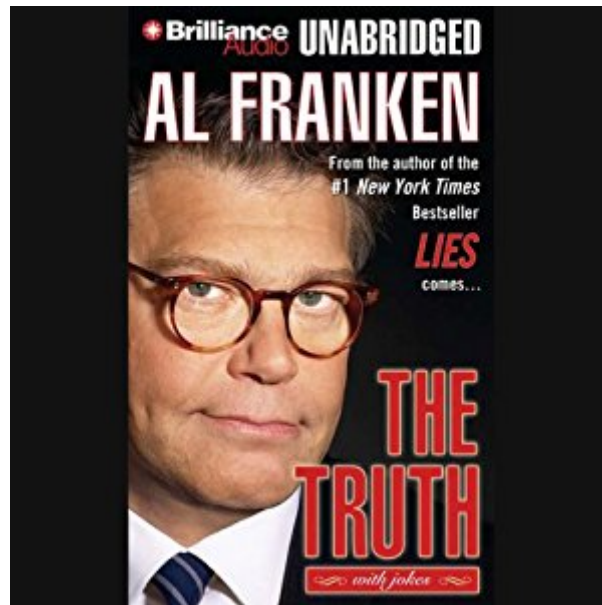


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The Truth (with Jokes)



Synopsis

Al Franken's landmark bestseller, *Lies (And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them): A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*, was praised as a "bitterly funny assault" (The New York Times) that rang "with the moral clarity of an angel's trumpet" (The Associated Press). Now, this master of political humor strikes again with a powerful and provocative message for all of us. In these pages, Al reveals the alarming story of how: Bush (barely) beat Kerry with his campaign of "fear, smear, and queers" and then claimed a nonexistent mandate. "Casino Jack" Abramoff, the Republicans' nearest and dearest friend, made millions of dollars off of the unspeakable misery of the poor and the powerless. And, also, Native Americans. The administration successfully implemented its strategy to destroy America's credibility and goodwill around the world. Complete with new material for this paperback edition, *The Truth (with jokes)* is more than just entertaining, intelligent, and insightful. It is at once prescient in its analysis of right-wing mendacity and incompetence, and inspiring in its vision of a better tomorrow for all Americans (except Jack Abramoff). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The most prominent feature of this book is (believe it or not) its near-consummate lack of humor. For those that know Al Franken from his previous projects, including two of his previous bestsellers, "Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot, And Other Observations" and "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell

Them, A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right," this may seem to be hard to believe. But in addition to having a title that's less than ten words long, this book is the most serious, most somber, of all of Franken's projects that I know of. Yes, true to the book's subtitle, there are jokes. But then again, I know of no writer that is completely humorless (and if there were, I don't want to read him), but almost completely gone (save for the occasional barbs thrown in the direction of his usual nemeses: Limbaugh, O'Reilly, Coulter and Hannity) is Franken's trademark satirical and often ribald skewering of conservative pundits. This is not to say that without Franken's characteristic humor, the book is without merit. Far from it. Only that we're seeing a markedly different Al Franken. Not a deadly serious Al Franken, but still one much more serious than we're used to. And his targets, this time are not the pundits, but the leaders in the conservative movement, such as the very recently indicted Tom DeLay, his close compatriot Jack Abramoff. And the issues are more serious than which suburb Bill O'Reilly grew up in. This time his bones of contention are with the severely bungled Terri Schiavo case, the war in Iraq, and the smear campaigns conducted against John Kerry. The book answers, or should I say, reconfirms, what I believed about conservative leadership for quite some time: they care only about the rights of major corporations to make money. That's all.

My husband bought me this book as a treat for my birthday--I'm normally not a fast reader, but I couldn't put it down. I read it into the night and woke up the following morning (early) and read it some more. When I got back from work, I sat down first thing and read it even more. Franken's writing and wit has an aura that grabbed me and held my attention from beginning to end. What struck me most about his book was how he managed to, for his readers including me, relive the disappointment and near-despair of those of us in the progressive movement who were devastated when Kerry lost the 2004 election. Through his writing, I felt Al's depression, disappointment, discouragement, and anger at the gloating of an overconfident Right who were overly impressed with themselves and their narrow win. In later chapters, I felt disgust at Al's relating the "dirty tricks" of the Bush team in deceiving the American public, time and again, into not only fighting an illegal and unwarranted war based on lies, but believing its spinning an honorable Vietnam veteran into a traitor and deceiving the Bush voters into supporting him a second time. At the end of the book, I felt hope and encouragement from Al's poignant letter to his future grandchildren, and felt more motivated than ever to work for positive change in our country's landscape. Those of you reviewers who are "one-starring" this excellently-written book are most likely doing so without reading it.

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