



Rickles' Book: A Memoir

Don Rickles , David Ritz

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Why you need to buy RICKLES' Book immediately: RICKLES' BOOK will help you win friends and influence people.

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RICKLES' BOOK will make you cry. (If your love life doesn't improve.)

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RICKLES' BOOK will make you rich. (If you treasure great humor.)

Rickles' Book: A Memoir Details

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Author : Don Rickles , David Ritz

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From Reader Review Rickles' Book: A Memoir for online ebook

Craig Stock says

Very fast read

The stories are entertaining and funny. As with most great books, I'm sad it's over. I could read another 20 chapters.

Blog on Books says

Hey, Hockey Puck! What ya readin'? Can't you hear him now? For 50 years, Don Rickles has made people laugh, mostly by making fun of them and often venturing into territory no man in his right mind would go. In 'Rickles' Book' (he couldn't come up with a title), the man chronicles his life from his early days in Brooklyn taking any jobs he could get as an entertainer (bar mitzvahs and weddings were the mainstays back then) to his slow-but-steady rise to fame in the clubs of New York, Miami, Hollywood and eventually Las Vegas.

Along the way, this 'King of Zing' rubbed shoulders and performed with many of the greats of comedy, TV and the movies. His escapades with everyone from Clark Gable to Jackie Gleason in the 50's and 60's, to guys like Johnny Carson and even Ronald Reagan in the 70's and 80's, make for a colorful collection of stories. The most heartfelt ones are reserved for his mother, Etta, who managed to maneuver 'the Great Summit' in Miami, where she convinced Dolly Sinatra to have her boy Frank check out Don's act while the two were booked in the same city for several weeks. Sinatra and Rickles ended up becoming life-long buddies and Rickles' stories of Frank in Vegas and Palm Springs make for enjoyable, lighthearted reading.

With the passing of a generation of guys like Hope, Berle, Carson, Parr, the Rat Pack and the others referenced in the book, Rickles is certainly one of the last remaining connections to the most famous era of the classic American comedian. That, and his self-revealing story, are what make this book a special read.

Sam says

This should've been SO MUCH BETTER. Avoid it! Even if you're a fan of this sardonic windbag. He's still a hero of mine, but the guy who convinced him to chop up his life into attention deficit sized bites should be punched in the nuts. Each chapter is just another clever little one to three page anecdote. Not really a thorough memoir, as such. This guy's life could fill THREE books if done right. Instead, I'm left with tiny snippets that don't quite satisfy my hunger for stories of Rickles. How can you ignore your brilliant work on GILLIGAN'S ISLAND, Rickles? How?

I guess I should've just glanced through it at Barnes & Noble before ordering on Amazon. That'll teach me.

Shannon says

okay, i've been a MODERATE fan of rickles...meaning i saw him guest-star on my beloved childhood favorite tv show "gilligan's island" as a big-mouth kidnapper. rickles is an insult comic. you have to get that in order to get the book. it's a very snappish, honest narrative about the life of a performer back in the days of railroad trains, variety shows, and a skinny frank sinatra, with whom he's rubbed elbows on more than one occasion.

to be honest, i think watching an interview of don rickles promoting the book on the jay leno show is far more beneficial than actually reading the whole thing. there are parts where you'd go..."okay, and THIS guy thought he'd write an autobiography about THIS?" know what i mean? not a bad read, but if you have a stack of pending books, i suggest putting rickles on the backburner, if not clearly off the stove in the first place.

Donald says

I said, "Doc, ya gotta help me! I keep thinking about suicide!" He said, "here, take Rickles' book. Another patient said it really helped him in the note he left."

poiboy says

My dad loved Don Rickles. Most people born of the greatest generation did. And I can see why. Don Rickles was a clever performer and performed in a way that every night would be different, because he played the crowd.

And Don Rickles was a kind and very caring person. Even comics today love him. Any even though his schtick was difficult in the PC generation, he still was respected.

This book lets you see behind the act and the schtick. You get to know the stories (all in one place) from the man himself. In a time where glamour was real (unlike now) and people understood hard work.. Don had class, creativity and a great circle of talented friends that loved his work ethic.

Don Rickles will be missed along with the greats that have passed. And although I wish I could have seen him perform live, this book was a really nice consolation.

Chris Witt says

You won't get anything out of this book that you couldn't get by reading or watching an interview with Rickles. Once you remove all the blank pages, this comes out to be about 100 pages long. It's just a series of 2- and 3-page segments that tell stories from his life, but it's not particularly illuminating. If you see it at a dollar store, feel free to pick it up. Otherwise, watch him on Letterman. The old man is still sharp and does a good job when he's on with Dave. If you'd rather watch him on Leno, there's a good chance that you have no

sense of humor and therefore wouldn't be interested in this book in the first place.

