



Here's Johnny!: My Memories of Johnny Carson, The Tonight Show, and 46 Years of Friendship

Ed McMahon

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Ed McMahon is the only person who was with Johnny Carson, even before The Tonight Show, when they both first appeared on Who Do You Trust. Now, with Johnny's blessing before he died, McMahon can finally share all the stories that only he knows. From the sofa at Johnny's right to backstage to their personal relationship - McMahon will provide a real view of the man who was so careful to only show one side of himself to the public. Brilliant in front of the camera, but shy in person, Carson seldom gave interviews. Only McMahon can tell the stories and provide the insights into the personality that made Johnny Carson more of a friend we invited into our home than a television star.

Here's Johnny!: My Memories of Johnny Carson, The Tonight Show, and 46 Years of Friendship Details

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From Reader Review Here's Johnny!: My Memories of Johnny Carson, The Tonight Show, and 46 Years of Friendship for online ebook

Jennifer says

Twenty years ago Johnny Carson said goodbye to The Tonight Show. That prompted me to pick up this book and the Carson DVDs from the library.

I did appreciate some of the behind-the-scenes stories, but there weren't enough to be a "Johnny agreed that I could write this book" kind of book.

I think I'm being generous when I say that I think Ed watched the DVDs before writing the book as well, because almost all of his "memories" came from those carefully selected clips! You mean to tell me in 30 years, you didn't have some other favorites, Ed?

In some cases, he got stuff wrong! Like the name of Johnny's "girlfriend back in Nebraska, Jeanna Statutory." Or at least, that's what it's supposed to be. Ed has a different but similar name. Ed, if her name isn't statutory, the joke isn't funny!

Also, the book is just poorly written. Like a stream of consciousness. Ed's other book, For Laughing Out Loud: My Life and Good Times, is far superior. That's probably because he had help on that book and apparently not on this one.

This was a disappointing book. But if you're longing for the good old days of Johnny and Ed and Doc, it might help you get your "fix".

Cathy M. Neal says

Great Memories

What a wonderful tribute to Johnny Carson. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoyed The Tonight Show. It was told by Ed McMahon & all the memories they shared. Thank you for those memories.

Bev says

I bought this book several years ago, probably when it first came out, but I was never in the mood to read Ed McMahon's reminiscences about Johnny Carson. Then it showed up on Audible.com as an audio book, read by McMahon, and it was on sale. I bought it and listened to it during car rides. For someone who has made his whole life in radio and television, McMahon is a TERRIBLE reader. However, the audio book has more fun stuff like music, and McMahon's unmistakable "Heeeeeer's Johnny," which you can only imagine in the book. There is lots of fun stuff in it, but I just wish McMahon were talented enough to make it SOUND fun instead of stilted. However, his love for his friend Johnny is unmistakable and you do get a bit more intimate

portrait of this very private man.

mama/patty says

I enjoyed this book. Was it stimulating? No. Was it a biography of Johnny Carson? No. Was it hold your side funny – as Johnny and Ed were together? No. Was it a great trip through memory lane for someone who enjoyed watching the Tonight Show before falling asleep? Yes, very much so.

I think if one is old enough to remember the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon and enjoyed the interaction between these two legendary men, this book would be a good way to pass the time. Ed tells of some of the little secrets and call backs they used to either crack the other up or to calm the other down.

There was some reparation in the stories and some place I wished Ed had told a little more of a particular story. All in all though this is a sweet book of sweet memories from a man who loved his boss and a dear friend a great deal and misses him a lot.

Farrah says

The overall feeling I got while reading this was warmth at Ed McMahon's loyalty. But, let's be honest, it's an Ed McMahon autobiography of a Johnny Carson biography. FML

Richard says

Rememberance by Ed McMahon of his 30 plus years working with Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show and before. Written in a gentle, readable style about incidents both public and private shared by Johnny and Ed. Johnny was a bit risque at times but still enjoyable. I didn't watch many of the Tonight shows but I did enjoy it when I did. The following is a quote from Ed about Johnny's interview style: "Johnny. . .was genuinely curious, listened carefully to every word said to him, and then moved in precisely the right direction. He was a remarkable blend of amused observer and participant too, one of the few hosts who actually read the books of writers who came to the show. In fact, his talks with guests were so good that I had to change my own preparation for the show."

