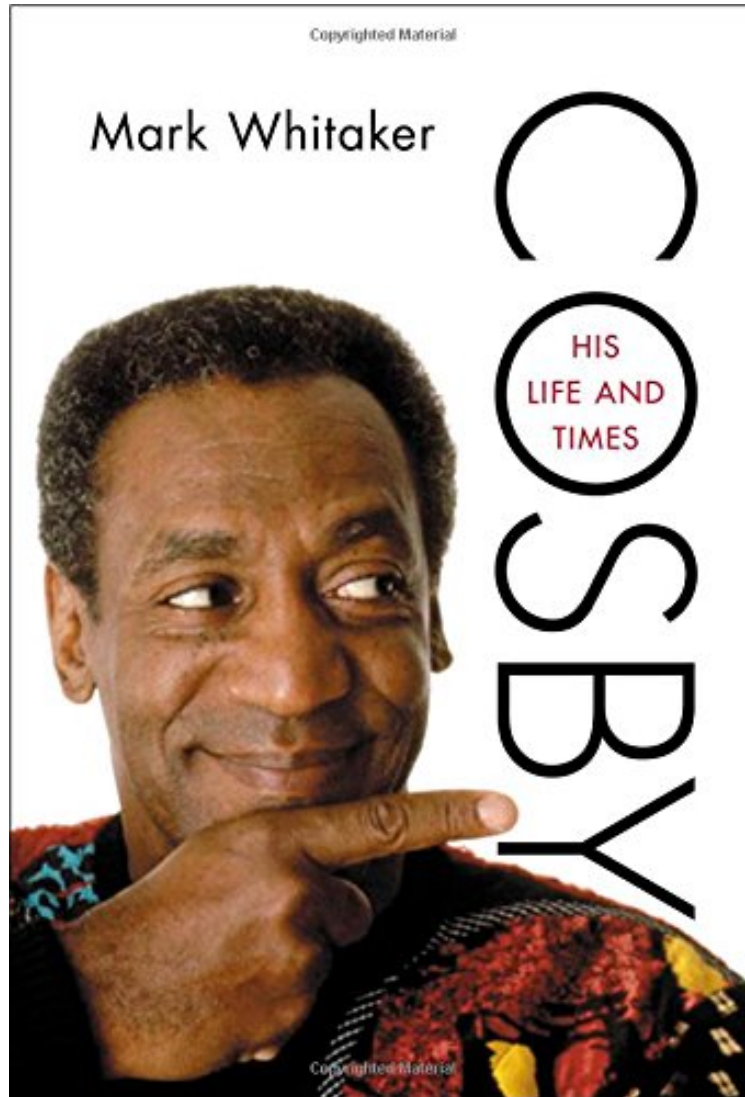


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## Cosby: His Life and Times

Mark Whitaker

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**Mark Whitaker : Cosby: His Life and Times** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cosby: His Life and Times:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read By LuckyMike Great read!! 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. ever disowned them and felt good about it like his wife By Joanne Fragher I found this book interesting. The book gave me some insight into Mr Bill Cosby. I use to have so much respect for this man but, after reading his book I realized he is a selfish, tightwad and full of himself. The way he, and his wife treated their daughter when she was addicted to drugs is shameful and a disgrace. I have children that are college educated, respected and hardworking. By the grace of God, and of course my input and hard work my children are successful adults. But, if

something had gone wrong I would've never, ever disowned them and felt good about it like his wife. And after finding out how much of pervert expressed. Th wifedeimpressed10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Patsy TaylorNot a good representation of Bill Cosby's life. Political

The first major biography of an American icon, comedian Bill Cosby. Based on extensive research and in-depth interviews with Cosby and more than sixty of his closest friends and associates, it is a frank, fun and fascinating account of his life and historic legacy. Far from the gentle worlds of his routines or TV shows, Cosby grew up in a Philadelphia housing project, the son of an alcoholic, largely absent father and a loving but overworked mother. With novelistic detail, award winning journalist Mark Whitaker tells the story of how, after dropping out of high school, Cosby turned his life around by joining the Navy, talking his way into college, and seizing his first breaks as a stand-up comedian. Published on the 30th anniversary of The Cosby Show, the book reveals the behind-the-scenes story of that groundbreaking sitcom as well as Cosbys bestselling albums, breakout role on I Spy, and pioneering place in childrens TV. But it also deals with professional setbacks and personal dramas, from an affair that sparked public scandal to the murder of his only son, and the private influence of his wife of fifty years, Camille Cosby. Whitaker explores the roots of Cosbys controversial stands on race, as well as the Cosby effect that helped pave the way for a black president. For any fan of Bill Cosbys work, and any student of American television, comedy, or social history, Cosby: His Life and Times is an essential read.

