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I Must Say: My Life As A Humble Comedy Legend



Synopsis

In this engagingly witty, wise, and heartfelt memoir, Martin Short tells the tale of how a showbiz-obsessed kid from Canada transformed himself into one of Hollywood's favorite funnymen, known to his famous peers as the "comedian's comedian". Martin Short takes you on a rich, hilarious, and occasionally heartbreaking ride through his life and times, from his early years in Toronto as a member of the fabled improvisational troupe Second City to the all-American comic big time of Saturday Night Live and memorable roles in movies such as *Three Amigos!* and *Father of the Bride*. He reveals how he created his most indelible comedic characters, among them the manic man-child Ed Grimley, the slimy corporate lawyer Nathan Thurman, and the bizarrely insensitive interviewer Jiminy Glick. Throughout, Short freely shares the spotlight with friends, colleagues, and collaborators, including Steve Martin, Tom Hanks, Gilda Radner, Mel Brooks, Nora Ephron, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Paul Shaffer, and David Letterman. But there is another side to Short's life that he has long kept private. He lost his eldest brother and both of his parents by the time he turned 20, and, more recently, he lost his wife of 30 years to cancer. In *I Must Say*, Short talks for the first time about the pain that these losses inflicted and the upbeat life philosophy that has kept him resilient and carried him through. In the grand tradition of comedy legends, Martin Short offers a show business memoir densely populated with boldface names and rife with re-tellable tales: a hugely entertaining yet surprisingly moving self-portrait that will keep you laughing - and crying - from the first page to the last. Special Lyrics for "It's The Most Wonderful Show of the Year" and "Picture-Perfect Christmas In The Palisades" by Martin Short, Marc Shaiman, and Scott Wittman; Special Lyrics for "Marty Throws a Party Just to Sing" by Marc Shaiman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Get the audio book!! Oh, give me a break, what a wonderful performance by Marty, and that's no lie. Can I call him Marty? I suppose if we were best friends, I could call him Marty. Oh and I suppose that would ever happen! This book made me completely mental, I was so sad when the book finished and there was nothing more to listen to, it was similar to a pain that may linger, I must say. Seriously though, Martin Short reads this and he goes into character many times throughout the book, that is why the audio book would be better. I'm sure the printed version is funny, but the audio version must be funnier.

Martin Short is comprised of the funniest stuff in our solar system. The book reads marvelously, like he's sitting next to you telling all of these fantastic show biz anecdotes. My favorite part is the insider report from SCTV, just the best comedy show ever. He explains how his characters came to be - a laugh from this person, a voice from that one, a soup of Old Hollywood, et voila! Genius. Somehow I knew going in that he lost his wife, Nancy. This would be difficult for anyone, but the prospect of Short being sad is almost as sad as Ed Grimley being sad. But the way he weaves her quips and attitude throughout I Must Say shows the reader that she's still very present, that as long as he's here, she's here as well. Even in the sadness there's an undercurrent of joy that comes through. Short and his long-time friends - like his SCTV alums, or Paul Schaffer, Tom Hanks, and Steve Martin, - seem a happy, even at times goofball, troupe going through life, laughing and making each other laugh. A really nice read.

Poignant and hilarious, and I couldn't put it down. He's had a charmed life, with what seems like a wonderful family and great friends. It was fabulous to read about him. I'm a huge fan. As an 8 year old girl I was obsessed with SCTV and all things Martin Short, still am. Interesting to see how he dealt with the stress and pressure of a performer's life, how he worked to remain positive all the while. I can apply it to my life as well! So thanks for that Mr. Short. The parts about his wife and her illness were heartbreaking but so beautiful. It's up there with George Carlin and Steve Martin's autobiographies.

I rarely bother with autobiographies, especially those by celebrities; they can be exercises in self-aggrandizement and navel-gazing, or shameless exercises in name-dropping and gossip, scandal-raising betrayal. Being a long-time fan of Mr Short and his work, I made an exception, and am glad of it. The optimism one might expect from Martin Short pervades throughout the ups and downs of his life, without ever seeming overly sentimental. His discussion of his privileged but unspoiled (no sense of entitlement suggested) navigation of a youth marked by significant loss builds empathy from the reader, yet doesn't solicit pity. Information he shares about well-known friends is dished up with warmth and appreciation, and enough personal details are given to keep up readers' interest, but not so intimate that they'll feel the need to shower afterward. Especially poignant are the passages about Nancy, the love of his life. I lost track of the number of times I laughed aloud while reading, and will admit to having shed a few tears, as well. I was sorry to see the book come to a close.

Martin Short's memoir is a very likable and touching account of his life thus far. From his humble, somewhat tragic (due to the loss of two immediate family members) beginnings in a suburban Canadian home, where he put on shows in his bedroom, to his growth as a comic and actor in first Toronto, then the U.S., this is a gentle, funny and philosophical read. His remarkable marriage to his wife Nancy is always described as a joyful, playful and stimulating union, and her comparatively early death in 2010 brings a sorrowful, but hopeful, end to the story. One particularly enjoyable and revealing episode describes how, when they had a disagreement, Nancy would summon the mentally challenged Ed Grimley to solve the argument, and he somehow would have the exact right thing to say to clear things up. Martin Short, as one would expect, knows everyone, and is quite close to many of the bigger names in show business (Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell, Steve Martin and his wife Ann, to name a few, and of course the Second City Toronto crew of Gilda Radner, John Candy, Andrea Martin, et al), so we read about some riotous times involving them. (He actually dated Radner, which he describes as fairly bombastic. She brought a lot of insecurities to the relationship.) When they found they couldn't have children, he and his wife adopted three, and it's clear that they were spectacular and loving parents. There is occasionally a sense of regret in his prose, one that wishes he had gotten more recognition, or work, or something. At one point, he bemoans that fact that his career "almost" took off. I'm not sure how anyone could say that Martin Short does not have a successful career, but he is saying it sometimes. Many of his endearing characters - and there are dozens - put in an appearance in the memoir, and are always welcome reminders of his fertile imagination and sweet nature.

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