



I Am America (And So Can You!)

Stephen Colbert (Contributor/Editor), Richard Dahm (Contributor/Editor), Paul Dinello (Contributor/Editor), Allison Silverman (Contributor/Editor), Michael Brumm (Contributor), Eric Drydale (Contributor), Rob Dubbin (Contributor), Glenn Eichler (Contributor), more... Peter Grosz (Contributor), Peter Gwinn (Contributor), Jay Katsir (Contributor), Laura Krafft (Contributor), Frank Lesser (Contributor), Tom Purcell (Contributor) ...less

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Congratulations--just by opening the cover of this book you became 25% more patriotic.

From Stephen Colbert, the host of television's highest-rated punditry show *The Colbert Report*, comes the book to fill the other 23½ hours of your day. *I Am America (And So Can You!)* contains all of the opinions that Stephen doesn't have time to shoehorn into his nightly broadcast.

Dictated directly into a microcassette recorder over a three-day weekend, this book contains Stephen's most deeply held knee-jerk beliefs on The American Family, Race, Religion, Sex, Sports, and many more topics, conveniently arranged in chapter form.

Always controversial and outspoken, Stephen addresses why Hollywood is destroying America by inches, why evolution is a fraud, and why the elderly should be harnessed to millstones.

You may not agree with everything Stephen says, but at the very least, you'll understand that your differing opinion is wrong.

I Am America (And So Can You!) showcases Stephen Colbert at his most eloquent and impassioned. He is an unrelenting fighter for the soul of America, and in this book he fights the good fight for the traditional values that have served this country so well for so long.

Please buy this book before you leave the store.

About the Author

Stephen Colbert is America.

Description from book jacket

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Stephen Colbert (Contributor/Editor) , Richard Dahm (Contributor/Editor) , Paul Dinello (Contributor/Editor) , Allison Silverman (Contributor/Editor) , Michael Brumm (Contributor) ,
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From Reader Review I Am America (And So Can You!) for online ebook

FlibBityFLoob says

Things I learned from listening to this audiobook:

- Dos/Don'ts for defrosting Stephen Colbert's cryogenically frozen head.
- Why ice hockey is training for the eventual war with glaciers
- Red means stop. Green means go. Purple means Wednesday.
- Why Kittens really don't wear mittens.
- What to say to the evil robot overlord to explode its hive mind when it takes over

WARNING: Do not attempt to listen to this book on headphones in public while drinking anything. Not only will you laugh-out-loud maniacally at random intervals, you will likely spit water all over the people around you. Trust me on this one. My keyboard is the evidence.

treehugger says

Ok, so I was totally let down by this book, and I can't remember the last time I just wished the author who was reading the book to me on my commute would just SHUT THE HELL UP. I wasn't expecting that, being as how I'm a huge Jon Stewart fan, have loved the books of his I have read, and like the Colbert Report (although since I haven't had cable for years, I only see it sporadically while housesitting for other, more affluent individuals :)).

Anyway, it had no coherent plot, made not good points, was purposefully inflammatory to homosexuals, liberals, immigrants, and college grads, all at a yell, and all in a vain attempt at humor.

I liked the cameos by Amy Sedaris and Jon Stewart, but really, I'm glad this audiobook was only 3 CD's long, bc I made myself soldier on rather than giving up halfway through. I really can't speak for the print version of this book at all, since I feel it really must differ dramatically from the audiobook - a lot of the chapters were read by other people (he calls it a "full cast of characters") with accompanying sounds, music, and other effects that really did add to the fairly rapid humor found within the script...

So, all in all, watch the Colbert Report, but perhaps this is 3 and 1/2 hours you could spend listening to Madonna or something. I certainly can't get those hours back, but maybe I can save others from falling into the same trap...

Stuart says

Rachel and I were in the audience for the Colbert Report a week before the writers went on strike. I highly recommend seeing it live! Before the show Stephen takes questions from the audience. Rachel's question was "what are you reading right now?" Stephen said "A Jesuit of Broadway". Rachel asked "what is it about?" Stephen said "it's about a Jesuit on Broadway". Stephen then asked Rachel "what are you reading?" Rachel

stammered "uh, your book!" Stephen said "oh, don't waste your time on that garbage".

We bought this book when it first came out and the beginning was pretty funny. Getting farther in it though, it seems there is a lot of padding. Or perhaps it's just missing something in translation.

