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Official Book Club Selection



Synopsis

A Conversation with Kathy Griffin:Q: State your name and profession.KG: My name is Kathy Griffin, and I am a teller of d**k jokes. And a plumber.Q: This is your first book. Had you ever considered writing anything before? A novel? Or a work of historical scholarship? Or a children's story?KG: I had not considered it, because I'd always been told by the nuns at St. Bernadine's that my cursive was poor. A children's story is an interesting idea. How's this for a title: "Waterboarding Pre-Teens: The Debate is Back On." I have a political side as well.Q: You seem fairly obsessed with Oprah. Is this something you'll ever outgrow?KG: I will never outgrow my obsession with Oprah. Just as she will never outgrow her cardigan sweaters. Oops, she already has. Now look, that sounds like a dig, but it's not. It's called a struggle, and I'm on it with her. I support her. (Not as much as she needs those underwire bras to support her, because she's got some serious ropes and pulleys going on there.) The point is, I worship her, and fear her at the same time. And believe me, that's how she wants it. Don't be fooled.Q: Did I miss something? Where's Celine Dion in this book?KG: I didn't write about Celine Dion, only because of my fear of her husband Rene Angelil. I have an unfounded but constant fear that he could be in the French-Canadian mafia. Or have French-Canadian mafia ties, and by ties I don't mean les cravats. And I fear that I may be abducted, whisked away and held prisoner at a charming little brasserie in Montreal, forced to eat multiple Croque Monsieur sandwiches until I confess to knowing the lyrics to every single one of her songs.Q: What do you think gays should take away from reading this book?KG: I think the gays should be happy with this book. It talks a lot about being who you are, and I certainly mention a lot of gay people. I would say it definitely has strong gay themes, and the gay community should know that frankly it has been a moral struggle for me to even acknowledge the heterosexual community in this book at all. But I am slowly reaching out an olive branch to the heterosexual community, even though I believe everything they do goes against the teachings of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But I'm trying not to judge them.Q: Describe your ideal, make-a-wish day of personal experiences with bats**t celebrities.KG: Well, it would start with some sort of a fit in the hair-and-makeup trailer on a set. I heard a story that when Sharon Stone was working on "Casino," she got into such a fight with her hairdresser, that after he spent four hours doing this beautiful bouffant hairdo for her, she got up and walked in the sink and put her head underwater. I have no idea if that's true, but I hope it is, cause that's some awesome s**t I would love to see. Then it would go right to lunch, where I could witness an eating disorder. Maybe a Lohan is purging in a bush somewhere with her finger down her throat. Or perhaps there's an Olsen twin on a scale crying because she finally tipped 100. Any outburst over weight I would cherish. Also, it would be great to see an actress have a workload meltdown. So

maybe at 2:00 some A-lister saying, "I can't handle this s**t anymore." Because I love when actors can't deal with a normal workday, and they think two in the afternoon is like midnight, so I would love to see somebody storming to their car, exhausted because they've put in a grueling four-hour workday of saying three lines and texting their nanny. Then it's maybe off to an illicit affair. At the top of my wish list would be following a rapper or a football player over to his baby mama's house where a screaming match ensues to the point where someone, maybe me, has to anonymously dial 911, and then I take a couple pictures, and I become an unannounced star witness later at the trial, entering Joan Collins-style in a smashing hat. And then at the end of the day it's a healthy round of clubbing with Janice Dickinson, and then on the way home we go to the Beverly Glen pharmacy and run into Paula Abdul. All three of us secretly take our small white-paper pharmacy bags and put them behind our backs and make uncomfortable small talk. Official Book Club Selection is Kathy Griffin unplugged, uncensored, and unafraid to dish about what really happens on the road, away from the cameras, and at the star party after the show. (It's also her big chance to score that coveted book club endorsement she's always wanted. Are you there, Oprah? It's me, Kathy.) Kathy Griffin has won Emmys for her reality show *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*, been nominated for a Grammy, worked and walked every red carpet known to man, and rung in the New Year with Anderson Cooper. But the legions of fans who pack Kathy's sold-out comedy shows have heard only part of her remarkable story. Writing with her trademark wit, the feisty comic settles a few old scores, celebrates the friends and mentors who helped her claw her way to the top, and shares insider gossip about celebrity behavior—the good, the bad, and the very ugly. She recounts the crazy ups and downs of her own career and introduces us to some of the supertalented people she encountered before they got famous (or, in some cases, after fame went to their heads). Word to the wise: If you've ever crossed Kathy Griffin at some point in your life, check the index for your name. Along the way, Kathy reveals intimate details about her life before and after she made the big time. She opens up about everything from growing up with a dysfunctional family in suburban Illinois to bombing as a young comedian in L.A., from her well-publicized plastic surgery disasters to her highly publicized divorce, and more. Only in this book will you learn how the dinner table is the best training ground for a career in stand-up, how speaking your mind can bite you on the ass and buy you a house, and which people in Kathy's life have taught her the most valuable lessons—both inside and outside the entertainment industry. And as if all that wasn't enough, there are also dozens of exclusive and somewhat embarrassing photos from Kathy's own collection—featuring the diva of the D List herself, with her old nose as well as her new one, plus celebrity friends, foes, frenemies, and hangers-on for you to gawk at. Refreshingly candid, unflinchingly honest, and full of

