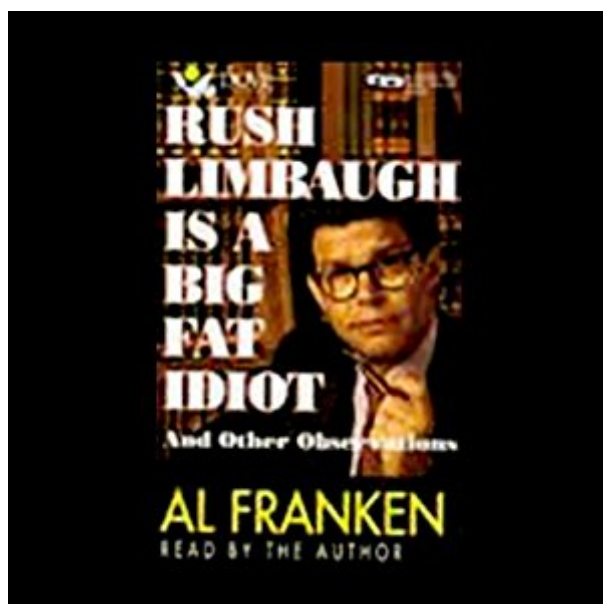


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Rush Limbaugh Is A Big Fat Idiot And Other Observations



Synopsis

In the grand satirical tradition of Swift, Rabelais, and Twain comes...Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot, and Other Observations...a scathing--but uncompromisingly fair--look at America's largest talk show host and the rest of the Republican right. Pennington Penned by the Emmy award-winning Saturday Night Live writer whom John Podhoretz of the New York Post has called "the man responsible for some of the most brilliant political satire of our time," Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot tackles the issues--and the politicians--in ways few have dared... Exploding Medicare Costs: "Why not shoot the elderly into space? Stay with me. Because I'm not just thinking about the budget here. I'm talking about science. Just think how many more manned space operations NASA could undertake if they didn't have to worry about getting the astronauts back." Crime: "I have a radical gun-buyback idea that I guarantee would be a huge success. Here's how it works: hand in a gun, get a free vial of crack." Newt Gingrich: "Many of us, like Newt, have acknowledged smoking dope and reading Toffler in the early 70s. But after reading his book, I think Newt's dirty little secret is that he smoked dope and watched The Jetsons." Phil Gramm: "If you get beyond the fact the Gramm is ugly, mean, hypocritical, has a boob fetish, and drives his wife like a mule, he does have a certain folksy charm." On the subject of Rush Limbaugh, Franken lets the facts speak for themselves. Listen to Rush, the "rugged individualist" and enemy of government handouts, explain how his second wife made him stop sitting around the house eating just food and go file for unemployment insurance. And learn all of Rush's several explanations for how he avoided the draft. Of course, when it comes to draft-dodging Republicans, Rush isn't alone. Reading Al's Vietnam short story, "Operation Chickenhawk," you'll savor the exploits of Privates Limbaugh, Gramm, Quayle, Buchanan, Gingrich, and George Will as Lieutenant Oliver North leads them kicking and screaming into combat. And don't miss Al's informative discussion with the man who has "the easiest job in America": Rush Limbaugh's fact-checker. And much, much more. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a diehard conservative, I am not supposed to like this book. I am also supposed to be a raving dittohead, horrified at any implication that perhaps Rush Limbaugh is not the best representative for my ideology. However, as a closer follower of George Will than Mr. Limbaugh, I still hold the capacity to be objective about things--and this book, despite its liberalism, is genuinely funny, and the dirty tricks employed by Franken to embarrass Rush are very clever. Only four stars because, come on, I still have my principles.

I read and thought it was funny. However, it prompted me to try to listen to Rush Limbaugh on the radio one time to see what Al Franken was talking about. As I did, it seemed Limbaugh was making more sense than Franken. The result was that now I listen to Limbaugh on the radio quite often. It seems the image created by Limbaugh's opponents and who he actually is are not accurate.

