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Bob Hope has been cheered and loved by two generations of America's fighting men and women. He has counted among his friends an amazing group of notables--from Rita Hayworth to Brook Shields, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George Bush. In this honest and touching book, he recounts the laughs and heartaches of his exceptional show business career.

Don't Shoot, It's Only Me Details

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From Reader Review Don't Shoot, It's Only Me for online ebook

Shae says

Good, It captures Bob Hopes comedy so well but I just wasn't totally in the spirit and only got about half thru. I am setting it to the side for later. It did get me on a Road Movie kick though. Seriously, Road to Bali...Comic gold.

Rebecca O'Donnell says

I love how he uses humor to heal and stay sane.

Jean says

This was a fun book to read. I found myself laughing frequently. As I was reading I began to realize that this might be a generational type book. Most of Hope's monologues and jokes were about current affairs as well as about politicians, actors and current movies. Therefore, younger generations may not relate unless they are interested in the history of WWII, Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

The book contains lots of photographs. The book ranges from 1938 to 1990 with each decade presented as a chapter. This was a great way to go down memoires' lane as Hope describes the latest movies, Broadway plays and current events.

I read this as a hardback book obtained from the library. It is 315 pages published in 1990 by G. P. Putnam.

Amy says

"I was born in England and left as soon as I realized I couldn't become king."

ROFL

This book is going to be good xD

Bev Murphy says

I really enjoyed this book written by Bob Hope about his experiences from his first radio show on the Pepsodent Hour to all his shows for the troupes from WW1 through the Persian Gulf. It brought back to mind many wonderful entertainers that I grew up watching on TV and some of the not so wonderful events in history of the 60's and 70's. If you enjoyed Bob as an entertainer and like history this is a book for you.

Cindy says

Wow! History and Humor all on the same page and in the same book. Fascinating. Loved it.

Sharon says

One of Bob Hope's many biographies. I picked it up because something I read recently piqued my interest in him. This was largely a history of the twentieth century told through one-liners. This one focused on Hope's work with the USO. He toured military bases through all of the armed conflicts of the 20th century. His respect for the American soldiers comes through every line - especially the hospital scenes. His false modesty was a bit wearing, but he really seemed thankful for all of his writers and colleagues.

KennyO says

For an older generation, say pre-Viet Nam, add a star. This is Hope as told by Hope, i.e. zinger by zinger. There's no question about his great contribution to military and Naval morale from WWII into Viet Nam. Hope and his entertainment troupers gave yeoman service offstage as well as on and he gives us his POV of that here.

Hope was an exceptionally talented and active man in many fields throughout his life. He surrounded himself with genuine talent, which on USO tours included the shapely, toothsome babes in their occasionally abbreviated costumes. His shows were a smash at the time but today they'd elicit more derision and protest than laughs. I recommend reading Hope with a forties-fifties state of mind; given that you'll enjoy this immensely.

Somewhere during the time of the Viet Nam war, though, it became clear that Hope's sentiments lay more with the brass and the politicians than with the grunts and something intangible and essential was lost in this transition. This book overlooks that change. I'm willing to give him a break on that in the telling of the story from his view because of the great good he did before the disastrous Sixties.

Lance says

I bought this book expecting it to be a standard autobiography. But while it is autobiographical, it sticks to the half century Hope spent touring with the USO. The most remarkable thing about the book is Hope's ability to recall his experiences down to the smallest details, including which jokes he gave at which locations. Throughout the book Hope is the eternal optimist, confident that each war, conflict or "police action" was taking us another step closer to a time when there would be no more wars. (While this seems naive in this day and age, one must keep in mind that the book was written in 1990 during the heady days immediately following the fall of the Berlin Wall.)

Liberty says

Bob Hope is definitely one of the most overrated comedians of recent years. However this is incorrect. Despite his huge fame, he is in many ways one of the most **underrated** comedians of recent years. People know the name, Bob Hope, well. But I feel like most of them (whether they love him or hate him) have absolutely no idea of the impact he had on American culture during the 20th century. It was simply massive.

In this book, you get a good glimpse of this cowardly hero (that he often presented himself as) during the war years. And by war years I don't just mean WW2. *Every* war from WW2 to 1990, when he completed the book. His wit (and the wit of his superb staff of writers), flows through nearly every paragraph of the book. I'm a rather smug reader, but I laughed out loud more often than not during the reading.

I must admit though that my favorite part was his introduction. If you read nothing else, read the intro. It's one of the only times you'll ever hear anything of a serious nature from Bob Hope, but there's a reason for it. And it sets the tone for the entire book and gives you an understanding of why and how the USO played such a *vital* part in WWII.

4+

Marilyn says

Ultimate Reading Challenge 2016. A book by a comedian.

This book is primarily about Bob Hope's work with the USO during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He talks a great deal about those who accompanied him on these trips and a bit about the danger. There is also a little bit about his work on radio, his movies, and his TV show.

Patti says

Bob Hope says: "One of the reason for writing this book is to tell a whole generation that what happened before they were born does matter."

And that's exactly what he did for me. I went page after page saying "Hey - did you know that Thanksgiving was moved up a week at one point?" "Did you know that 'Charlie' came from VC (Viet Cong) - which has the handle of 'Victor Charlie'?"

The book is written with the set up/delivery that I love so much from Bob Hope, Groucho and other Vaudevillian Comics. It's a great overview of American History through comedy.

