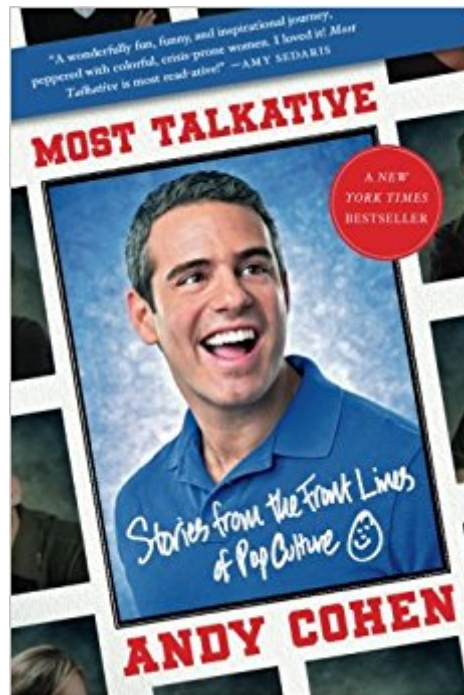




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Most Talkative: Stories From The Front Lines Of Pop Culture



Synopsis

The man behind the Real Housewives writes about his lifelong love affair with pop culture that brought him from the suburbs of St. Louis to his own television show. From a young age, Andy Cohen knew one thing: He loved television. Not in the way that most kids do, but in an irrepressible, all-consuming, I-want-to-climb-inside-the-tube kind of way. And climb inside he did. Now presiding over Bravo's reality TV empire, he started out as an overly talkative pop culture obsessive, devoted to Charlie's Angels and All My Children and to his mother, who received daily letters from Andy at summer camp, usually reminding her to tape the soaps. In retrospect, it's hard to believe that everyone didn't know that Andy was gay; still, he remained in the closet until college. Finally out, he embarked on making a career out of his passion for television. The journey begins with Andy interviewing his all-time idol Susan Lucci for his college newspaper and ends with him in a job where he has a hand in creating today's celebrity icons. In the witty, no-holds-barred style of his show Watch What Happens Live, Andy tells tales of absurd mishaps during his ten years at CBS News, hilarious encounters with the heroes and heroines of his youth, and the real stories behind The Real Housewives. Dishy, funny, and full of heart, the New York Times bestseller, Most Talkative, provides a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the world of television, from a fan who grew up watching the screen and is now inside it, both making shows and hosting his own.

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Customer Reviews

"A wonderfully fun, funny and inspirational journey, peppered with colorful, crisis prone women. I

loved it! "Most Talkative" is most read-ative!"--Amy Sedaris, author of "I Like You" and "Simple Times"

"Andy Cohen's new book "Most Talkative" is laugh-out-loud funny. Anyone who likes pop culture will really like this book. It's a perfect read for this summer."--Anderson Cooper

"Ladies, put "50 Shades" aside for Andy Cohen's "Most Talkative", a book about friendship, family, and fun. His coming out story will break your heart."--Jessica Seinfeld

"Most Talkative" is Andy Cohen's story from starting out as an intern for CBS news and working his way up the ranks through programming and then eventually becoming a personality himself. He's a really funny writer!"--Kelly Ripa

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"[Cohen] is funny as Augusten Burroughs used to be...["Most Talkative"] requires zero interest in 'Top Chef, ' 'Real Housewives' or anything else on Bravo to find him highly entertaining company through this joke-filled joy ride."--"The New York Times"

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Andy Cohen is Bravo's executive vice president of Development and Talent, responsible for overseeing the production of such hits as Top Chef and The Real Housewives franchises. In addition, Cohen is the host and executive producer of Watch What Happens Live, Bravo's late-night, interactive talk show. He also hosts the network's reunion specials. He's won an Emmy and two Peabody Awards for his work, and he lives in New York City.

I was looking forward to reading Andy Cohen's book because I absolutely love reality shows and watch most of the reality tv programming on Bravo. Unfortunately, this book didn't meet my expectations and I was slightly disappointed. I really enjoyed getting more insight into Andy's personality, his childhood in St. Louis, and the experiences he went through as a young gay man in 1980s. The highlights of the book were reading about his time at CBS and how he started his career at Bravo. There were some funny stories in the book, but Andy tended to ramble on about details I

didn't really care about. For instance, he wasted several pages of the book discussing a joke that him and one of his closest friends played on his mother. That definitely could have been left out of the book since it didn't add anything to the overall narrative. He also added a lot of filler to the book by posting the entire transcript of an SNL parody of *The Real Housewives* and included a partial transcript from one of *The Real Housewives of New York City* reunion specials. I just skipped those pages all together. The section of the book describing the development of *The Real Housewives* franchise was quite boring. I figured Andy would write some interesting and funny stories about what goes on behind the scenes when dealing with these desperate attention-seeking alpha women. If there are some great stories about *The Real Housewives*, they weren't included in this book. To my dismay, Andy spent more time talking about his obsession with Susan Lucci than the cast members who have helped make him a household name. Basically, this book was like a typical episode of *Watch What Happens Live*. There are a few entertaining moments mixed in with parts that are utterly boring.

