



Last Words

By George Carlin

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Last Words By George Carlin

Now in paperback, this posthumous work by an American classic was a fitting last book, an instant bestseller, and a huge success!

One of the undisputed heavyweight champions of American comedy, with nineteen appearances on the Johnny Carson show, thirteen HBO specials, five Grammys, and a critical Supreme Court battle over censorship under his belt, George Carlin saw it all throughout his extraordinary fifty-year career, and made fun of most of it. *Last Words* is the story of the man behind some of the most seminal comedy of the last half century, blending his signature acerbic humor with never-before-told stories from his own life, including encounters with a Who's Who of 1970s celebrity—from Lenny Bruce to Hugh Hefner—and the origins of some of his most famous standup routines. Carlin's early conflicts, his long struggle with substance abuse, his turbulent relationships with his family, and his triumphs over catastrophic setbacks all fueled the unique comedic worldview he brought to the stage. From the heights of stardom to the low points few knew about, *Last Words* is told with the same razor-sharp wit and unblinking honesty that made Carlin one of the best-loved comedians in American history.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

For more than a decade before his 2008 death, groundbreaking stand-up comedian Carlin had been working on his autobiography with writer Hendra (Father Joe), who finished it by distilling hours of conversations with the irascible social commentator. Armed with an eye for detail and a seemingly photographic memory, Carlin retraces his life in full, chronicling petty crimes and stolen kisses, escalating drug problems and the death of his wife with unflinching honesty. He applies that same precision to the mechanics of comedy, giving would-be comics a veteran's insight into the dynamics of crowds, the structure of a performance and the importance (or unimportance) of the social and political landscape. Tracing his evolution as a comedian from the first time he made his mother laugh to performing for an empty room in Baltimore to the series of HBO specials he made over the course of his career, Carlin peppers his narrative with the routines that have made him famous (though this is no gagfest, a la Brain Droppings, When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, etc.). Throughout, Carlin comes off as a smart, humble everyman with a strong distaste for hypocrisy in all its forms; fans may be surprised at his discipline and drive, and anyone interested in comedy should find this autobio as illuminating as it is funny.

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Review

"The book is at turns biting and touching, and often both, which is what you would expect from a man for whom the sacred was profane and the profane, sacred."

--"Entertainment Weekly"

. ."..frank and insightful..."

--"Time" magazine

"Seven particular words are associated with the late comedian George Carlin, and sentimental is not one of them. But that's the surprising portrait that emerges from "Last Words"."

--"Houston Chronicle"

"["Last Words"] sounds as if he is still with us, rested and ready to ridicule the latest cultural hypocrisies."

--"The Washington Times

"

"For comedy fans, this book is vital. It's easily worth its weight in gold for the biting observations on showbiz and its personalities."

--"San Francisco Chronicle"

"This is not a collection of setups and punch lines, but a candid, fearless accounting of his life and art..."Last Words" shows a comic master at the height of his storytelling powers and with no limit to what he had left to say."

-- "L.A. Times

"

""Last Words", a posthumous autobiography from George Carlin, is a jazzy, inward-looking piece of work...as a chronicler of the working of his own mind, Carlin is terrific."

-- "The New York Times"

.".what "Last Words" ultimately reveals is how Carlin became a political protester, slam poet, cynic, polemicist and performance artist whose messages were delivered under the veneer of humor."

-- "Washington Post"

About the Author

Born in New York City in 1937, George Dennis Patrick Carlin was one of the greatest and most influential stand-up comedians of all time. He appeared on "The Tonight Show" more than 130 times, starred in an unprecedented thirteen HBO Specials, hosted the first "Saturday Night Live" and penned three *New York Times* bestselling books. Of the twenty-three solo albums recorded by Mr. Carlin, eleven were Grammy nominated and he took home the coveted statue five times including a 2001 Grammy win for Best Spoken Comedy Album for his reading of his best seller *Brain Droppings*. In 2002, Carlin was awarded the "Freedom of Speech Award" by the First Amendment Center in cooperation with the US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colorado, and he was the named eleventh recipient of The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in June of 2008. George Carlin passed away at age seventy-one on June 22, 2008 in Santa Monica, California.

Tony Hendra was recently described by *The Independent of London* as "one of the most brilliant comic talents of the post-war period" He began his comedic career with *Graham Chapman of Monty Python*, appeared six times on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, was one of the original editors of *National Lampoon*, edited the classic parody *Not The New York Times*, starred in *This Is Spinal Tap*, and co-created and co-produced the long-running British satirical series *Spitting Image* for which he was nominated for a British Academy Award. He has written or edited dozens of books, most of them satirical, with the exception of two *New York Times* bestsellers: *Brotherhood* (2001) and *Father Joe* (2004). He is a senior member of the Board of the nation-wide story-telling community, *The Moth*.

Users Review

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