



Nothing's Sacred

Lewis Black

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Comedian Lewis Black unleashes his trademark subversive wit while recounting his own life story in his *New York Times* bestselling memoir.

You've seen him on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* offering up his trademark angry observational humor on everything from politics to pop culture. You've seen his energetic stand-up performances on HBO, Comedy Central, and in venues across the globe. Now, for the first time, Lewis Black translates his volcanic eruptions into book form in *Nothing's Sacred*, a collection of rants against stupidity and authority, which oftentimes go hand in hand.

With subversive wit and intellectual honesty, Lewis examines the events of his life that shaped his antiauthoritarian point of view and developed his comedic perspective. Growing up in 1950s suburbia when father knew best and there was a sitcom to prove it, he began to regard authority with a jaundiced eye at an early age. And as that sentiment grew stronger with each passing year, so did his ability to hone in on the absurd.

True to form, he puts common sense above ideology and distills hilarious, biting commentary on all things politically and culturally relevant. "No one is safe from Lewis Black's comic missiles." (*New York Times*)

You have been warned....

Nothing's Sacred Details

Date : Published July 1st 2006 by Gallery Books (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9781416914815

Author : Lewis Black

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Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Comedy, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

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From Reader Review Nothing's Sacred for online ebook

Lisa says

I never realized he was such a well read nerd in addition to the anger.

KarmA1966 says

I'd listen to Lewis Black read the phone book. His rants are legendary and in fine form here. What I didn't expect, and was pleasantly surprised to find, was a sweet, almost sugary, heart at the center of his cynicism. Nothing is sacred indeed.

Beth says

I had the pleasure of seeing Lewis Black live (and the privilege of meeting him after the show) and he is one of the smartest, wittiest, sharpest comics around. I love his no-holds-barred attitude and his candor.

Michael Thoeresz says

This book is much better than I expected. I thought it would be cheap shots on conservatives throughout (and that does exist). But mainly it's just funny.

"All suburbs are identical. The houses may vary in size and design, but the game is the same. Everyone has the feeling that they are living in a special place, when in fact there is nothing unique about it. Being brought up in Suburbia is, therefore, like being born and raised nowhere. It is an oxygenated void. As a result, it prepares you for either depression or space travel."

"For my generation, the path to enlightenment started with drugs and ended with Guru's. I didn't quite understand how one followed the other, but meditation was becoming the next big thing. Still, I figure you can close your eyes and listen to your own breath, or you can close your eyes and touch yourself--Either way, you're going to end up in the same blissful state."

"Arnold Schwarzenegger is the governor of California and we're not even on LSD. I dont see why people bother to take drugs anymore. When reality has become a hallucination, what do you need to hallucinate for? I was walking through LAX three months after seeing Arnold in Terminator 3, and he was being sworn in as the governor on all the television sets. I had a nervous breakdown. I fell to my knees and I pissed and shit my pants. I was weeping and screaming for help. 'What is real?' I cried out. 'Can anyone tell me what is real?'"

Alex says

I love Lewis Black! He's one of my favorite comedians. This book is hilarious.

Jess says

The essays in this book were pretty standard Lewis Black. In fact, the first quarter of the book has the problem problem that most books by stand up comics have. They take a part of their routine, usually a popular bit they are prepping for the retired jokes bin, turns them into chapters and calls it a day. Which is why the book lost one star.

I read the second half of this book in a little over two days. I'm not sure if it was a matter of the second half being a great book or more of right book at the right time. Sometimes, when you life turns to shit, especially when it is 100% your fault, you need someone to remind you that the only thing you can ever be in this world is yourself even if that means being an asshole. And that sometimes, given time and distance, you can even find a way to laugh at how much of ass you were...

... and I think that's something I really needed right now.

Sarah says

A very funny, insightful audiobook perfect for a road trip.

Ben says

I've had this sitting around for a few years, as it was a present from my daughter (I think). I finally got around to reading it. Consider it a book equivalent of a summer "popcorn" movie: entertaining at best, but not very substantial.

And that's a shame. I think he's the best stand up comic currently practicing, or at least in the top five. There's a lot to be said for his delivery. Anyone familiar with his act over the past five years or so will doubtlessly recognize several routines contained in this book.

My biggest frustration here is that there is a really good book here potentially. This is largely about his formative years, from his youthful days in suburbia through college and a bit beyond. Far too often, he wrote a short passage about a particular time in his life, it lasts a page or two, and it's over. It's simply lacking in richer details.

Now maybe a full-out autobiography would have been too egomaniacal even for Mr. Black, but this could have been a much more satisfying presentation of his life and his viewpoint. I will admit, I got a good laugh every few pages at least, so this book is not without its merits. I'd say, check it out from the library, take it on vacation, you could do worse.

