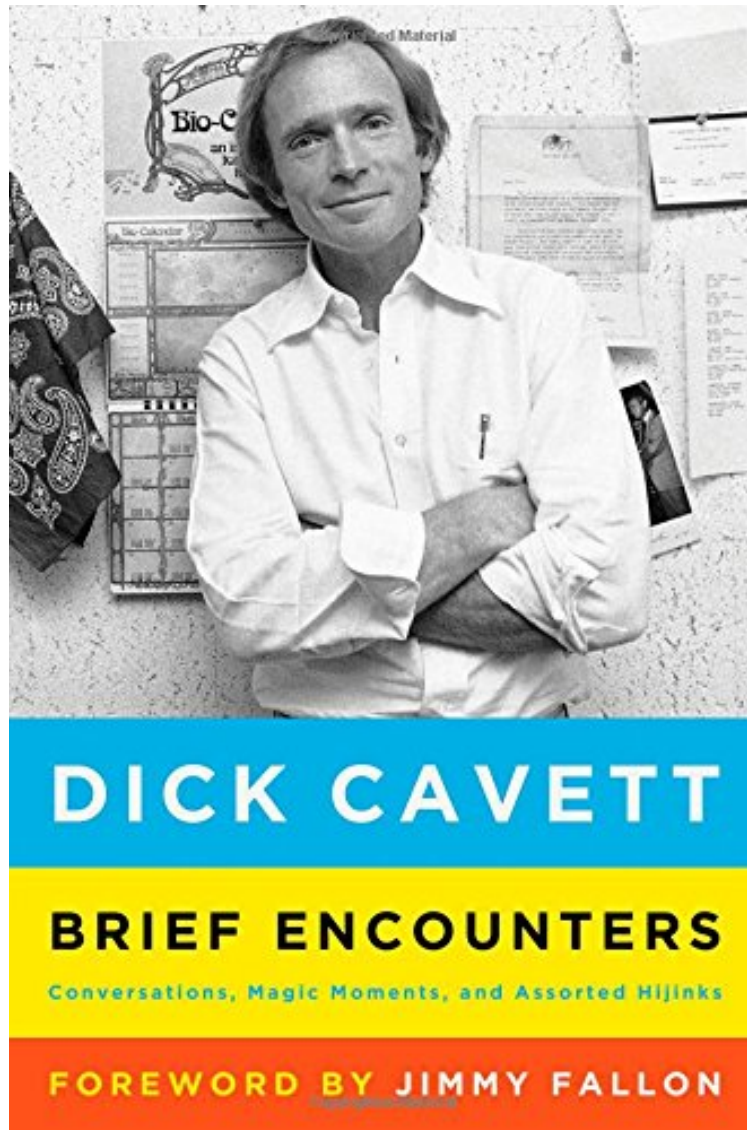


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Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks

Dick Cavett

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Dick Cavett : Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks:

36 of 40 people found the following review helpful. CAVETT: THE MASTER TALKBy D. S. ChowesGoing back to Steve Allen, the original host of the TONIGHT Show, Dick Cavett's impossible task of going against Johnnie Carson

was a failed attempt. While Carson featured stars and usually mindless chatter, Cavett on ABC would feature the greats -- yes, from showbiz but also intellectuals. The enormous range of his knowledge was amazing. He left ABC for a half hour nightly program on PBS for a few years. I went to his PBS tapings on *8th Avenue in New York City -- at times two in one day. One day he began with fine artist David Hockney followed by a genetic biologist. It seems that he could hold his own no matter the field FCC member under JFK Newton Minnow called TV a vast wasteland. Yes, but not Dick Cavett. So my comments about Mr. Cavett's present book is somewhat prejudiced. When watching documentaries, you will often see the person of interest on a Cavett tape. In it he speaks about the many interesting persons he has come across in showbiz and the arts who were featured on his TV programs. Each chapter is like a piece of Belgium chocolate. It's difficult to put the book down. Many of his pieces emanate from the op-ed pieces he wrote for the New York Times. Fame is fleeting, so few people alive today will remember many of the giants he writes about. I read his two pieces on Arthur Godfrey. He probably holds the distinction of bringing in more money to CBS' William Paley than anyone else. He had a show five times a week on radio and TV show every morning for an hour and a half; at night he had two prime time TV shows. His last program was his morning radio show and then he faded to black. It was Godfrey who was the first to talk to each person -- not to an audience. Many celebrities today believe that their fame will last for eternity. A few will for a finite period of time as the remainder will fade to black and only you will remember them until...47 of 48 people found the following review helpful. Cavett is fascinating to listen to - Go for the AUDIOBOOK edition! By Steve Ramm First a note of explanation. groups all reviews of books (both print and audio of the same title) together. So note which format is being reviewed. This is a review of CD Audio version which comes on 7 CDs). Now on to my review.....I've been a big fan of Dick Cavett since his daytime talk show on ABC - followed by late night shows on ABC and then PBS. In fact, just a few weeks ago I reviewed a great DVD from PBS Home Video titled Dick Cavett's Watergate that I recommended in my review of that product). Cavett was what I always called the "thinking man's late night talk show host". He had politicians, entertainers, authors and movie legends on his show and it was always fascinating. There weren't aspiring comedians - Cavett can be very funny - he started by writing the jokes for Jack Paar and Johnny Carson. I wasn't aware until I got this book (I saw an advance reading copy of the print edition) and the final version of the CD audio edition, that Cavett writes a weekly column on line for the New York Times. (Now I do). This book is a compilation of 57 of these columns, published between 2010 and early 2014. The subjects range from the great encounters that Cavett had - both on TV and off - with Arthur Godfrey, Marlene Dietrich, Stan Laurel (a visit to Laurel's apartment fills of the columns), Jonathan Winters, John Lennon, Muhammad Ali and more. He reminisces about his high school reunion and his Yale college reunion. He discusses sex education and gun control and his real displeasure with Dick Cheney. And there is more. Cavett is a conversationalist and so his stories are funnier and more insightful when you hear him. He seems to have adapted the book just a little bit, spelling out - or clarifying words when necessary. The printed book is about 250 pages (and includes a 1 1/2 page "Foreword by Jimmy Fallon" (which, surprisingly, he does not read on the audio version. - even though Fallon's name is on the front of the audio CD box!) The audio version runs about 8 hours and you could probably read the book in less time. But, why? Let Cavett TELL you his stories, in his own way. It's much more personal and, frankly, the funnier stories will really be funnier. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic" 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Be warned. You cannot put down this book! No matter how hard you try! By Gloria Rosenthal Only five stars? Well, okay, there is one thing wrong with this book; it ends too soon! I wanted to keep reading and reading and reading. Stop to eat? Why? Sleep? Sleeping isn't as much fun as reading Dick Cavett's "Brief Encounters." We remember his way with words when interviewing people, and are lucky enough to find him, sometimes, on TV shows now. Ah! This book goes further, proving that he has, and has always had, a very special way with words. And boy! does he know how to use them to make each chapter a prize in itself. Having a whole book of these gems is a treasure. Wait! There is something else wrong here. My husband heard me chuckling out loud so often he wants me to buy him the "real book" (this Neanderthol does not read Kindle) so I have to see if I can buy it. Thus, I have to stop now, just as Dick Cavett had to stop when he did. But if he writes another book, I will write another review!

