic. He mines insight from confusion, turns tragedy into comedy, and darkness into light. In the greatest trick of all, he turns the pain of his childhood into reading pleasure. It's a major accomplishment."

—Evan Handler, actor

(*Sex and the City*; *Californication*) and author (*Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors*; *It's Only Temporary: The Good News and the Bad News of Being Alive*)

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY 551X

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Gonville A Memoir English Edition

Peter Birkenhead



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