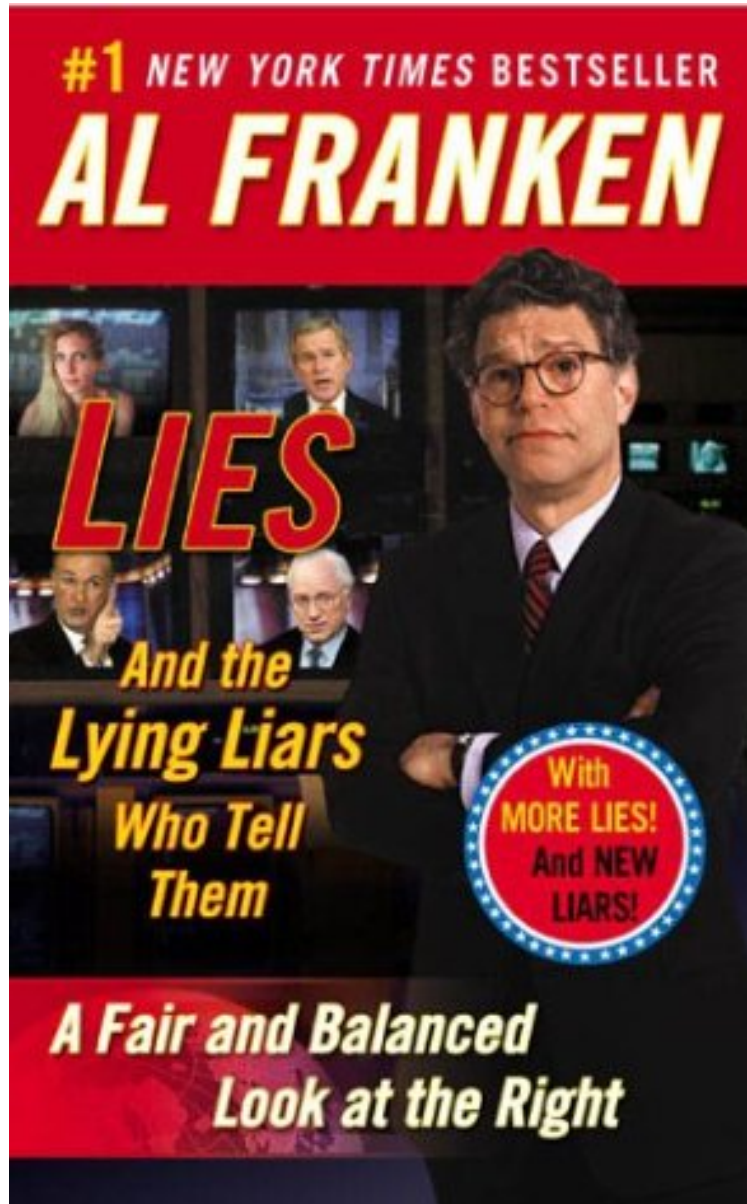


(Mobile book) Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right

# Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right

Al Franken

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Al Franken : Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right 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:

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 deamonize, 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 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 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 mislead 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 folking easy

to laugh at them. Keep up the good work, Al!

The #1 New York Times bestseller by Senator Al Franken, author of *Giant of the Senate* Al Franken, one of our “savviest satirists” (People), has been studying the rhetoric of the Right. He has listened to their cries of “slander,” “bias,” and even “treason.” He has examined the GOP’s policies of squandering our surplus, ravaging the environment, and alienating the rest of the world. He’s even watched Fox News. A lot. And, in this fair and balanced report, Al bravely and candidly exposes them all for what they are: liars. Lying, lying liars. Al destroys the liberal media bias myth by doing what his targets seem incapable of: getting his facts straight. Using the Right’s own words against them, he takes on the pundits, the politicians, and the issues, in the most talked about book of the year. Timely, provocative, unfailingly honest, and always funny, *Lies* sticks it to the most right-wing administration in memory, and to the right-wing media hacks who do its bidding.

