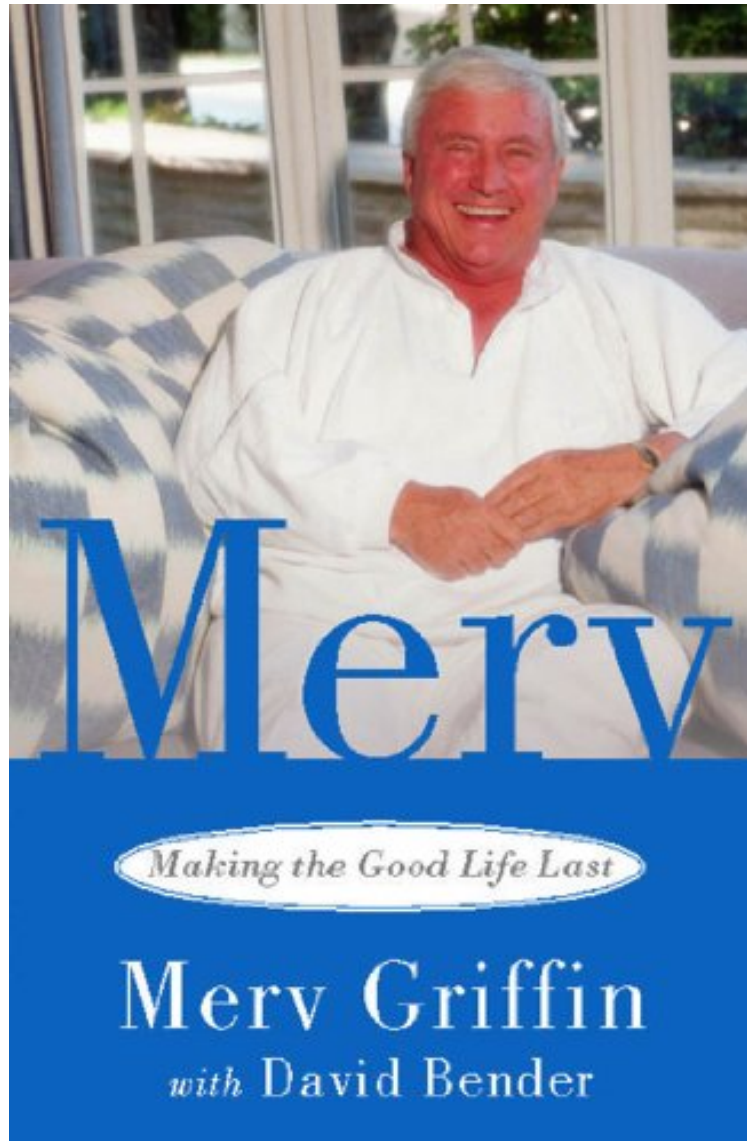


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Merv Griffin

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Merv Griffin : Merv before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Merv:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Money, Money, Money...By Judiththis book has some interesting history on Merv Griffin- but towards the end.. this man is a fat, bragging, boring nothing...It's all about what he owns, who he's dining with, etc... He might consider this the 'good life', but I guess everyone has his own'ruler'.. and his was Money.. Boring in many parts Gossipy in others, but most of it is Merve [who did have talent as a singer], just going on on in a self absorbed way, giving big parties to 'win over/buy, guests 'to love him'.. until you don't like him

anymoreIn the end of his life- he and Eva didn't even get along.. and he was totally alone... sad and ironic for "having the Good Life"..0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Merv's AMAZING! READ THIS BOOK! LEGENDARY!By A GriffinReading about Merv and his rise to fame major fortune is truly inspirational and fascinating. I recommend this book to anyone who's in the Biz or wants to learn how to create your own 'WHEEL...OF...FORTUNE'!!!!!! ENJOY!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read!By B. A. HollandI really enjoyed reading this book about Merv Griffin; his life stories were in turn funny, moving and nostalgic. He seems to have been a very special man. His attitude to all the money he made seems typical of quite a few millionaires...it's not the money he loved (although I'm sure he enjoyed what he could do with it) but the process of getting it. The thrill of the deal, so to speak. I highly recommend this auto-biography of a very interesting man.

Merv Griffin will always be remembered as one of America's most beloved show business figures. With his trademark charm and business savvy, Merv built a life that defined success. From his start as a band singer, to his twenty-three years on television as host of the Emmy Award-winning Merv Griffin Show, and through his entrepreneurial years, Merv lived the American Dream. Perhaps his most enduring legacy, though, is his creation of the two most successful syndicated game shows in television history, Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune. Merv: Making the Good Life Last is the quintessential Horatio Alger story of a young man born into modest circumstances who, through hard work, unshakable self-confidence, and an unfailingly positive attitude, dreams his way to the top. Only to retire and do it again. In this brilliant, funny, and revealing memoir, full of great stories and even better advice, one of America's most beloved and popular show business figures tells the story of his "retirement" years, in which he made billions and became a bigger celebrity than ever. Merv: Making the Good Life Last is a great American success story, a tribute to a wonderful life, and great entertainment for Griffin's many generations of fans, who will never forget him or his legacy.

From Publishers WeeklyGriffin, a self-described "Depression baby," lost his home to the bank as a kid and admits that as an adult "I've placed far too much value on material things." Yet his entrepreneurial nature is the dramatic wheel that drives this autobiography. The book's chatty style is reminiscent of a talk show, and beneath its light tone are suggestions of a complex, enthralling person. Dubbed the "Merv of All Trades" by Larry King, Griffin mowed lawns, put out a newspaper and sold Christmas wreaths as a child in California. Early exposure to such stars as Errol Flynn came through his uncle Elmer, a national tennis doubles champion and founder of the Beverly Hills Country Club. Admittedly resentful of being told what to do, Griffin pursued a career as a band singer and eventually made a screen test, which resulted in the disastrous *So This Is Love* (1953). When Hollywood stardom didn't materialize, Griffin turned to TV; the book presents numerous profiles of the guests he hosted on his own show, from 1962 to 1986, including the temperamental Peter O'Toole and the hostile Al Pacino. Such diverse personalities as Rosalind Russell, Ronald Reagan (who actually liked peanut brittle, not jelly beans), Whitney Houston and Peter Ustinov fill these entertaining pages. The final portion covers Griffin's years as a hotel magnate, bout with prostate cancer, psychoanalysis, divorce and weight problems. He conveys his upbeat outlook most effectively when he comments, "I don't watch Survivor. If something requires cheating, lying and cruelty to other people to stay on top, it's nothing I want any part of." Photos.Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistMerv Griffin, one of America's most famous and enduring entertainers, shares stories from his long career in this good-humored and gossipy autobiography. From fairly humble beginnings that included writing songs and singing on a local radio station and touring America with Freddy Martin and his orchestra, Griffin steadily rose through the ranks of the entertainment industry. He candidly recounts his adventures as a recording star (famous for the hit "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts"), a contract actor for Warner Brothers who appeared in a number of films, a legendary talk-show host and creator of some of the most successful game shows, including Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune, and finally, as a wealthy and respected businessman. Griffin details the trials and tribulations of his early years as well as how he followed his dreams and took advantage of opportunities that yielded his ultimate success. Includes tasty anecdotal morsels about the many celebrities Griffin has worked with in his life. A light read that fans of Merv Griffin or anyone interested in the entertainment industry as a whole will enjoy. Kathleen HughesCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorDavid Bender was a founding contributing editor of *George* magazine. His previous books include *Stand and Be Counted* (with David Crosby) and *The Confession of O.J. Simpson: A Work of Fiction*.