This is the perfect summer/beach/poolside book. If you're a Bravo fan or *Real Housewives* fan, it's a must-read for all the insider tidbits that Andy spills. Unlike some other Bravo-catapulted celebrity books (Bethenny's *Skinnydipping* and Taylor Armstrong's memoirs, ahem), this one is actually worth your time. Yes, it's fluff--but it's entertaining and fun fluff. I actually had no expectations when I began the book except that I wanted gossipy tidbits about the *Housewives*, so Andy's humorous and engaging writing caught me off guard. I have a few little quibbles. First, it's not long enough. Some of the chapters felt rushed and while he spends a lot of time discussing his work at CBS and describing various assignments while there, it feels like he hits the fast-forward button at the end of his tenure there and suddenly he's Executive VP at Bravo. The sections describing the Bravo programming he was almost singlehandedly instrumental in bringing to the network are all too brief. Furthermore, while he does devote a significant number of pages to the *Housewives* franchise, he only mentions other major Bravo shows like *Top Chef* or *Flipping Out* in passing. What was in the book was great, but I kept hoping for more. Additionally, I really hoped he would describe more thoroughly reasons behind some of their more controversial programming decisions. He does broach the *Being Bobby Brown* disaster, but on the other hand, he doesn't venture beyond one sentence as to why the *Real Housewives of DC* wasn't renewed. (One assumes poor ratings, but I think it could have been great franchise with a casting shake-up for a second season.) He also touches on *Real Housewives of Miami*, but doesn't address what an utter bore that season was to Bravo viewers. He barely mentions the huge casting changes for the sixth season of *Real*

Housewives of New York. There is absolutely nothing about Project Runway moving to Lifetime. It feels a little too light sometimes, like he wants to indulge Bravo fans but only just enough. That's okay--it's his book, not mine--but after letting dozens of people bare the most intimate details of their lives on TV, it seems anticlimactic not to continue in that same vein when discussing behind-the-scenes programming decisions. One interesting note: he seems to have a barely disguised dislike of Jill Zarin that comes up again and again. She definitely comes across high-maintenance and diva-like, and while I guess that isn't too surprising, it was interesting to read between the lines and guess as to the reasons she wasn't brought back for this sixth season of RHONY.

Andy Cohen is fun and funny and honest about growing up gay and Jewish in middle America, about his experience working for the CBS morning show, and about his time at Bravo, particularly with the so-called "Real Housewives." I don't have cable. I don't watch Bravo. And I've never seen any episode of any Real Housewives show. If you're a fan, I'm pretty sure you're going to love this book. What I love are behind-the-scenes books by people who have been there and know how to write, like Mindy Kaling and Tina Fey. Andy definitely knows how to write, and his behind-the-scenes perspective has been unique and is certainly entertaining. So while this certainly isn't the best book of the year, it is a fun, funny, quick, interesting read. I liked it. You probably will, too.

This book is a must read for Andy fans. By now he's written three books but it's taken a 96 hour train trip to inspire me to read any of them. I'm reading them in order and just finished this book which tells the story of how it all began. I look forward to reading books two and three.

First and foremost, I loved reading Most Talkative. Andy Cohen is like my pop culture hero. The Watch What Happens Live host is super relatable. Don't be fooled by his merry exterior and deep appreciation for the Housewives, Andy is a hard worker. He worked for ten years at CBS News, starting in the early nineties. Behind the scenes, Andy covered serious events. I appreciated hearing about his experiences and work ethic in the field. This book will be valuable to you for the following reasons: 1. You're a long time Bravo watcher. (He went down memory lane for popular programs prior to the Housewives franchise.) 2. You're a pop culture lover. 3. The touching stories regarding his jobs and personal life, especially in the case of his sexuality. 4. His loving and comical spirit. 5. Because he is Andy Cohen. Personally, a very treasurable read. This book is worth buying.

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