.com An Best Book of the Month, September 2014: Woody Allen famously said that only creators of serious works get to sit at the grown-ups table. Comedians, in his self-loathing view, were childish, lesser, not to be respected. Perhaps one of the greatest achievements of Mark Whitakers Cosby is how forcefully it disproves that notion. According to this detailed and generous account, Bill Cosby, for all his goofy faces, physical comedy, and earnest philosophizing, has done more to change cultural attitudes than just about any serious actor ever could. Whether at a Greenwich Village club that also showcased Bob Dylan, or on the beloved 1960s TV show, I Spy, or on his wildly successful eponymous sitcom (1984-92), Bill Cosby became what Whitaker calls entertainments Jackie Robinson, smashing racial barriers, teaching hard truths to the black community, leading the way. (Comics as diverse as Richard Pryor and Jerry Seinfeld have acknowledged their debt to Cosby.) Whitaker dutifully takes us through Cosbys life, from his youth in the Philadelphia projects, through his years at Temple University on a track scholarship, to unimaginable financial success and fame, to the tragic death of his only son and the complications of his 50+ year marriage to the elegant and stalwart Camille Cosby. But if some of the less savory parts of his historythe alleged womanizing and perfectionist temper tantrumsare a bit glossed over, the portrait that emerges here is of a guy who has worked tirelessly and earnestly to change the race conversation in this country, one silly bit at a time. Sara Nelson A smart, revealing biography of an iconic American funnyman. . . . A fascinating look at a complicated genius. (People)Whitakers wonderfully thorough biography of Americas most accomplished comedian provides context and depth as he analyzes Bill Cosbys work. (New York Times Book )Fluid, admiring, packed with detail and anecdotes. (Wall Street Journal)Invaluable . . . Whitaker makes a convincing argument that issues of race and politics have preoccupied Cosby throughout his life. (New Yorker)Whitakers clear-eyed, fair-minded and deftly written book takes up all the momentous stops of Cosbys lifes journey . . . by allowing us to see Cosbys tumultuous life in full, Whitakers book makes it possible to imagine Bill Cosby being regarded as one of the first prophets of what optimists of all colors believe will someday be a post-racial America. (USA TODAY)Absorbing . . . makes a persuasive case for Cosby as a groundbreaking comic and a quiet but far-ranging pioneer of black advancement. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))Readable, thoughtful life of the brilliant comedian and . . . an eye-opening book and a pleasure to read. (Kirkus s (starred review))Provides an in-depth look at the triumphs and tragedies of a man who has kept America laughing for decades. (New York Daily News)This is a compelling look at a man who has had a major impact on American race relations and television and whose Cosby effect helped prime the nation for its first black president. (Booklist (starred review))An insightful, well-researched exploration . . . a generous portrayal of a complicated yet ultimately compassionate man. (Minneapolis Star Tribune)Editors Picks (Ebony)Written with the entertainers cooperation, it is admiring but not fawning, honest but not lancing, with a narrative drive that matches the soaring arc of Cosbys career . . . [Whitaker] has a masterly command of detail . . . a must-read for the comedians fans, and a book that will reward anyone interested in comedy, television or the wellsprings of popular culture. (Cleveland Plain Dealer)A solid, well-researched reminder of Cosbys impact on the pop-culture landscape. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)Cosby: His Life and Times tells a quintessentially American tale of adversity and triumph, influence, betrayal andyeslots and lots of laughter. (Boston Globe)The book is at its strongest when the author puts Cosbys comedy and to education into a broad social and cultural context. (Washington Post)The biography examines the non-comedic side of Bill Cosby, and features interviews with 60 of his closest friends and associates. The author calls Cosby entertainments Jackie Robinson, smashing racial barriers and teaching hard truths to the black community. (Sacramento Bee)About the AuthorMark Whitaker is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir, My Long Trip Home, and Smoketown. The former managing editor of CNN Worldwide, he was previously the Washington bureau

chief for NBC News and a reporter and editor at Newsweek, where he rose to become the first African-American leader of a national newsweekly.