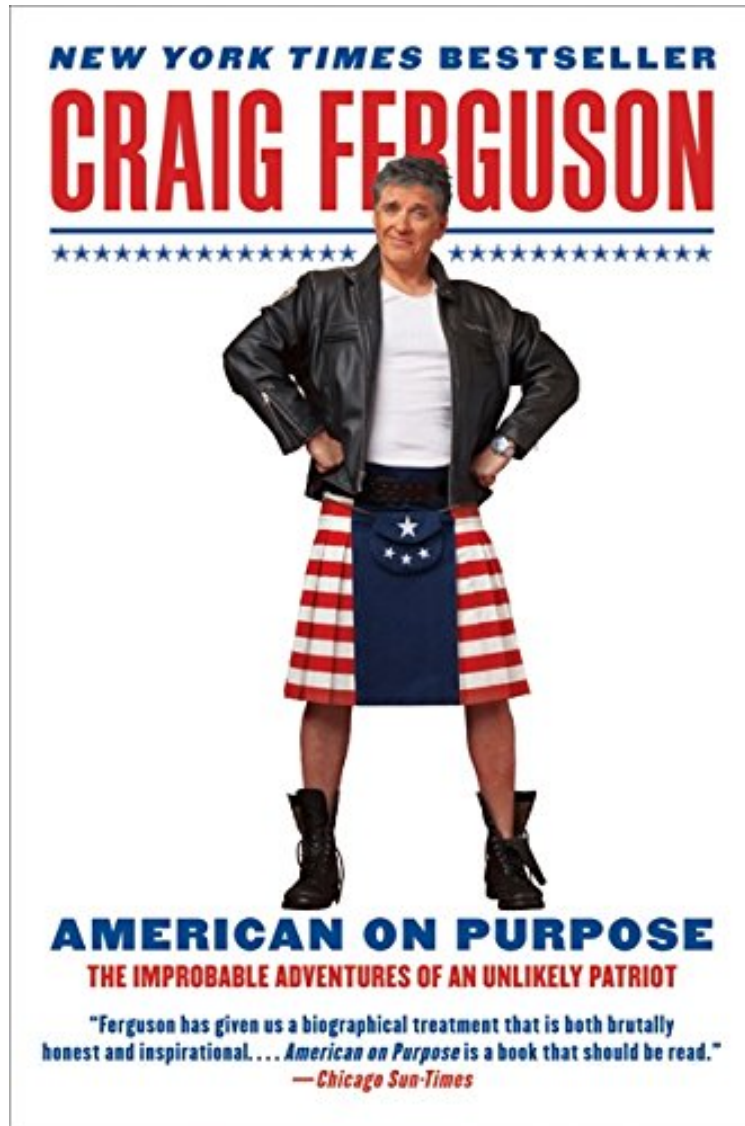


American on Purpose: The Improbable Adventures of an Unlikely Patriot

Craig Ferguson

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#413882 in Books Craig Ferguson 2010-05-11 2010-05-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .49 #File Name: 0061998494288 pages American on Purpose The Improbable Adventures of an Unlikely Patriot | File size: 69.Mb

Craig Ferguson : American on Purpose: The Improbable Adventures of an Unlikely Patriot before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American on Purpose: The Improbable Adventures of an Unlikely Patriot:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. it was touching and funny and honest By Jesi Lea Ryan I heard