I am English, and picking up a random satirical political book from the shelf seemed like a good idea for learning a bit about American politics. And having a good time. I didn't like the title, because it is somewhat...confrontational. But between the covers of this aggressive book lay a very, very funny man. He combines an astute political sense with a level of indignant humanitarianism which allows him to put radical conservatives in a very bad light. Franken uses stats and figures to support his claims, but never attempts to pretend his book is any more than satire - slightly less political than P.J. O'Rourke, for example. Radical conservatives might struggle to enjoy this, but anyone with a sense of humour should be able to appreciate most of Franken's character portraits and, even better, anecdotes - for example, when he played with the President American football and made a play which won his team the game...but the President forbore to congratulate him. The quick prose is funny and witty...But...it does go a little far at times, and though I learned to share some of Franken's views on Rush Limbaugh, to whom I have never listened, I still thought some of the

writing went too far. It reassured me tremendously to read in Franken's "Why Not Me" that Limbaugh himself had bumped into him and instead of pummeling him had yelled - "hell of a book!". This, and grudging praise to men such as Bob Dole gives Franken a bit more depth than an out-and-out liberal satirist with no punches pulled.

Alan Stuart Franken (born 1951) is a United States Senator from Minnesota, and former writer and performer on "Saturday Night Live," as well as a political commentator, former Air America Radio host, and author of books such as *Lies & Lying Liars Who Tell Them* (03) by Franken, Al [Hardcover (2003)]. He wrote in the 1998 Preface to this 1996 book, "In the shadow of the whole Lewinsky scandal (I think the President f---d up very badly and that Kenneth Starr is a sick prig), it is important to remind ourselves how dishonest, misguided, and hypocritical the leaders of the Republican Revolution are and why they can't be allowed to run the country. This book is that reminder." He states, "So Newt Gingrich is a deadbeat dad who presented his first wife with terms for divorce while she was in the hospital recovering from cancer surgery. That's not the point of this piece. But it's fun to repeat." (Pg. 47) He observes, "It's funny how many hawkish Republicans didn't go (to Vietnam). Phil Gramm had student and teaching deferments; George Will had student deferments; Clarence Thomas was 4-F." (Pg. 56) He asserts, "Rush lies about a lot of stuff. Some of the lies I don't really hold against him. These are the ones where he's been on the air for an hour or so, and he's really on a roll... He's so far in the zone that he's left objective reality behind and entered this parallel universe where things are true because Rush wants them to be... Other lies bug me a lot. These are the rational, carefully constructed, deliberate lies of a man running a giant propaganda factory dedicated to two things: convincing people who were screwed sideways by Reaganomics that it was actually good for them, and encouraging the people who turned the screws to feel good about themselves." (Pg. 124-125) He also argues that Bill Clinton was "The Greatest President of the Twentieth Century." He adds, "I think it's time someone made the case for Bill Clinton. In fact, I believe one of the reasons we lost control of Congress in '94 was that he hasn't received anywhere near the credit he deserves." (Pg. 248) Conservatives will hate this book, and liberals/progressives will love it; but any reader is unlikely to not hold a strong opinion about the book, one way or the other.

I've read this book straight through twice. I really thought I'd never laugh out loud, as frequently and as uproariously, the second time as the first time, but I did. Franken's "review," ostensibly by Jeanne Kirkpatrick, of RLIABFI is, alone, worth the price of the book. I laugh so hard when reading this I

double over. This humor is not for everyone -- it is for people who, like Franken, are both intellectuals and political junkies. On the down side, I do have trouble with the title. It's funny, but ... it's rude and mean. I don't have a solution here. I don't know how to create humor that never hurts anyone's feelings, and I don't know the best way to respond to hatemongers like Rush Limbaugh. If nothing else, the title of this book, which has become a classic, got us thinking and talking about the Right's muddying of public debate and its abandonment of civil discourse. Too, at times I do find Franken's ability to be impressed by his own intelligence and high-power connections a bit hard to take, but ... I forgive him for that, he is such a valuable resource.

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