I'd recommend getting the Book-on-Tape (CD) version. I think it would be a lot funnier actually read by Stephen Colbert.

"Nothing the ladies like more than a big sack. I mean something a cartoon bandit would carry out of a bank."

Perhaps the best part of the book is the at the very end, the transcript from his address to the White House Correspondents' Dinner. This is the single greatest piece of political satire. Ever. Probably because he was roasting Bush while just 3 feet away from Bush.

Jeff says

It's always an experiment when a comedian with no literary history writes (or collaborates to write) a book. Everyone knows that the 80/20 rule even applies to humor: 20% is the joke and 80% is the timing or delivery. With someone like Stephen Colbert - who I have endless respect for after delivering his famous White House Correspondents Dinner speech, which is wisely reprinted in this book - whose humor is predicated on physical, visual humor, it can be quite precarious treading into the waters of a medium that doesn't play well with the 80th percentile of jocularity, and the results show.

After spending a few days cruising through this book I felt tired and worn out, not unlike the same mental exhaustion I experienced the last time I played a game with my 5 year-old nephew where the rules were made up on the fly, and seemingly known only to him. Worst of all was the feeling of forlorn, as if the clever, facetious, Democrat-in-sheep's-clothing, comedic juggernaut I had come to admire over many late nights, had decided I wasn't worth the effort to humor. I'm not even going to get into how painfully tedious it was to read all of the comments written in the margins, which were some kind of bastardized version of the genius "The Word" segment from Colbert's regular gig.

Even if this book fails to do what it set out to accomplish, after the Daily Show's "America: The Book", everything similar is doomed to pale in comparison. Luckily, Colbert's real strength, television comedy, hasn't suffered because of this troubled foray into more traditional media.

Tracy says

I suspect that Stephen Colbert, the relentlessly egotistical headlining author of I Am America (And So Can You!), would protest if you called his book funny, but it most definitely is funny. In his mind, however, the book is an indispensable work of truth and advice about how to navigate your life. In the directions for how to read the book, Colbert mentions that his book can be used to swear in people about to give testimony in the extraordinary absence of the Bible. This sums up the esteem with which this work should be regarded, according to the author.

I Am America (And So Can You!) opens with Colbert's declaration that he does not like books. He also hopes that his readers have not read any books before, presumably so that their minds will be pure and

therefore most receptive to his truth.

The 230-page hardcover goes on to reveal Colbert's wise opinions about such topics as the family, religion, sex and dating, higher education, the media, and science. In each chapter a multi-layered satire of right wing conservative values and points of view are presented in cleverly hysterical detail. The chapter titles easily decant the savory flavor of the book's humor. (Please don't add water!) For example the chapter about Sports is called "When It's Okay to Shower With Men" and the chapter on Class War is named "Let Them Buy Cake For A Change."

In addition to the American-as-apple-pie insight imparted by no less than 14 writers, I Am American (And So Can You!) is so fundamentally funny that the actual design of the book often made me laugh. The photography is truly brilliant, both in composition and the acting skill of the subject. Colbert's distinctive facial expressions and flair for wholesomeness combined wonderfully with a variety of props ranging from a bouquet of flowers to dog poop. My personal favorite is the photograph of Colbert in front of Applebees, where he presumably became disillusioned with life. (I understand). Another nice touch with the book design are the red-dyed edges of the pages, so as to advertise its Biblical quality.

I recommend this book to people who do not read books and like to be told how to think by a male authority figure. Studies indicate this would be a large audience, which accounts for the best-selling success of this book.

Daphne says

The audiobook is so much fun.

Kat Kennedy says

Stephen Colbert is the highly entertaining comedian that has been mocking Republicans relentlessly at every turn. Not that they don't kind of take themselves seriously and could sometimes benefit from a good mocking.

I can say this because I'm not a liberal either. I'm Australian. I have no vested interest in American politics. You know what I do have a vested interest in? Funny.

Now, I generally find John Stewart funnier and I appreciate Colbert's moronic, dead-pan Republican act. I just can't take it for too long because then my brain starts to hurt.

Which was probably my downfall in reading this book. Colbert obviously knew that the schtick was going to get old and so peppered the book with many, many amusing images and captions. As a writer and reviewer, I would never do this.

Never!