hilarious "Did she really say that?" moments, Official Book Club Selection will make you laugh until you cry, or just puke up a little bit. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well, I bought Kathy's book yesterday and I stayed up all night reading it. Yes, I am a big fan of hers and so perhaps I am a little biased but why would you even be looking at this book if you weren't a fan of hers? She successfully walks the line between serious autobiography and comedic book. Parts of it will rip your heart out while others will make you laugh out loud. I can't say that I love her more now than I did before but I do understand her a bit more. I can't wait to see her live again. Since she talks so much in her act about her celebrity encounters don't expect any amazing revelations there. There were a few new stories (Steve Martin etc.) but for the most part it really chronicles her entire life and career and shows how hard she worked and the insanity she put up with to get to where she is now. Great stories about her early years with the Groundlings and her friends Phil Hartman, Jon Lovitz, Lisa Kudrow, Julia Sweeney, Jeaneane Garofolo, Margaret Cho and more. You are going to learn where and why she has the work ethic that she does. She never sold out, she did do it all her way. I loved the book, like I said I read it in about 6 hours cover to cover. My only complaint is that there were no color pictures in the book like most typical biographies. Also as an ex Los Angelino it was nice to hear her talking about my old stomping grounds in West Hollywood and her adventures there. I also jumped on the back of a bike at the Carl's Jr on La Brea and Santa Monica OMG!!! Wonder if we banged the same guy!! HAH!! BUY

THE BOOK!!!

According to Kathy Griffin, I must be a minority in her fan base, as I'm a straight, married man. Despite this handicap, I've been a fan of My Life on the D List, and Kathy Griffin, since the first season. Official Book Club Selection is definitely for fans of KG. If you've never seen the show, or are familiar with Kathy, then you'll probably feel lost reading it. But, if you are a fan, there's a lot to like about the book. One of the things that I admire about Kathy is that she doesn't pull any punches. Her life is out there for all to see, she seems like she'd be fun to hang out with, and she's genuinely funny. The book, (even more than the show), is an inside look at what makes Kathy, uh, Kathy. She writes about growing up Griffin, about the criticisms and closed doors that she faced in Hollywood, about finding, and then losing, love, and about getting the recognition that she has craved, (and deserves), in Hollywood. Hollywood is so full of talent-less, "beautiful people," that it's nice to see someone real make it. And she definitely paid her dues along the way. The only parts of the book that disappointed me were the last two chapters. One is supposedly re-printing email exchanges with Steve Wozniak, and the other is about Kathy's day with Paris Hilton, and how she's now labeled as having a "bangin' bikini bod." The Wozniak chapter was just lame and the Hilton chapter felt rushed. To recap, if you're a fan of Kathy Griffin, you'll dig the book. If not, you probably want to skip it and read Oprah's book of the month instead.

For anyone unfamiliar with Kathy Griffin, I say check this book out right now! She has a caustic style of humor that is just raw enough for these stressful, serious times (and she gets bonus points for her socio-political stance). Like a cross between a young Joan Rivers and a chihuahua hopped up on Ritalin, Griffin hammers at everything sacred, cool, or trendy in a way that makes you think long and hard while you laugh out loud. Seriously, this book made me laugh until I peed my pants. I'm putting it on my "favorites" shelf alongside David Sedaris Talk Pretty Me Talk Pretty One Day, the Twilight series, and Chelsea Goldstein's hit new book Hook-up Chronicles Hook-Up Chronicles. I've followed Kathy Griffin since I saw the movie Shakes the Clown Shakes the Clown, and I've been laughing ever since.

First of all, I have to say that if you do not think that Kathy Griffin is funny then you will not like the book- don't bother reading it. Having said that, if you think that she is hilarious- (which I do) then I think you will love this book. I was pleasantly surprised that most of the book wasn't about dick jokes and celebrities- it was about her life- her childhood, her relationship with her family, her very slow

starting career. Kathy gets very honest and personal with many aspects of her life- from her brother's life to her divorce from her husband. It was a quick read, where I felt I got to know another side of the comedian I love so much. And, there is some very interesting celebrity dirt that I have not heard her say- which I found to be quite entertaining! :-)

So, someone gave me this book as a joke. I happen to get stuck waiting for an hour for an appointment and it was all I had handy. Rolling my eyes, I decide I'll give it a shot. I open the book up to where she talks about her brother Kenny and was really moved. Ok, look, I'm the type of person who loves biography. I want a book to give me an insight to a person and why they do what they do. On this account the book totally succeeds! Griffin has a clear voice and readable writing style. Is she gonna win a Pulitzer for this? Ah, no. (Sorry, Kathy.) But, some of her chapters are good enough to have been printed in the New York Times or the New Yorker. Color me pleasantly surprised, Ms. Griffin.

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