Max Jones says

I wanted more. The bit about all the comedians in trench coats was good, but it definitely could have used more CPO Sharkey anecdotes.

Sara says

Lately, I've been watching a ton of the old Dean Martin celebrity roasts. And whenever Rickles appears, I look forward to his monologue. In these roasts, he is very aggressive with his humor, but when he gets sentimental/sincere, it's flabbergasting! These moments made me curious about his life and I quickly devoured this book in a single sitting.

This book is very short, especially considering the career that Rickles had, and I feel that so much more could have been said. Basically, this is a brief outline of his life/career, and I would like to find out more. His voice came through really strong and it did feel like he was narrating the book to me as I read it. His humor didn't have the same aggression that it usually has, so if you're not a fan of his due to that, you might enjoy this book. I really looked forward to the snippets of Sinatra (I'm a huge HUGE Sinatra fan) and I gobble up all information on him.

Overall, this was good. If you want easy book that will make you laugh out loud at times, this will do it.

Daniel says

Sometimes the angels punish us by answering our prayers.

Andy says

One of the first records I owned was "Hello Dummy" by Don Rickles, an acidic attack on every minority to ever walk the earth, and it was devastatingly funny. Rickles' Book is a lot like that, quick, short and funny. I liked the sections dealing with his humble beginnings performing at strip clubs and his wild episodes acting in exploitation films like The Man With The X-Ray Eyes and the Beach Party film series. Unfortunately the last third of the book collapses when he turns the book into his gushing memoirs of Frank Sinatra, who at best comes off here as an overage Frat Boy with a Napoleonic complex.

Phil Melcher says

It's no secret to those close to me that I think Don Rickles is by far the greatest stand-up act ever. Name me

one other act who could put both big name stars like Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope on the same plateau as Jim from Nebraska visiting Las Vegas for the first time? Don's insult humor was always done with a bit of warmth...in fact it may be why Johnny Carson really did refer to Don as "Mr. Warmth". This is a charming book written by Don Rickles that recalls his early days the son of Max and Etta Rickles (both of whom he speaks warmly of) and how he went from a young dramatic actor to a WWII veteran with the U.S. Navy to Las Vegas attraction to comedy legend. Along the way there are stories of Don working on films with big names like Clark Gable, dinners with Jack Benny, failed TV shows, guest appearances with Johnny Carson, hanging out with Bob Newhart and staying over at Frank Sinatra's house. It's a wonderful look at a guy who no matter what he says to you on stage doesn't really mean any harm and you may even walk out of the casino thinking you struck it rich interacting with him.

Mr. Kovach says

"Oh, that's okay, father. Frank wouldn't mind. I leaned on him my whole life." - Rickles to a priest at Sinatra's funeral when the Father pointed out that Rickles was leaning on the coffin

A fun, breezy, but revealing autobiography of one of my favorite comics ever. It's a series of short vignettes about his life, from boyhood to struggling comic, to enormous success. Very interesting and nostalgic (probably only for long-time Rickles fans like me). I never knew he was from Jackson Heights, Queens, never knew just how he got his breaks in the business, where he honed his craft, how important Sinatra was to his career, how much he loved his Mom, and lots of other stuff about him. An insult comic, but in reality, a sweet and loving family man. I remember seeing him so many times on the Dean Martin Roasts and he always slayed me (now I watch on youtube!).

Chris says

Zingers! And quick stories of stars. Nothing earth-shattering, just a quick satisfying and warm-hearted read recalling his best days. Have a smartphone nearby, some of the references of old places deserve at least a Wikipedia check. By the way, the reviewers who grade this book like it should measure against a Pulitzer are dorks. it's a memoir by a quick witted comedian. What were you expecting, Proust?

Greg says

Rickles' memoir was an easy read and quite fascinating. Though the book isn't all that thick it is filled with bits of Rickles' that allow the reader to check under the hood and see what makes this man run. I expected a wise-ass abrasive commentary on life but what I got was an outline of the times and how Rickles' life fed into it all. I also learned bits about Sinatra who was an integral part of Rickles' life, events others would either dare not mention or approach in a trashy tell-all journalistic manner. Rickles' just lays out the facts even if distasteful, in a matter-of-fact no holds bared, bullet points on life approach. Then in the next sentence he'll immediately follow-up stating his love for the man quirks and all. Some insight into the early showbiz scene in Miami as well. This book was a fun read.