Dick Cavett is back, sharing his reflections and reminiscences about Hollywood legends, American cultural icons, and the absurdities of everyday life. In *Brief Encounters*, the legendary talk show host Dick Cavett introduces us to the fascinating characters who have crossed his path, from James Gandolfini and John Lennon to Mel Brooks and Nora Ephron, enhancing our appreciation of their talent, their personalities, and their place in the pantheon. We tag along as Cavett spends an afternoon with Stan Laurel at his modest apartment in Los Angeles, spars with Muhammad Ali at his training camp, and comes to know a young Steve Jobs who woos him to be Apple's first celebrity pitchman. He also offers piquant commentary on contemporary politics, the indignities of travel, the nature of comedy writing, and the utter improbability of being alive at all. On his talk show, Cavett welcomed the leading figures from film, music, theater, literature, comedy, and politics, and engaged them in conversation that made viewers feel that the discussion was taking place in their own living rooms. Jimmy Fallon, the host of *The Tonight Show*, has called him "a legend and an inspiration" and has written a foreword that makes clear the debt that today's talk show hosts owe to Dick Cavett. To

spend a few minutes, or an hour, or even a whole evening with Dick Cavett is an experience not to be missed, and now there's no reason to deny yourself. Enjoy the conversation!

“A welcome sequel to Talk Show, Dick Cavett covers a lot of ground in a collection of erudite and witty pieces...Brief Encounters is very good and very funny, at times pointed, but always engaging.” ?The Chicago Tribune “[Brief Encounters] looks back on Dick Cavett's time with some of the biggest names of the 20th century. A touching essay about the late James Gandolfini, a fond remembrance of an afternoon at Stan Laurel's small Los Angeles apartment, sparring with Muhammed Ali, and being talked into signing on as Apple's first celebrity pitchman by a young Steve Jobs are all here, as are Cavett's warm memories of John Lennon.” ?Esquire.com “Brief Encounters includes numerous observations about contemporary culture and politics -- neither Democrats nor Republicans are spared ... -- as well as moving recollections of and tributes to stars no longer with us, from Stan Laurel to James Gandolfini.” ?USA Today “[Cavett's] book is at its best when summoning memories of long-gone entertainment figures such as Stan Laurel and Groucho Marx...Cavett never abandons his wit...With his pithy prose style and compact paragraphs, Cavett has a sure feel for the art of column-writing.” ?Columbus Dispatch “Great, pithy stories and recollections... In his signature charming prose, Cavett introduces readers to the fascinating characters that have crossed his path.” ?Examiner.com (Named a Best Celebrity Book of the Year) “The book is a delightful peek behind the curtain at celebrities, complex characters, and the nuances of everyday life--all told with his singular wit and style.” ?Publishers Weekly “The very model of a quick-witted interviewer, Cavett ... still works the crowd effectively.... [Cavett] remembers working as a gag writer for famed comedians and recalls the Broadway badinage and smart repartee that marked the well-regarded Dick Cavett Show.” ?Kirkus s “In the late 1960s to mid-1970s the Dick Cavett Show was a late-night TV destination. [Cavett] was known as a literate, erudite interviewer who loved wordplay, but who didn't take any guff from his guests... Most notable are his anecdotal stories about such people as Groucho Marx, Nora Ephron, and Muhammad Ali.” ?Library Journal “The best bathroom reading ever written! Each story takes just the right amount of time.” ?Mel Brooks About the Author Dick Cavett was the host of The Dick Cavett Show on ABC and PBS, and he also hosted talk shows on the USA, HBO, and CNBC cable networks. He appears frequently on stage, screen, and new media, and he was nominated for his most recent Emmy Award in 2012. He is the author of Talk Show and the coauthor of Cavett and Eye on Cavett, and he writes an online opinion column for The New York Times. He lives in New York City and Montauk, New York.