I still struggled after a while. This book really belongs in the hands of a die-hard Liberal American. Those are going to be its readership because they're going to be the ones that enjoy every joke and twisted piece of

logic.

As for me, meh. I agree with the sentiments but as long as no nukes get launched, I can't say that I care much what America does with its politics and therefor couldn't keep interested in the book.

Annalisa says

If you like the Colbert Report, you'll probably like this book. Since Stephen Colbert is one of my favorite celebrities, I did very much enjoy the listen. I listened to it audio knowing that most of Stephen Colbert's comedic humor is the delivery. I found myself laughing out loud a lot. So yes imagine we wandering aisles as I shop or sitting amidst the cheering parents of a soccer game laughing to myself. Colbert has a rare gift of making something funny he doesn't believe in without making it angry or offensive. He mocks many things I believe by arguing for them with the most ridiculous logic and I still laugh and think it's hilarious. His social satire really is genius.

But the humor did drag a little. There were times when I wished he'd move onto the next joke. Particularly long were his "Stephen speaks for me" characters who rattled on about nothing in particular but made sure to get a sailor's quantity of f-words in there. The thing about Comedy Central is they edit out those f words so I don't have to hear them. If I could skip the other voices, I'd probably give this a 4. Plus I didn't get one crack about bears being a threat to America. I'm disappointed. My favorite segment had to be on parenting, especially his dialogue that women should cater their lives to their children. He even got in Stephen-style praise of Mormonism, which as I explained above is not really praise at all. The first disc was hilarious, the second and third ones slower and not as humorous, but there's still enough wit in there for it to be worth it. Just skip the tracks where Stephen isn't speaking. It's a quick listen; it took a few hours.

Montzalee Wittmann says

too funny, rtc

Joe says

Satire pre-Obama style. Wink wink, nudge nudge, and tongue firmly planted in cheek. If you want a snapshot of exactly what the Colbert Report was you can't do any better. It reminded me of the faux-Ron Burgundy biography I read in that it was funny, but it wasn't quite enough to sustain a whole book. I've got the next one from the library as well from the middle of the Obama years, I'll be curious to see how that one is.

The Millman says

This book is funny. Just by reading the title and the back cover (which incidentally only had about 15 words on it) I knew that this book would be funny. And it is, but it's not much else. The character that Colbert plays on his show (intensely-conservative-right-wing-republican) is not actually him. It's almost like this alter ego he has created. In real life, Colbert is a left-wing-liberal. But on his show, he's completely the opposite. So

being a regular watcher of his show, and knowing what most of his opinions already were, I would have gotten more out of this book if it contained the real Stephen Colbert's views on politics, religion, sex and dating, sports, homosexuals, America, Immigrants, etc. (These are all names of some of the chapters.) But it didn't, it just contained his character's views and opinions. So while it was a flat-out hilarious book, it didn't have any other weight, in my opinion. That being said, disregard all of that and read the book. It's really funny, and it shows his comedic genius outside of television. Writing-wise, I don't know if it was because of the writing style, or his diction, but when I was reading, I could hear his voice dictating what I was reading. This made it even more enjoyable.