somewhere once that many people become comedians in order to hide their inner demons. Think about all of the brilliant comedians out there who have died from suicide or substance abuse over the years. Andy Kaufmann, John Belushi, Richard Jenni. Richard Pryor set himself on fire during a heroin binge, for Christ's sake! Craig Ferguson could have ended up this way as well. His inner demons were drug and alcohol addiction. While Craig's checkered past gives him some funny material to draw on for his act, this incredible honest autobiography follows the role substances played in his life—including how he almost killed himself. Aside from his sordid past, *American On Purpose* follows Craig on his journey from working-class Glasgow to a millionaire citizen of the United States. It truly is a modern "American Dream" tale. From the time he was a little kid watching the first moon landing, Craig dreamed of coming to the United States—the land of possibilities. As an American myself, I sometimes take those possibilities for granted. While the book isn't all "Kum-bi-yah" and "the U.S. is perfect" (it isn't), it does serve as a reminder of our country's good qualities. In America, a C student can become President and a tacky chick from the Jersey Shore can become a household name. The possibilities that exist for us are virtually limitless. Of course, most of us are not rich or powerful or famous—that's not the point—the point is that the possibilities feed our dreams and with dedication and hard work, those dreams might become real. Okay, back to the book. It wasn't the most brilliantly written book I've ever read, but it was touching and funny and honest. What more can one expect from an autobiography? Overall, I give *American On Purpose*... Plot – 3 bookmarks (Follows Craig's life) Honestly – 4 ½ bookmarks (You might wonder how I am able to judge a book's honesty. Let's just say I know it when I read it. Craig did not pull any punches when discussing his past.) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heartfelt, candid, insightful, and quite funny. By skmurphy Craig Ferguson's autobiography is heartfelt, candid, insightful, and quite funny. He is brutally honest about his shortcomings and alcoholism and what it takes to manage it on a day to day basis. He describes many painful scenes from his life, starting with early childhood in Scotland, and continuing through the many twists and turns his life has taken since as a drummer, stand up comedian, actor, and late night tv show host. His choice between lamenting the pain or finding a way to laugh about it is what has allowed him to "continue to fail until he succeeded." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book thinking it would be great humor and a light read. By Sly Piggie I bought this book thinking it would be great humor and a light read. I was very happy to find a lot of substance between the covers. This is an auto biography of a guy with a wild and troubled past. Incredibly honest and at times depressing account of how/why he became an alcoholic and drug addict without even knowing that he was and how he broke the cycle. It is also a hilarious tale of growing up, many random adventures, world travels, relationships, and breaking into the world of show biz. Remarkably insightful and relate able to anyone that has ever thought they were indestructible and that life would never progress passed parties and "no responsibility". Anyone that has ever wanted to be great and famous. Anyone that has ever sat back and, when reviewing their life, realized that without certain key moments in their life that seemed unimportant at the time, you would have never ended up where you are today. One change or missed chance encounter could alter everything that you know today. Also, just a great story about how this lunatic ended up a Hollywood success story without even really trying. His personality just carried him from person to person that led him here. Great story and many laugh out loud moments that many of us can relate to...especially if you were part of the party scene during your life.

In *American on Purpose*, Craig Ferguson delivers a moving and aching funny memoir of living the American dream as he journeys from the mean streets of Glasgow, Scotland, to the comedic promised land of Hollywood. Along the way he stumbles through several attempts to make his mark—as a punk rock musician, a construction worker, a bouncer, and, tragically, a modern dancer. To numb the pain of failure, Ferguson found comfort in drugs and alcohol, addictions that eventually led to an aborted suicide attempt. (He forgot to do it when someone offered him a glass of sherry.) But his story has a happy ending: success on the hit sitcom *The Drew Carey Show*, and later as the host of CBS's *Late Late Show*. By far Ferguson's greatest triumph was his decision to become a U.S. citizen, a milestone he achieved in early 2008. In *American on Purpose*, Craig Ferguson talks a red, white, and blue streak about everything our Founding Fathers feared.

"A fine writer, witty, reflective, and candid.... Ferguson is a kinetic cutup teeming with foolishness, brilliance, defiance, and heart. All this is captured in his book as an entertaining connect-the-dots journey." (Associated Press) "Hilariously vivid." (People) "Funny and poignant and inspirational and brilliant. Nowhere in his story of emigration and redemption does Craig Ferguson realize that as lucky as he thinks he is to be 'American on Purpose,' we are luckier still to have him." (Keith Olbermann) "With *American on Purpose*, Craig Ferguson somehow manages to avoid the pitfalls of self-indulgence and self-importance that plague most (okay, all) Hollywood autobiographies. He has, instead, written a book that is hilarious and irrepressibly daft, yet also kind, poignant, and undeniably wise. It was a joy to read." (Dennis Lehane, author of *The Given Day*) "A great read . . . almost as good as my memoir." (Carrie Fisher, author of *Wishful Drinking*) "Ferguson has given us a biographical treatment that is both brutally honest and inspirational... *American on Purpose* is a book that should be read." (Chicago Sun-Times) "Hilarious and revealing...witty and emotional." (The Daily Beast) From the Back Cover In *American on Purpose*, Craig Ferguson

delivers a moving and achingly funny memoir of living the American dream as he journeys from the mean streets of Glasgow, Scotland, to the comedic promised land of Hollywood. Along the way he stumbles through several attempts to make his mark—as a punk rock musician, a construction worker, a bouncer, and, tragically, a modern dancer. To numb the pain of failure, Ferguson found comfort in drugs and alcohol, addictions that eventually led to an aborted suicide attempt. (He forgot to do it when someone offered him a glass of sherry.) But his story has a happy ending: in 1993, the washed-up Ferguson washed up in the United States. Finally sober, Ferguson landed a breakthrough part on the hit sitcom *The Drew Carey Show*, a success that eventually led to his role as the host of CBS's *The Late Late Show*. By far Ferguson's greatest triumph was his decision to become a U.S. citizen, a milestone he achieved in early 2008, just before his command performance for the president at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner. In *American on Purpose*, Craig Ferguson talks a red, white, and blue streak about everything our Founding Fathers feared. About the Author Craig Ferguson is the host of *The Late Late Show*. He is the author of the novel *Between the Bridge and the River* and lives in Los Angeles, California.