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Believe Me: A Memoir Of Love, Death And Jazz Chickens



Synopsis

Critically acclaimed, award-winning British comedian and actor Eddie Izzard details his childhood, his first performances on the streets of London, his ascent to worldwide success on stage and screen, and his comedy shows, which have won over audiences around the world. Over the course of a 30-year career, Eddie Izzard has proven himself to be a creative chameleon, inhabiting the stage and film and television screens with an unbelievable fervor. Born in Yemen and raised in Ireland, Wales, and postwar England, he lost his mother at the age of six. In his teens he dropped out of university and took to the streets of London as part of a two-man escape act; when his partner went on vacation, Izzard kept busy by inventing a one-man act, and thus a career was ignited. As a stand-up comedian, Izzard has captivated audiences with his surreal, stream-of-consciousness comedy - lines such as "cake or death?" "Death Star canteen", and "do you have a flag?" have the status of great rock lyrics. As a self-proclaimed "executive transvestite", Izzard broke the mold performing in full makeup and heels and has become as famous for his advocacy for LGBT rights as he has for his art. In *Believe Me*, he recounts the dizzying rise he made from street busking to London's West End to Wembley Stadium and New York's Madison Square Garden. Still performing more than 100 shows a year - thus far in a record-breaking 28 countries worldwide - Izzard is arguably one of today's top kings of comedy. With his brand of keenly intelligent humor that ranges from world history to pop culture, politics, and philosophy, he has built an extraordinary fan base that transcends age, gender, and race. Writing with the same candor and razor-sharp insight evident in his comedy, he reflects on a childhood marked by unutterable loss, sexuality and coming out, as well as a life in show business, politics, and philanthropy. Honest and generous, Izzard's *Believe Me* is an inspired account of a very singular life thus far.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a case where the audio book far surpasses the written text. This is much more than Mr. Izzard reading his book aloud. He constantly veers off into "footnotes" which steal the show. They add a richness, color and personality to the stories which the book alone could never do. It's like being at one of his shows - but it goes on for days and has you riveted. The memoir is the audio book. The written text should be considered the abridged version.

I adore Eddie Izzard. We have some of his dvds, and got to see him live here in Phoenix, but I was more glad to read about his life. We embrace the trans community here and work with PFLAG, and have always felt like he was "family". Now we KNOW he is. I wish him the best of life. I cried in a waiting room full of people when I read the part about finding out that his mom had called him Edward... I wanted to hug him...as I think I'm his mom's age.

If you are an Eddie Izzard fan this book is a must. I have the audio version which has a ton of stuff in it that is not in the book since he riffs on things he wrote in the book given he did the audio after he wrote the book.. I also have the book which has the pictures. If you never heard of Eddie well you can see has Emmy winning "Believe" show online and see if you like it then if so do get the audio version of the book..

Eddie Izzard is a great comedian (though after listening to this audio book, I now know he would prefer to be a great actor). If you have ever seen him in person, you know that he has a tendency to get off topic but always manages to get back to his routine. I have no doubt that this book is good as a written work but, I strongly advise you to get the audio book because, as he does when performing stand up, he diverges from the script quite often resulting in additional information and a lot of the book's entertainment. The audio book unabridged is 12 disks. I don't know how long the written book is but I suspect that there is anywhere from 2 to 4 disks of extra content on the audio book. The book evidently has some photos which, obviously, are not on the audio book but other than that, I can see no reason to read it when you can get so much more from listening to it.

A pleasure to read. Izzard's keen intelligence and humble understanding of human experience come forward. Delightful, insightful and sometimes surprising, this wildly hilarious man recounts his life in sober passages. An inspiring spirit drives this wonderful man.

I saw Eddie Izzard at Town Hall in NYC promoting this book, which I enjoyed very much. Actually reading the book without benefit of Eddie's endearing signature delivery is not as entertaining as listening to him read and comment on Audible. Do that. You'll love it!

Wonderful book with fab pictures. It is nice to peek into the life of someone who is just human and wonderful. I saw him reading excerpts in Arizona and gave my copy to a friend so purchased on a Kindle so I could read it on the Trolley.

What can I say -- it's Eddie Izzard, the amazingly funny, ultimate executive transvestite. And, he's written an amazingly funny, yet touching book about his gloriously eccentric life. Of COURSE it's terrific!. :)

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