Nathan says

Most Americans are familiar with Stephen Colbert and his viciously partisan antics. He makes Ann Coulter, that hateful, Republican attack-hermaphrodite, look like a kindly grandmother. More recently, this lifelong right-winger attempted to subvert and sabotage both the democratic process and the Democratic Party by running as a Democrat for president in the state of South Carolina. Colbert has proven himself, time and again, to be a self-satisfied stooge less concerned with reality than with his ratings and status amongst the Republican elite. His "logic" extends to asking such unanswerable non-questions as "Don't you want to win the war on terror?" He sees the world in black and white, with no shades of color or gray, and he expects the world to answer to his limited understanding of it. In *I Am America (And So Can You)*, Colbert attempts to translate the uniquely twisted logic of his TV rants into a book of socio-political commentary. That he should write a book is shocking, if for no other reason than its hard to imagine he even reads them. (First sentence of the book: "I'm no fan of books.") From the start, his ego is the boat with his partisan agenda at the helm. The introduction is more like an instruction list, guiding the reader in how to "read" the book. (Don't highlight anything; it comes with Colbert approved stickers to notate moments of utter worship.) He then proceeds to lecture about the family. As one can expect from the admitted sexist, Colbert's view of the family is right out of the 1850s. As with any political tome, one eventually stumbles upon moments of seeming coherence amid all the partisan stupidity. Colbert may be absolutely correct in his suggestions for dealing with the elderly, and whether one agrees with the end result or not, he does issue the most coherent argument yet provided by the right on why homosexuality is dangerous. Most times, however, Colbert veers toward hysteria. He attempts to make the absurd case that God loves America more than he loves anyone else, and proves it by covering God's involvement in America's foreign wars. He also pushes an agenda of views that could only come from Colbert's deep involvement with the American quack right: abstinence, anti-abortion, the homosexual recruitment agenda (he even gives page space to a testimonial from a religiously "reformed" homosexual), and the long-held Christian Conservative view that bears are a vehicle for demons. And of course Colbert misses the irony in his hateful ridicule of actors who promote "liberal" causes. He viciously attacks Sean Penn, Tim Robins and Barbra Streisand without even acknowledging that he, with his TV show, brewing publishing empire and Republican connections, is absolutely no different from the celebrity activists he attacks. Overall, a loosely held-together quilt of facts taken out of context, Republican talking points, opinion packaged as news and prejudicial ignorance. And it's not even written very well. Colbert makes up for what he lacks in literacy by inventing whole new words. The result is both accidentally hilarious and utterly confusing, but certainly not literary or substantive. One need go no further than the title to learn that Stephen Colbert is someone who talks first, and thinks later. Expect his show to move to the FOX Network very soon, and expect many, many more books like this.

NC

India says

So. I want to say that I adore Stephen Colbert. I think he's funny and he's clever. I love watching his show. This book definitely sounds like him, it's very in his voice, and while I love that voice on TV, I couldn't even finish this book. Somehow it didn't translate right in this format for me. (Sorry, Stephen. Just read that second line where I said I adore you and ignore the rest of this. Except stick to TV and writing for that.)

Steven says

Full disclosure, I am a huge fan of “The Colbert Report.” If I am awake at 11:30 p.m., I have to watch the show. Upon its first few viewings I thought that I might not like it as much as “The Daily Show,” but after a little bit of time in warming up to the character of Stephen Colbert, I quite frankly think that “Colbert Report” is in many ways the much funnier show.

Much to Mr. Colbert’s dismay, I checked this book out from the library and was unable to avail myself to the full extent of its features, such as the various stickers which allow the reader to indicate when they agree with Colbert the most. As one might rightly assume, if you are a big fan of the show, you are likely a big fan of the book. I thought the book was spectacular and the only element missing from the show/character of Stephen Colbert was his incredible interviewing talent, best evidenced on the show in segments like “better know a district.”

No real surprise that the various quips that Mr. Colbert uses so well on his show are also used to great effect in the book. A few that especially stood out were his belief that baby carrots are trying to make him gay, that the Hundred Years War was a terrible name for a war because you should never set a date for withdrawal, and the idea that sex is like the death penalty with one outcome and so many different ways of carrying it out. I also really loved some of the “Stephen Speaks for Me” sections, including those of “your soulmate” and “Thomas Bindlestaff, Executive Assistant to Stephen Colbert.”

Jill Harkness says

Colbert is funny as hell. This book breaks the forth wall and I love it. The book does lose a little steam at the end, but it still was one of the funniest books to read out there, helps take your mind from all the bad out there.

Really needed a laugh and this book did it.

Dwight says

My loving life partner & soul mate gave me this for Christmas. Perhaps she's hoping that it might rub off a bit and I might attain the same kind of twinkle in my eye that Stephen Colbert has. Alas, unlikely.

I had to give a presentation to a room full of local union leaders last weekend in Austin TX. These are mostly

elected leaders of teacher union locals. So activist by nature. But all from western states, so you don't know exactly what to expect. I used a take-off on the title of this book for my the title of my presentation (it fit in terms of substance and message). But of course to really work, it required knowledge of Colbert's book on the part of the audience, something I couldn't be at all sure of in advance. I started out my session with a question: "Am I the only one in the room who was given a copy of Stephen Colbert's book for Christmas?" Turned out, about 1/3 of the room had received a copy, another 1/3 had *given* a copy to someone, and most people in the room depend on the Daily Show and Colbert Report for their news.

I know this proves something. Just not sure what!

Petertpc says

Some of the time, very funny
Much of the time, sorta funny to fairly amusing.
Occasionally, not funny at all.

