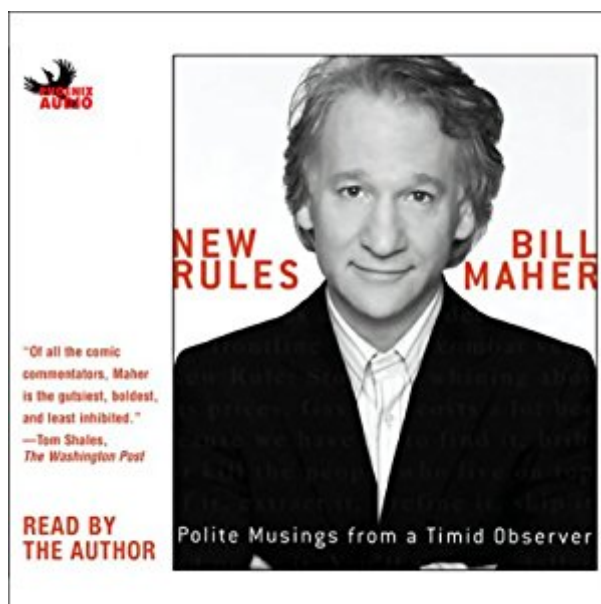


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New Rules: Polite Musings From A Timid Observer



Synopsis

Bill Maher first came to national attention as the host of the hit Comedy Central and ABC-TV program *Politically Incorrect*, where he offered a combustible mixture of irreverence and acerbic humor that helped him to garner a loyal following, as well as a reputation for being a hilarious provocateur. Now, his popular new HBO television show, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, has put him more front and center than ever. In particular, one of the show's segments entitled "New Rules" has struck a chord with viewers. It's within his rules that Maher takes serious aim, bringing all his incisiveness, wit, and his signature exasperation to bear on topics ranging from cell phones ("I don't need my cell phone to take pictures or access the Internet. I just need to make a phone call. From everywhere! Not just the places it likes!") to fast food ("New Rule: No more McDonald's in hospitals. I'm not kidding!") to the conservative agenda ("Stop claiming it's an agenda. It's not an agenda. It's a random collection of laws that your corporate donors paid you to pass."), Maher brings these brilliantly conceived riffs to audio for the first time, along with some singularly Maher-ian "editorials", editorials nothing like the standard fare found on the pages of the local newspaper!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First off, you should know that despite the page count of 230, a good deal of that is empty space. No, I'm not talking about the content, wise guy, but the actual empty space surrounding the content. Taken mostly from Maher's show-ending one liners and rants on his HBO talker "*Real Time with Bill Maher*," mostly these are little nuggets of comedic vitriol, often accompanied by photos to help sell the joke. Here's one entry in its entirety: "New Rule: Former drug addicts and alcoholics have to stop saying, "I almost died." No. Cancer survivors almost died. You almost had a good time." some

are a bit longer; some are even shorter. Each chapter ends with a page-or-so long rant that lets him break into something resembling his standup act. As you might guess, politics is a favorite subject, and his opinions, often falsely categorized as liberal, are really a kind of Las Vegas/Rat Pack brand of libertarianism. Republicans are bullies and busybodies, but Democrats are spineless and unorganized. Both are liars. Of course, where Maher really picks up the blue state support is when he comments on "values issues" like gay marriage (for) or the war on drugs (against). Then there's the matter of religion. Always irreverent, lately his humor has targeted all the stupid things that "people of faith" do, from Christians to Muslims. To quote: "Pat Robertson is insane. Just because he smiles and wears a nice suit doesn't mean he's any less of a whack job than all those wild-eyed, urine stained nut bags who babble on street corners about Jesus through a bullhorn." Then there's this: "If you don't want the world to think your religion is medieval, stop beheading people. Texans are bloodthirsty and dim, and even they learned to use an electric chair. Come on, Islam. Join the nineteenth century.

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