



# Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir

*Roz Chast*

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**Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir** Roz Chast

**#1 *New York Times* Bestseller**

**2014 National Book Award Finalist**

**Winner of the inaugural 2014 Kirkus Prize in nonfiction**

**Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award**

**Winner of the 2014 Books for a Better Life Award**

**Winner of the 2015 Reuben Award from National Cartoonists Society**

In her first memoir, *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, and a narrative as rife with laughs as it is with tears, Chast's memoir is both comfort and comic relief for anyone experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents.

While the particulars are Chast-ian in their idiosyncrasies--an anxious father who had relied heavily on his wife for stability as he slipped into dementia and a former assistant principal mother whose overbearing personality had sidelined Roz for decades--the themes are universal: adult children accepting a parental role; aging and unstable parents leaving a family home for an institution; dealing with uncomfortable physical intimacies; and hiring strangers to provide the most personal care.

An amazing portrait of two lives at their end and an only child coping as best she can, *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant* shows the full range of Roz Chast's talent as cartoonist and storyteller.

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