Barnard Madsen says

Used to watch religiously with my parents growing up. Fun to look behind the curtain in his straight man's memoir.

Evan says

20 cents at Half Price Books. Nuff said.

Well, what the heck, started reading this because I'm in the mood for light and puff. Too many novels lately of women going crazy from frustration, killing people or being killed were wearing me down a bit.

This chronicles the history of a famous and beloved TV show, but also McMahon's perceptions of Carson - not particularly deep and nearly all glowing. Ed sets out in every way he can to dispel the notion that Johnny Carson was a complete prick, and yet the more he praises him the more I think Carson was a prick. Methinks he doth protest too much.

It's a love letter to a dead man; Ed isn't about to kiss and tell here, but we do get some flavor of Carson on and off set, though all of his bad moments are either excused or ignored. But, this was a fascinating era of showbiz, and there's much behind-the-scenes flavor, even if McMahon's prose is less than stellar. This is a breeze to read.

As I read about the early days of the show, it reminds me of that nagging consternation I have about NBC erasing all the videotapes of Carson's "The Tonight Show" prior to the early 1970s, because "they were taking up space" or some such. All that electric showbiz history lost. That burns me.

UPDATE: Page 150.

OK OK, Ed is wearing me down a little. I don't mean the book isn't interesting, but I mean he's making me understand Carson a bit and winning me over to his point of view a little. I have more sympathy for Johnny.

Lots of great comedic moments I'd forgotten about are related here, and one in particular that reminds us how advanced a comic thinker Carson was, even in a mere bit of slapstick -- the famed moment when Burt Reynolds pulled open Carson's pants and shot a spray of canned Cool Whip down his crotch:

"...Johnny grabbed the can and I expected him to put a similar topping on Burt's undershorts. Instead, however, Johnny again proved himself a master of the unexpected by squirting more whipped cream into his own shorts and then smiling in contentment. Every other comedian would have squirted Reynolds; but Johnny again proved his originality..."

For those who lived during the time of this show and enjoyed it, this book provides a nice nostalgia buzz.

John G. says

This is a light, quick read and is the first positive and warm-spirited account I've read about Johnny Carson and The Tonight Show. Still amazes me the power and popularity Carson had with that show and that Carson was one of the most influential comedians of all time. This really was an ode of affection by a loving friend and loyalist, these guys were real friends. There was no airing of dirty laundry here, but I did glean insight into some of the more humane aspects of Johnny, and of Ed too. I'm glad I picked this book up, helped provide a more balanced perspective and also provided evidence of Carson's keen wit.

Miladylc says

I Enjoyed this book as well

Denise says

Quick and easy read, wonderfully heartwarming. My first years of insomnia were eased by The Tonight Show. Though I was too young to understand all the jokes, there wasn't an episode I didn't enjoy. This book is a lovely tribute to a standup guy.

M says

I loved watching Johnny Carson when I was growing up. I could only last about the first half hour, however, since he was on at 10:30pm. While I didn't always understand the "inside" jokes, I always looked forward to Joan Embrey's animal menagerie or the latest up and coming comedian. Would Johnny invite him/her over to the couch? If he did, they were golden. I learned a few tidbits about Ed and Johnny's military service and their lifelong friendship. (P.S. Johnny was actually the heavy drinker.) While Ed's writing was a bit disjointed and a little scattered, he's the only one I could see who could pull back the multi-colored curtain and reveal some of what made Johnny Carson the genius that he was.

Rick says

This book is not very substantial and I frankly don't care. I loved it. It's fluffy, comic patois, recap, and it's wonderful. I think Sis Boom Bah says it all - <https://youtu.be/263eG7HfwBM>

Martin Such says

Interesting to see the tonight show with the best seat of the house.

Connie Powell says

here's ed.....

More of an adoration of a friend. Ed gave his best version of a description of a bestie! Not as juicy as i would have liked.....quick read.
