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Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them a Fair and Balanced Look at the Right (Paperback) - Common

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(author) Al Franken : Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them a Fair and Balanced Look at the Right (Paperback) - Common before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them a Fair and Balanced Look at the Right (Paperback) - Common:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Treason, this ain't By A Customer Mr. Franken relates his PERSONAL interactions with the likes of Ann pimping-for-the-right Coulter, Sean I-can-talk-louder-than-you Hannity and of course everyone's favorite blowhard Bill splotchy-face O'Really?. Unlike Coulter's slanderous tome, this one actually talks about personal experiences and not conjecture leading no where. I've read both this book and "Treason" and all I can say is that I was able to get past the first chapter in this book without wondering aloud, "what is your point?!". There is a bit too much profanity in this for my taste. I guess Mr. Frankin wanted to witness to his ire or add shock value. He did not succeed in either case, I don't beleive. Still, with Mr. Franken's "psycho" personality (walking up to people and asking them pointed questions, rather than the softball stuff they get on talking head shows) he does hit some obvious vulnerable spots of the Right - particularly their self imposed "moral authority". Mr. Franken, rightly proves, that they have neither the morals they claim, nor any type of real leadership/authority (as the Iraq bumbling has once again proven). The Right is made up, primarily, of blustering empty suits who do just as many underhanded things as the Left (if not more) all the while saying all the culturally PC things that their side wants to hear (and believe about them). The list, for instance, of Rightwingers who have cheated on thier spouses is every bit as

long as the Left's - yet the Christian Right continues to support AND FORGIVE them, but not their counterparts. This book clearly points out the hypocrisy in that very action - the ability to forgive one on your side but demonize, ala Coulter and Rush Got-any-Drugs Limbaugh, others who disagree with you. Rush's hypocrisy is not on display here, but with Rush, as with most Republicans, it is only a matter of giving them enough rope/power. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The BIG LIE By J. W. Graybosch The BIG LIE about this book happens happens on the copyright page. It says, "first printing, September 2003!! Thank you FOX for the early release. Al Franken's new book is funny indeed, and at times it is insightful, illuminating and even vicious. One gets the feeling he has finally taken off the gloves and is ready to get in there and sling it with the best of them. At times he overstates his case. Like when he catches Bill O'Reilly lying about where he came from, being an independent, the whole Polk/Peabody thing, or catching Ann Coulter lying about her age. These kind of lies, while they may say a lot about the individuals' personalities, are not all that important. The book might be better if he talked more about the really important lies, but it wouldn't be nearly as funny! Don't get me wrong. He talks a lot about the big lies, the statistics designed to deceive, the dirty campaign tricks, the dishonest reporting, the conscious effort to mislead the public, etc. Al claims the media does not have a liberal bias, and he makes a decent argument. I disagree with some of his conclusions, but I agree with his contention that news media (left, middle and right) suffer from many more serious biases that undercut their ability to do a good job of reporting. One of my own peeves is their bias toward oversimplification. They seldom take enough time to discuss complicated issues. The excuse is they're always "running out of time" which is a ridiculous notion. I mean they're 24 hour news channels - they literally have all the time in the world! What they really mean is they are afraid of exceeding the attention span of their viewers. If they are really that short of time, CNN wasted some on Al's Aug. 28 interview with the brainless Paula Zahn She clearly had not read the book - OK, that's why they have staff. But even so, she did not seem to understand what they had given her. She used material from his book to apparently catch Al in a lie of his own. At least that seemed to be her take on it - she had one of those "gotcha" looks on her face. The fact that the "lie" is presented as such in the book and is clearly used for satiric purpose, seems to have been lost on her. On the same day, FOX dropped their lawsuit against Al. At least that was how they described getting trounced in court ("without merit"... "an easy decision"). I'd like to know what former employee at FOX thought it would be a good idea to sue in the first place. What does it say about their standards that they thought they had a case? Why didn't they ask Greta? In summary, the book is funny and worth reading. Even though it's target is the right wing media, the lessons are applicable to all. It should be of value to news viewers to show them the many ways in which they are misled and deceived. No one should take what they see and hear from these people at face value. The book does not have an index, so the targets will have to search for their mentions and might even be forced to read whole sections! Al has challenged them to find factual errors. I hope they try. They might learn something. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. You'll laugh, you'll cry... By Gregory Whitfield It takes a lot to make me laugh out loud when I'm reading something, but Al's book does it all the time. Thanks, Al! It takes even more to make me cry, and while I didn't actually produce tears, the chapter on the Wellstone memorial really pulled at the ol' heart strings. How come there are no funny right-wingers? I guess it takes a certain level of intelligence for wit. Though I found the following excerpt from a One-star reviewer pretty damn funny: "The Federal government, with a trillion dollar payroll, is way too big and the only party willing to reduce its size is the Republican Party. 3) Democrats acquire and keep power by keeping the government large by collecting gigantic sums and spending even larger sums." After Clinton and Gore reduced the size of the government bloated by Republican presidents (and erased the Republican-created deficits), the current Republican pResident is not only creating a massive government but is creating a deficit to match. (He has an awful lot of friends in high places to pay off). If this reviewer had managed to read the book he would have been able to read how other open-minded right-wingers are spoon-fed this drivel from Faux News and the fat liar in chief, Limbaugh. Folks. (Does that use of "folks" turn anybody else off? Don't "folk" with me.) Buy the book. Buy two copies--I did. Lend them out to people who can't afford to buy it. You'll be doing your part to deflate the gaseous windbags Satan has saddled us with. Yeah, it's hard to fight them, but so folksing easy to laugh at them. Keep up the good work, Al!

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