Jon says

I was skeptical about reading this because, at 42, I am not really in Bob Hope's fan base age range - in other words, he was at the tail end of his career when I was a young adult and, though I had nothing against him, he wasn't someone I was really drawn to. Thinking that, for a dollar (!), it would be worth it for the pictures

and to skim through, at least, I picked it up. Well.... it was utterly delightful and surprisingly touching. Bob's style of plugging through jokes one after the other without halting too much in between comes through on the printed page. Some of the jokes are very subtle and he doesn't dwell on trying to explain them. You either get 'em or you don't. (Okay, occasionally, he will give a little context to some of the older gags if their timeliness has passed.) Anyway, what he offers is a broad spectrum overview of all the shows he put on for the troops from WWII up to the time the book was published. The result is a sort of history lesson that never feels like a lesson. The book is consistently enthralling and amusing. He catalogued every joke he ever told and his favorites are all trucked out for this tome. What really surprised me, though, was how emotionally affecting the book is. I was driven to tears at least half a dozen times while reading it due to the depictions he provides of the soldiers and conditions in which they lived, especially when in the hospital. It's just a great, human, funny, detailed, poignant reflection from a man who worked tirelessly to help build the morale of our troops. I can't recommend it enough, especially now that we're in another war and he's not here to pitch in.

Anna Ligtenberg says

ISBN 0515105651 - Bob Hope is always funny, even when he's not being funny. And, oddly, he's always sappy - even when he's being funny. I cannot imagine anyone reading this without laughing out loud with a tear in their eye.

From 1938 to 1990, spanning a career that spanned the globe and a lifetime, Don't Shoot, It's Only Me tells a story that literally touches everyone. From Pearl Harbor to the Korean War, battles that have shaped both this country and the world, and Bob Hope (and, of course, his friends) was there for all of them, bringing a few laughs to the men and women of the Armed Forces far from home.

As an ironic-funny moment, I remember a running joke. Bad news from Hollywood - guess what? Bob Hope died? No, but (insert whatever). Of course, he DID die, after a long life full of laughs for all of us, but it just doesn't feel like it. It seems implausible that the man who made bearable some unbearable moments in our history could possibly ever die, and for 297 pages, Hope lives on.

- AnnaLovesBooks

AlixJamie says

What's better than a history of the United States during WW2, Korea and Vietnam?
A history of the United States during WW2, Korea and Vietnam written by a world-class comedian.
Namely, Bob Hope.
Awesome!

Tlingit says

I grew up watching Bob Hope. My Grandfather liked him probably because he did many appearances with Bing Crosby. This book though is really more interesting than I thought it would be. It takes the reader through WWII through the Vietnam War since Hope traveled to entertain the troops extensively. Hope started out in Vaudeville and worked his way into radio before television was even born. I actually find this book to be a piece of history that any would find interesting. It is also not a heavy piece since Hope is a

comic and laces his jokes through out the narrative. Ok he had Melville Shavelson write this but it is Hope's material. The many celebrities that he met and worked with, the Heads of State, Musicians, Film Actors and well known people (many most young people won't know,) he treats easily and without being nasty about them. It's a great book.

Shane says

Wow! It really gives you an appreciation for what entertainers went through to give our troops a little morale booster. Though they could have stayed safely state-side, so many of these great people went into the belly of the beast in every conflict for DECADES. I suppose spending a few months out of the house, travelling abroad with Frances Langford or Raquel Welch might off-set being shot at or bombed, but that could just be me. Sometimes these guys even had their travel schedules mess up to the point where they arrived in enemy territory before the army or marines did. This book gives you a real up-close look at what we're missing out on as The Greatest Generation passes on.

It's very witty, as only Bob Hope can do, and very informative at the same time. I highly recommend it for anyone who would like a laugh and a succinct lesson in American Politics of the 20th century.

Tim says

I picked this up at a yard sale a few years ago. I've always enjoyed Mr. Hope's movies and TV appearances. In 1970, while I was stationed in Cu Chi, Mr. Hope gave a show. While I didn't get to see it, it was broadcast over AFVN TV. He and his troupe went on nonstop for two hours or more, typically pared down to an hour for network broadcast. His monologue was a good 15-20 minutes and had a healthy number of, well, let's say, "adult" jokes that also didn't make the network cut. He held a golf club that must've been five feet long and plowed through his one-liners about the Brass, mud, jungles, girls, noise, danger and being away from home; there were several clunkers, but he persisted nonetheless. Of course he had Les Brown's band, and the dancing and singing girls and banter with all of 'em. While he was somewhat too patriotic for me, I appreciated his visiting the troops.

All that by introduction to this book, which chronicles Mr. Hope's visits overseas, with an introductory chapter (1938-1040) related to his being in Vaudeville, then a writer for radio, followed by being a radio host himself. This gives the reader insight into the relationships among the writers and their mutual encouragement, sometimes competition. The remainder, dating from 1941 through 1990, describes his shows, from Europe to Africa to Russia(!) to the Persian Gulf to Southeast Asia; the people in the troupe; some of the (at times very) hairy situations in combat areas; and his continuing radio, TV and movie career. There's a lot in here, peppered with hundreds of one-liners (it has been postulated that Mr. Hope's co-writer, Melville Shavelson, actually wrote the text with Hope contributing the jokes). While I am given to understand that Mr. Hope was a womanizing cad who mistreated his writers and was difficult to be around (I believe there are other books that address these issues), He did provide a service that helped the morale of military personnel during several wars, so I have to give him that.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it, although you Millennials may have to do some research on Mr. Hope and his generation of comedians (Milton Berle, Henny Youngman, etc.) for context.

Armelle says

This is a memoir of Bob Hope's years of presenting shows to service men and women. It's interesting, but choppy. Like his shows, which mostly consisted of one-line jokes, this book is a long series of "one-line" (okay, two or three line...) stories.

Darlis says

THIS IS THE FUNNIEST HISTORY BOOK I EVER READ!!

I used to have it as an option for my history class. Of course if they don't know Bob Hope's timing, they don't really get the humor--but it is laugh-out-loud hilarious
