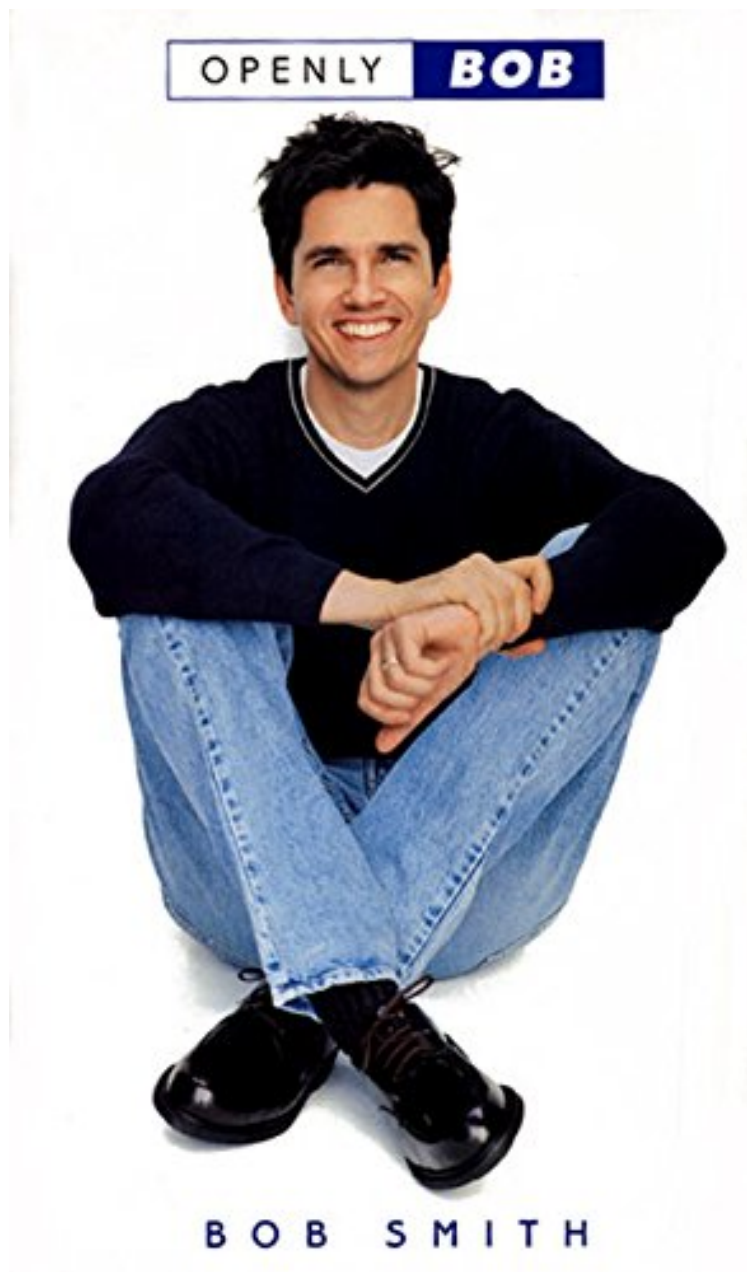


[Ebook free] Openly Bob

## Openly Bob

*Bob Smith*

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**Bob Smith : Openly Bob** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Openly Bob:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A clown's view of the gay society. By David If you want a light read

and something to make you laugh, this is a good one. You do not however really get to know Bob as who he is when not joking and making satire. It is a great comedy book, but was a bit saddened that it was all about humor and laughter and he never really lets his panache down. Well, excepting the final chapter about the death of his father. Had really hoped more for a biography, but if you like happy reading and humor, it is very well done hyperbole and character assassination in a fun way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great writer. Very Funny. Subtle but still laugh out-loud funny By Kevin T. Burke Great writer. Very Funny. Subtle but still laugh out-loud funny 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny but... By Tess's Dad Bob Smith is a very funny guy though a bit redundant. I read his time travel novel which I did enjoy but his material is often repeated in this book. The hurricane story was my favorite.

