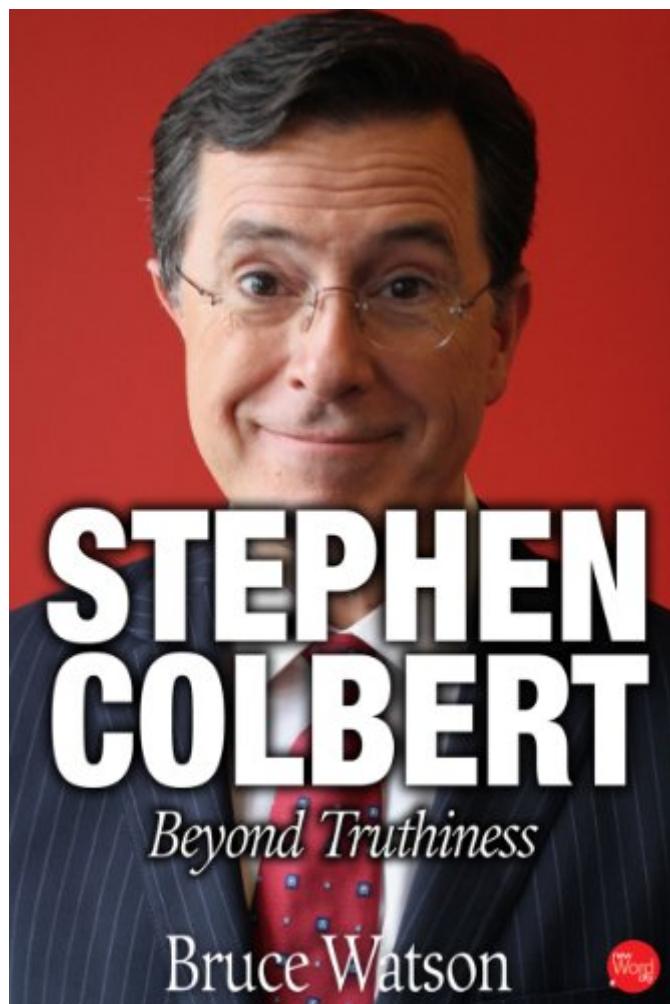


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Stephen Colbert: Beyond Truthiness



Synopsis

Stephen Colbert is far more than a comedian and improv genius. As head of his fanciful Colbert Nation, the quick-witted host of Comedy Central's The Colbert Report has delighted fans with his wit, audacity, and innovative uses of language and the media. In this biography, award-winning journalist Bruce Watson, author of Jon Stewart: Beyond the Moments of Zen, charts Colbert's rise from boyhood tragedy to "greatest living cultural/media critic."

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Customer Reviews

Well researched biography covers comedian Stephen Colbert's life from childhood up to leaving The Colbert Report and Comedy Central to go to CBS to replace David Letterman after he retired. The book doesn't get too personal, which may disappoint some readers: no very intimate details of Colbert's everyday life, no interviews with Colbert either so I presume this is an unauthorised biography. The book seems well researched about Colbert's childhood, and early career struggling to find his niche. Probably what is most surprising - given how successful he is today - is learning he

really wanted to be an actor, and spent years auditioning while taking work as the semi-straight man in comedy sketches mainly because he couldn't get hired playing dramatic roles. He really worked hard for years before things began to come together for him working on The Daily Show starting before Jon Stewart was hired, but hitting it off with Stewart almost immediately. Also, he never played the character on The Colbert Report prior to doing the show - even his character on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart was quite a different personality. He is a devoted family man who lives a scandal-free life, turning off his TV personality and leaving his work behind when he goes home. He's quite a generous philanthropist as well since making it big on The Colbert Report, which turned him into a millionaire. I enjoyed learning more about his life and Bruce Watson's narrative is easy to read. But don't read this expecting to get much behind-the-scenes reveals of sketches or other material that didn't make it into any show, or much about Colbert's personal life beyond his childhood interests which carried into adulthood. To be clear, I wasn't looking for dirt on Colbert, or intimate details of his sex life, but after finishing this book, I still have little idea what Colbert does for recreation when he's not working, how much he's traveled outside of work or whether he has any favorite places, favorite foods, does he watch other comedians other than Stewart, etc. Because, unfortunately, it appears Watson got his material from researching whatever biographical material is in the public domain but did not get an opportunity to sit down with Colbert for any interviews. It's also doesn't feel as if he personally interviewed anyone else. The book is well-written and researched so I can recommend it to anyone wanting to learn more about Stephen Colbert, but you may finishing it yearning to learn more. Hopefully, Colbert himself might one day write his autobiography and fill in some the blanks revealing his opinion about various things.

I am a great fan of Stephen Colbert and I bought this book to learn a bit more about the man behind the talk-show host. The author tells Mr. Colbert's story in about 130 pages and was written without support from Mr. Colbert himself. It is written from collected materials from interviews and publications over the years. It reads a bit like you have these documentaries on TV where in 1 hour someone's story is told with images and videos, but as light entertainment. But then without the videos and the images. Still I read a lot of things that I didn't know about Stephen Colbert and gives me a better picture about the man behind the talk-show host.

Very entertaining and informative read! Stephen Colbert is such a fascinating person and this gives such great insight into to his development.

The cynic in us all is in this everyman's unfinished biography. My simple rating here pales by comparison to the raves already written.

I came to the Colbert Report late, but this book makes me feel like I really know him, and I know he has saved my life with his humor. Great read!

Interesting but only 140 pages and very light as a Colbert biography.

If you like Stephen Colbert, this book will help you understand why. If not, read it for a better point of view.

Fun to read & very interesting info about this amazing man!

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