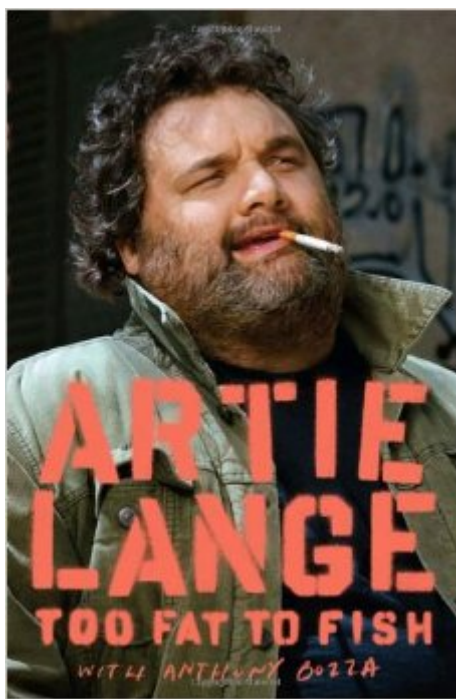


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Too Fat To Fish



Synopsis

Outrageous, raw, and painfully funny true stories straight from the life of the actor, comedian, and much-loved cast member of The Howard Stern Show with a foreword by Howard Stern. When Artie Lange joined the permanent cast of The Howard Stern Show in 2001, it was possibly the greatest thing ever to happen in the Stern universe, second only to the show's move to the wild, uncensored frontier of satellite radio. Lange provided what Stern had yet to find all in the same place: a wit quick enough to keep pace with his own, a pathetic self-image to dwarf his own, a personal history both heartbreaking and hilarious, and an ingrained sense of self-sabotage that continually keeps things interesting. A natural storyteller with a bottomless pit of material, Lange grew up in a close-knit, working-class Italian family in Union, New Jersey, a maniacal Yankees fan who pursued the two things his father said he was cut out for: sports and comedy. Tragically, Artie Lange Sr. never saw the truth in that prediction: He became a quadriplegic in an accident when Artie was eighteen and died soon after. But as with every trial in his life, from his drug addiction to his obesity to his fights with his mother, Artie mines the humor, pathos, and humanity in these events and turns them into comedy classics. True fans of the Stern Show will find Artie gold in these pages: hilarious tales that couldn't have happened to anyone else. There are stories from his days driving a Jersey cab, working as a longshoreman in Port Newark, and navigating the dark circuit of stand-up comedy. There are outrageous episodes from the frenzied heights of his coked-up days at MADtv, surprisingly moving stories from his childhood, and an account of his recent U.S.O. tour that is equally stirring and irreverent. But also in this volume are stories Artie's never told before, including some that he deemed too revealing for radio. Wild, shocking, and drop-dead hilarious, TOO FAT TO FISH is Artie Lange giving everything he's got to give. And like a true pro, the man never disappoints.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up TOO FAT TO FISH, the autobiography of comedian and HOWARD STERN SHOW cast member Artie Lange, expecting to flip-read it. But, starting with a funny introduction from Stern that Lange matches or exceeds laugh-per-page for the rest of the book, TOO FAT TO FISH did not leave my hands until I read every word. Despite Stern's introduction, Artie Lange does not say much about his work on the radio show in TOO FAT TO FISH until the last couple of chapters. But Lange and coauthor Anthony Bozza hold your attention throughout the pre-Stern years with tales of the comedian's charmed life. I say "charmed life" because, despite Lange's tendencies toward alcohol/drug abuse, gambling, overeating, and angry outbursts, a world of family and friends - even show-business friends - watch his back. There are a number of touching moments, especially regarding his parents. Prepare to choke up as Artie Lange realizes the only difference between homeless drug addicts and him is the support of those who loved this 296-lb. prodigal son. Nonetheless, even reflections such as that lead to some of the funniest comments in TOO FAT TO FISH thanks to Lange's ability to laugh at himself, wisecracking his way through the details of his darkest moments. Howard Stern hired Artie Lange on his radio show in 2001 after joke whiz Jackie Martling left. But the void Lange filled best was that of Sam Kinison, a regular HOWARD STERN SHOW guest whose combination of comic talent, substance abuse problems and volatile personality made for hours of compelling radio until his untimely 1992 death. While there are not as many HOWARD STERN SHOW-related anecdotes as you may expect, TOO FAT TO FISH has a number of celebrity stories. For example, Artie Lange's work with the likes of Tom Cruise and Chevy Chase result in two of his most memorable tales about the ups and downs of the entertainment industry. Read TOO FAT TO FISH.

Artie bares a lot in this book. It's a nostalgic look at a NJ suburban childhood. But what is SO GREAT is Artie's ability to tell a story. I was teary eyed most of the time reading it, and some of the tears were from laughter! This is a great book for anyone wanting to remember the searing agony and ecstasy of adolescence. His courageous and self-effacing honesty really impressed me. Whether it's losing his virginity, or adolescent screw-ups, the book is a page-turner. Thanks Artie for a great book.

Die-hard Stern fans will be equal parts delighted and disappointed by "Too Fat to Fish". They'll be delighted because Artie was a great addition to the show (especially during the Sirius years), and reading this book is like hanging out with Artie for a night and listening to him tell stories over a bottle of Jack. They'll be disappointed because there isn't much here that Artie hadn't previously discussed throughout his 8-year tenure on the Stern show. Artie's second book "Crash and Burn" is more interesting, as it reveals a great deal more about Artie Lange the man. The best sections of "Too Fat to Fish" are Artie's stories about his dad: they'll bring tears to even the most hardened man's eyes. What makes Artie such a great storyteller is his attention to, and remarkable ability to remember, every little detail. The fact that he cares to remember every detail of every wild situation he's gotten himself into shows that Artie really does love life at the end of the day, even if, sadly, he sees letting people down as being the main story line of his life.

I used to love Artie on the Howard Stern show, so I was glad to see that I could learn things about his time there that I didn't know about. The book also covers his time on Mad TV, and interesting stories about his family. Artie is tortured soul to say the least, but deep down you can see that he is a great person at heart. Read this with "Crash and Burn" to get the full Artie Lange experience.

If you are a Howard Stern fan this is a must read. Gives a lot of insight on Artie and what led up to his epic on air meltdown. Also a great biography of his life before the Stern show as well as details about his rise to fame, the comic circuit, drug use and relationship with his mom and sister.

If you are familiar with Artie Lange at all through the Stern Show or elsewhere, you won't be able to put this down as you laugh aloud. He's a great storyteller, but it's definitely R-rated comedy and anecdotes, and the tales of his trial and tribulations will keep you reading right to the end. Never heard of him? Check out some you-tube on Artie and pick this up. It's well worth it.

Love Artie from MadTV days and then was so happy when he joined the "cast" of The Howard Stern Show. Bought the Audio CD version as I was taking long drives for work and enjoyed him reading his own story. Very interesting book, and definitely worth the read or listen!

First off it is hysterical, but sad at the same time. Regardless of what you think about Artie Lange this book more than anything is about a young man who took a huge risk to follow his dream, and

you have to respect him for it. For anyone whoever dreamed about leaving a good paying secure job for a chance in showbiz it is possible.

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