As an openly gay comic, Bob Smith broke barriers with an appearance on "The Tonight Show." Now Smith offers up his own original, whine-free perspective on being grown up and gay. In *OPENLY BOB*, the acclaimed comedian candidly, and humorously, tackles issues facing grown-up gays as they make their place in an overwhelmingly straight society. From bringing your boyfriend home to your father's funeral, to being the only gay couple at a family wedding, to surviving couples counseling, Smith's decidedly wry spin on the events of our lives resonates with keen observation and hilarious truth. "So Mom says to me on the phone, 'Just because you're coming home for your father's funeral doesn't mean we can't have fun!'" Sex education, meteor showers, lesbian ventriloquist dummies, fleamarket shopping, body piercing, pot-smoking drag queens, environmental correctness, Judgment Day, Samuel Beckett, Newt Gingrich, Coco Chanel, Sigmund Freud--nothing and no one escapes Smith's incisive eye in this very human collection of comic essays.

.com Bob Smith writes about topics that are standard elements of almost any actor-humorist's repertoire: family visits, early jobs, auditions for parts, and the ups and downs of romantic relationships. The major difference between Bob and most other comedians, however, is that he's openly and unashamedly gay. *Openly Bob* is not, however, a collection of gay jokes. When Bob's sexuality is relevant to the joke, it comes up, as in his thoughts on how to abate right-wing fears about homosexuals using sex education in public schools as "recruitment." "Our educational system has proved," he writes, "that if a subject is taught in a boring enough manner, Americans will make every effort to avoid it for the rest of their lives. If homosexuality was taught in the same manner as trigonometry, even most gay people would have no use for it after graduation." The rest of the time, however, Bob's gayness is not an issue, but simply a state of being. His jokes aren't funny because he's gay; his jokes are funny because they're funny. "How did Tom and I come to realize that we needed couples counseling?" he asks at one point. "We had sex less frequently. Then we had sex less frequently than people in full-body casts. We stopped having sex. Finally, our relationship stopped other people, gay or straight, from wanting to have sex." Bob Smith's wit and intelligence, which garnered *Openly Bob* a 1998 Lambda Literary Award, will make him an equally appealing humorist to both gay and straight readers. From *Library Journal* The first openly gay comedian to appear on the *Tonight Show*, star of an HBO special, and member of the popular comedy troupe *Funny Gay Males* (with whom he co-wrote *Growing Up Gay*, Hyperion, 1995), Smith here assembles a collection of 13 humorous essays?autobiographical musings that range over topics of everyday life concentrating on the often banal, sometimes absurd family encounters to which everyone can relate. After opening with a Thanksgiving visit to his parents in Buffalo, he relates attendance at the wedding of his lover's nephew and closes with a recollection of going to his father's funeral. His sometimes biting observations on his family's dysfunctions are probably better delivered as part of a stand-up routine. By contrast, Smith's characterizations of fellow bird enthusiasts on an outing in Central Park are subtle and generous. While his homosexuality is a constant?and a constant source of humor?it is treated ultimately as just another quirk in one man's view of life. Well recommended wherever humor books circulate.?Eric Bryant, "Library Journal" Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Bob Smith is a real writer...a trusty and tart guide, and as you'd suspect, a master of the one-line observation...But what readers, gay and straight, will really appreciate are the direct approach and the eye for detail that make this book a touchingly personal document. Smith brings a sensibility and a sensitivity that make this one of the most rewarding gay books of the year." --Lambda Book Report "Hilarious." --Entertainment Weekly. "Emotionally powerful, obviously honest...a true heart and a very funny one as well." --San Francisco Chronicle "OPENLY BOB is a dazzlingly funny, semiautobiographical, hardcover one-man show." --Paper "Bob Smith is that rare phenomenon: a hilarious gentile. *OPENLY BOB* is his wickedly funny diary...Not only is this book entertaining and touching, but it also includes perhaps the finest Lucille Ball anecdote of our time." --Paul Rudnick