Having previously dissected the factual inaccuracies of a single bellicose talk show host in *Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot*, Al Franken takes his fight to a larger foe: President George W. Bush, the Bush Administration, Ann Coulter, Bill O’Reilly, and scores of other conservatives whom, he says, are playing loose with the facts. It’s a lot of ground to cover, as evidenced by the 43 chapters in *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them*, but the results are often entertaining and insightful. Franken occupies a unique place in the modern political dialogue as perhaps the media’s only comedy writer and performer who is also a Harvard fellow as well as a liberal political commentator. This unique and vaguely lonely position lends a charming quixotic quality to adventures such as a tense encounter with the Fox News staff at the National Press Club, a challenge to fisticuffs with National Editor Rich Lowry, and an oddly sweet admissions visit to ultra-conservative Bob Jones University (with a young research assistant posing as his son when Franken’s real-life son refuses to participate in the charade). Less useful are comic book dramatizations of “Supply Side Jesus” and a fictitious Vietnam War story featuring the numerous righties who, Franken intimates, improperly avoided service. And Franken’s criticisms of conservative talk show hosts Sean Hannity, O’Reilly, and columnist Coulter, while admirable in their attention to detail, fail to shed much new light on people who have built careers on broad arguments and relentless self-aggrandizement. But Franken is at his best, and most compellingly readable, when he backs off the wackiness and the personal grudges and writes about more personal matters such as the political circus surrounding the memorial service of the late Senator Paul Wellstone. But even on these more serious topics, Franken’s wit is still present and, in fact, grows sharper. In a time when much political discourse is composed of rage and shouting, it’s refreshing that Al Franken is able to shout in a witty manner. --John Moe From Publishers

Weekly This witty, scrupulously researched and expertly delivered audio production accomplishes what few nonfiction audio books manage to do—it realizes the full potential of the format. Even those who have already read Franken’s book should take the time to listen to this superb audio adaptation, which is enhanced by Franken’s impeccable sense of comic timing, eerily precise impersonations and inclusion of source materials. In the most compelling section, for example, Franken juxtaposes two revealing clips to illustrate his view that the late Senator Paul Wellstone’s memorial was “cynically distorted for partisan political advantage” not by the Democrats, but by the Republicans. The first clip is from Rush Limbaugh’s radio show, where he proclaims in a heavy, lugubrious voice, “The Democrats wrenched Wellstone’s soul right out of the grave, assumed it for themselves and then used it for their own blatant, selfish political ambitions.... Show me where the grief was!” Franken follows this with an excerpt from the memorial—which will bring tears to the eyes of any listener, partisan or non-in which David McLaughlin pays tribute to his younger brother, Will, who was Wellstone’s driver, bodyguard, adviser and “the one who kept Paul going.” By turns sad, funny and serious (but always satirical), this audio book has all the entertainment value of fiction (and even a one-act play called *The Waitress and The Lawyer* based on one of President Bush’s radio addresses), but the issues Franken raises will stay with listeners long after their laughter has died down. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist It’s one thing to read about right-wing lies from the likes of journalist Eric Alterman and Joe Conason but quite another to hear the inconsistencies and twisted rhetoric filtered through the satiric brain of Al Franken. True, much of the material covered in all these books is the same—or, as Franken puts it in his acknowledgments, “Eric Alterman, thanks for writing a book on bias I could just put jokes to.” But it’s Franken’s take on it that is so delicious. Unlike his more serious fellow writers, he does not feel compelled toward civility or decorum. Hence his chapter title: “Ann Coulter: Nutcase,” or the next chapter: “You Know Who I Don’t Like? Ann Coulter.” And although personal attacks abound—“Bill O’Reilly: Lying, Splotchy Bully”—there’s plenty of real talk about really serious stuff. Only Franken makes it funny. For instance, he deftly proves, with help from the Project for Excellence in Journalism, how Al Gore was steamrollered by the “liberal” press in the 2000 election; reveals the lies made by the Right about the Paul Wellstone memorial; and explains about as clearly as anyone how the Bush tax cuts work and whom they benefit. Even the chapters that don’t quite work—Franken trying to get a fake son into Bob Jones University—evoke a few smiles. Expect big word of mouth on this one, which was rushed into print early to capitalize on the quickly rejected suit filed by Fox News against the book’s title and cover

