

# Stewart strikes again with 'America: The Book'



Courtesy of imob.com

Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" gets another feather in his cap with the "America: The Book." The book portrays American history with his show's satirical comic style.

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Nowadays, it seems that everywhere you look, there's Jon Stewart poking fun at the way things are in our country. From the presidential candidates to the American media, nobody is safe from his biting, yet oh-so-witty commentary.

Each night, over one million people tune in to the Stewart hosted "The Daily Show," which runs at least three times every day on cable network Comedy Central. The show, which won a Peabody award for their 2000 election coverage and two Emmys last year, is quickly becoming one of the most popular outlets for world news and information for young people in America, despite the fact that it is an entertainment-oriented program.

Well, chalk another one up to "The Daily Show" powerhouse, because now there's

"America: The Book."

Please note: in order to fully utilize this book, it will require reading. This could potentially be a pretty large hurdle, but once it's overcome, everything else is gravy; this book sucks you right in.

On the surface, it looks like an elementary school social studies textbook. In fact, it's set up like that throughout the entire book. However, as you start reading, you realize that this is a little different from the lessons you got in fifth grade.

Anybody who has seen "The Daily Show" can probably guess the kind of humor that's scattered throughout the book. It's immature, sophomoric, and extra heavy on the sarcasm. It's also one of the greatest examples of satire to come along in a long, long time.

If you are trying to brush up on American history and how things go down in D.C., this may not be the book for you. There's far too much embellished (read:

fake) information in here to offer a totally accurate look at our political system. There's a foreword by Thomas Jefferson, for God's sake. (Note: Thomas Jefferson, our nation's third president, died in 1829, just in case you guys didn't get that one.)

This isn't the kind of book that you read from front to back. This is the kind of book that is best enjoyed when you have a few minutes to kill and are conveniently sitting within reach of it; read for a while, laugh, flip a few pages, read, laugh some more and so on. Believe me, I know from experience. I didn't read the whole thing, either.

For those still undecided about the book, I will leave you with a quote of praise from Ayn Rand, author of "Anthem" and "The Fountainhead." "This is similar to my works in that anyone who reads it is sure to be an asshole for at least a month afterward."

(That was a joke. Ayn Rand is dead, too.)

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problems reveals itself through a wild-hearted female associate named Miki and a brilliant plan. Miki and Joe will bring their favorite childhood band back together; Miki and Joe will reunite The Smiths.

*How Soon Is Never?* is a brilliant exploration of what it means to be floundering in a world of your own making. Joe Green is a fabulously flawed, inherently unlikable character that the reader can't help but support in the end. By reuniting a group that initially broke his heart and sent him in downward spiral with their disbanding, Green believes he can find that piece of himself that was lost long ago. It is a sentiment that many feel as they enter a stage in their life where they watch their youth disappearing. Reuniting The Smiths will save Joe Green's, and your, eternal soul.

Spitz, co-author of *We Got the Neutron Bomb: The Untold Story of L.A. Punk*, finds utter success in his first foray into the novel. He crafts Joe Green into a representation of all of those who find themselves in a piece of music or a favorite artist. He portrays nostalgia as something to be feared instead of embraced, and the passing of youth as a right of passage. In the end, it is irrelevant if Joe and Miki can find Morrissey, elusive front man of The Smiths, because what they really find are themselves.

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