Dave says

I'm a big fan of this comic's acerbic material so when I saw this autobio on the dollar rack, I thought what the heck. Black's telling of his own history is mildly interesting and he does work a lot of his show material into the book. The problem is none of it is as funny in print as it is performed. "It was Okay" rating because I was mildly engaged and I only spent a dollar for it.

Kristina says

So, this is a lesson for me: check my goodreads bookshelf before picking up a book to read. Apparently, I read Lewis Black's *Nothing's Sacred* ten years ago. Bad news for him—I completely forgot *everything* about it so when I came across a copy on my bookshelf, I thought, ah, I need something quick to read so I'll read this. I'm irritated I spent time re-reading this dumb book. Lewis, I like your stand-up comedy, but this book is mediocre.

I've read a number of books by comedians now and aside from Sarah Silverman's *The Bedwetter: Stories of Redemption, Courage and Pee*, none of them were very funny or well-written. Their humor is more in their delivery and relevance to current events and they do not translate into print. I have yet to read any George Carlin, so maybe he will be an exception to this rule. So far, however, comedians can't write humor (Sarah excepted). Lewis Black's memoir (ish) book is not any worse than Tina Fey's or Samantha Bee's books; it's as mediocre and (mostly) humorless as those were. What kills me about comedians who write memoirs (or books that are memoir-like) is the colorless, emotionless personal stories they tell. Lewis discusses his family and it's clear that he loved them, but he's not a good enough writer to convey any significant emotion. It's like reading a facts-only profile in a newspaper.

While Lewis gives a loose account of his younger years and start in stand-up comedy, he intersperses it with not-funny rants about the government, politics, cellphones and the popularity of Starbucks. These rants are disappointing because they seem to be full of fake rage and the some of the text is almost word-for-word from his comedy routines. I think the routines came first. It's clear Lewis didn't have as much to say as his publishers hoped he would (as he does admit to this at the beginning of the book) so he padded the book with chapters of recycled comedy routines. Which, again, aren't funny. When I heard them, I laughed my ass off. Reading them, not so much.

It's odd that so far, almost every comedian (except Sarah Silverman) whose books I've read is mediocre and only vaguely amusing. I guess they should stick to their comedy routines and leave writing to the professionals.

My review from reading it in November 2006:

Part memoir, part his comedy routines. I do love Lewis, but a lot of his humor is in the delivery, not so much the lines. The humor doesn't translate as well into print. I miss his trademark yelling and gesturing.

Adrian says

Amazingly thought provoking and amusing while also bitter sweet at times, this book was a strange choice as I don't usually look into the biographical section, but I've found Lewis Black's comedy to be to my taste, so I figured why not? Well, the book is insightful. It encourages you to look at the things we take for granted from a less than ordinary standpoint, with Lewis's less than ordinary sense of humour added to the mix. For fans, this is an absolute must, and for people who want something strange and new, I recommend it.

The downside of it being so uniquely Lewis Black is that it loses his cadence and inflection, which might confuse people who are unaccustomed to his humour. This is definitely a book that works better read aloud, preferably by the author, especially if you're new to Lewis Black. Fortunately, audible do sell it as such, and I'd definitely recommend it for anyone's commute who want's to expand their minds a little. It is a book that lives on my iPod, and one I constantly go back to listen/read again and again.

Alexander says

Cash-grab memoirs by stand-up comedians are usually pretty half-baked, and this one is even shoddier and more forgettable than most.

The one saving grace is the full text of Lewis' favorite one-act theater piece, *The Deal* (he attended the Yale School of Drama in the 1970s, wrote dozens of plays over twenty years, and honed his comedy chops as the “opening act” of his own dramatic works).

As of this writing, the delightful 1998 film version of *The Deal*, starring Joe Grifasi and the great Larry Pine, is up on YouTube (runtime 19:27).

Traci says

I love Lewis Black! He is a nerdy funny guy & has a sense of writing that makes you crack up. And crack up I did!

I laughed while reading every page. I couldn't put it down it.

Black has a unique smart funny storytelling way & it comes alive in this book.

Great read.

Matthew says

Lewis Black is one of my favorite comics, although I worry about his blood pressure. If you like his comedy, then this is probably worth a read.

Richard says

DNF.

I've had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Black live at least once. I really enjoyed his performance. He's like that aggravated uncle who rants about any topic and you find yourself nodding in agreement with his point of view. It can be quite funny.

Nothing Sacred is a loose string of his rants about a wide variety of subjects. The common thread throughout is he's giving you his background and a little bit about the people who shaped who he is today.

I grew bored. Especially during his college years when he experimented with drugs and political activism. Foolish shenanigans.

I may finish this one someday.