Stephen Colbert is talented, and his political humor is entertaining, as long as it is in small doses. Here, the schtick got a little old a little fast and left me a little bored, at least when I wasn't laughing out loud. So it was good, but not as good I had hoped. I think I'll stick to him in on the TV.

Jason Koivu says

I set out with the intent of quoting my favorite passages from this book. By the end I realized there was only one: "*I am America* by Stephen Colbert." What, you ask? I'm saying the whole frickin' thing is quotable!

I Am America is hilarious from start to finish. I snorted, I chortled, I laughed so hard I accidentally drooled. This is everything I hoped it would be. I'm glad I finally got around to it.

My only quibble is a minor, half-serious one. I worry about the people out there who actually take this seriously. "Oh that's ridiculous," you say, "no one's stupid enough to take Colbert seriously." Wrong. When I was writing for newspapers back in the day, I would occasionally do satirical pieces. They were thinly veiled as such. I didn't want anyone mistaking my sentiments for my true feelings. And yet, some people did. I was astounded. It was a real reality check for me. There are still people in the world that take everything they hear at face value. I fear these people and I fear for these people. How is it they haven't all already been accidentally run over by buses?

EDIT: Holy shit, when I originally wrote this review back in '12, I didn't realize exactly how prophetic the above paragraph would actually turn out to be!

David Katzman says

Really really funny. I listened to this while driving...don't recommend that. It made me laugh too many times, which could have endangered those driving near me. Glad I survived *I Am America*. The audio book is essentially one long standup/sketch routine. Colbert has done a fine service for America creating the Colbert persona--what's so disturbing is how it is only a slight exaggeration of the right wing Conservatives

of America, the Rush Limbaughs, Glenn Becks and Ann Coulters of the world. He slightly revises their actual opinions...to be more honest and straightforward. He outs the subtext; he reveals the barbed wire lining to their cloudy viewpoints. And then throws some extra wacky bits on top of it just for laughs. It's good. At times, I did find myself scared because I felt like many right wingers would listen to this and either 1) agree with it without recognizing the irony, or 2) not think it reflected their party's views when in fact it does. But even while it is terrify to recognize the small-minded bigotry and arrogant selfishness that undergirds the Republican Party (and much of the Democratic party as well), there is still laughter that can and should be had at their expense. The humor arises from a recognition and appreciation that Colbert feels ... just like I (you) do. That is, it's funny because we both recognize that the Emperor wears no clothes even while millions of American's don't. That at least is a wonderful thing.

I met Colbert briefly, heard him read with Amy Sedaris and Paul Dinello at an indie bookstore in Chicago that no longer exists many years ago upon the release of their very funny novel *Wigfield The Can-Do Town That Just May Not*. In person, he is rather like his persona--very big and presentational. But of course with the opposite political opinions from his character on the show. He was thoughtful and funny. I raised my hand during the Q&A and asked what he thought it reflected on America that he and Jon Stewart were actually the best sources of news on TV. He made a dry joke, something about..."You *do* know we're a comedy show, right?" which got a laugh. But then he went on to say that it was a sad state of affairs in the world of journalism that TV journalism especially was not about investigating and presenting truths but about trailing the winds of politics.

I'm glad there are still a few entertainers out there who find a way to shine a light on what is really going on. It's rather amazing someone so subversive would be allowed to even have a show. Comedy is one route to truth.

Joe says

Harkens back to an earlier time when Steven Colbert told it like it was, ruled by 'The Word' and only true fans knew that the T was as silent as the moral majority. That was, of course, before Johnny Network got him in it's iron clutches with promises of vegan lunches and politically-correct jokes churned out by a ham-handed army of limp-wristed Hollywood writers.

Now you might be saying; 'Joe, you just mixed a lot of metaphors in that preceding paragraph.' To which I say yes, like Shakespeare and Genghis Khan before me, I'm doing a lot of that thing I'm imagining you saying in my head.

Anyway, what I'm trying to say is this book is good. But I do have one complaint; the stickers! At the back is a sheet of 'The Steven T Colbert Award For The Literary Excellence' stickers to put on books of your choosing in accordance with the free market. So naturally I slapped one on the side of my computer because the internet is the new books. But within hours it was peeling off and so I had to use tape to hold it on.

See?

So my advice to Steven; get some better quality control and find your voice again and I mean the loud one.