

The Guy Under the Sheets: The Unauthorized **Autobiography**

Chris Elliott

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"This hugely entertaining pack of lies reads like a Woody Allen essay from the New Yorker."

-David Pitt, Booklist

Is Chris Elliott a highly successful and beloved comedian—or a slightly dim-witted notalent from a celebrity family who managed to convince a generation of disillusioned youth that he was funny? From a ghastly childhood on the posh Upper East Side to his first job entertaining mobsters with his Judy Garland impersonation, *The Guy Under the Sheets* is packed with countless episodes from the life of a mediocre artist who somehow faked his way to the top—of semi-moderate fame and fortune. Woven throughout the ctional fun in Elliott's memoir are wonderful real-life anecdotes that will delight many new readers and loyal fans alike.

"The arc of [Elliott's] career remains unique and inspiring . . . that he blazed a trail for *Arrested Development* and *Community* and all the other freaky, convention-outing TV comedies."

—Grantland

The Guy Under the Sheets: The Unauthorized Autobiography Details

Date : Published November 26th 2013 by Plume (first published October 11th 2012)

ISBN: 9780142180266 Author: Chris Elliott

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From Reader Review The Guy Under the Sheets: The Unauthorized Autobiography for online ebook

Paul says

This was kind of OK...kind of.

I had the sense that Elliott has been struck by Sedaris's Disease, a persistent and tragic wasting sickness that strikes writers who try to draw too much water from the same comedy well. As material ages and thins, patients become desperate. The once-robust comedic body begins to feed on itself, resulting in humor hypotrophy. The disease is usually terminal.

Dave Hill says

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Scott says

A bit of a fall from greatness for Elliottphiles like myself, "The Guy Under the Sheets" is his fourth novel and second fake autobiography. His first fake biography, "Daddy's Boy," was pretty funny and sweetly absurd. This attempt has moments of genius and high hilarity, but a little truly does go a long way. Even at a paltry 240 pages or so, this book feels padded and repetitive.

"The Shroud of the Thwacker" was the last novel I read from him and I thought it was one of the funniest and smartest parodies I've ever read. It had a crazy yet coherent story with great characters and plenty of Elliott tomfoolery. This new book, however, relies pretty much only his tomfoolery and nothing else. It has the loose framework of being about his life with lots of gags stuffed in the holes. Because most of it is funny, it's readable and will be enjoyed by his fans. I was let down, though, because it didn't come together as brilliantly as "Thwacker" or even as well-paced as "Daddy's Boy."

And then there's the Aileen Wuornos issue... Chris Elliott loses a whole star of my review and a little of my respect for his tasteless inclusion of her into the book. It's a major comic misstep that goes against what his humor typically consists of. You watch or read Elliott for his crazy absurd humor and goofy non-sequiturs. Such a lapse into severely bad taste (castration jokes abound with her character) for such a recent tragedy is uncalled for and sad to read.

It's time for Chris to dust himself off and get that genius working again. He's got it in him, he just got lazy this time. I have faith.

Peter Smith says

I think the problem with these books written by famous TV writers (I would link this one with the ones I've

just read by Jack Handey and Bob Odenkirk; the one by Adam Resnick was better than these) is that the writing style seems like it would work much better on TV than it does on the written page. That's probably not too surprising for Chris Elliott as his fake (although with a lot of factual people and career moments) autobiography is over-the-top ridiculous. But it doesn't quite capture what I'm going to call his genius stupidity that was on display when he was a Letterman regular or his TV show Get A Life (which I'm proud to say my dad called the worst show of all time) or his movie Cabin Boy. It's a fun enough read if you're a fan of Elliott and don't take it too seriously (which, when I think about it, is impossible if you're a fan of Elliott).

CindySlowReader says

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

I couldn't do it, sorry Chris!

I wanted to like this fake Chris Elliot bio but I couldn't. It was too surreal. Like a string of inside jokes that leave you out in the cold, or a bad dream you can't interpret. I got a few chuckles from the first chapter but it was all downhill from there.

I loved his character Peter from Everybody Loves Raymond and I remember him vaguely from Letterman. Never saw his movie. The other reviewers mentioned his first book which they liked much better. I hope to stumble across it one day, I might like that one.

Leslie Langtry says

As reviewed at Bookendbabes.com:

The Guy Under The Sheets by Chris Elliott, reviewed by Leslie Langtry

Posted on November 1, 2012 by Leslie Langtry

He had me at "Damp".

Actually, I've been a fan of Chris Elliott since his weird and wonderful tv show, GET A LIFE. It appears he's written a book. Well, I guess he's written other books too, but this is the first time I noticed.

If you don't know who Chris Elliott is – try this: If you are my parents, Chris Elliott is the son of Bob Elliott of the comedy duo Bob and Ray. If you are my kids, Chris Elliott is the father of SNL funnywoman Abby Elliott. Did that help?

I know, I know, you're saying to yourself, "Leslie – all you've reviewed lately are nonfiction biographies! Is that all there is to laugh at these days?"

And to that I say, "No! The Guy Under The Sheets is actually fiction! So there, dammit! So get off my back so I can finish eating this cheese sandwich."

Apparently, Bob Elliott is not really Chris' father (and get ready for this – Elinor Donahue was NOT his mother!). According to the book, Chris' parents were the intimidating Bette Davis and the deep-throated cowboy – Sam Elliott. THE GUY reads like a weird, kinky tabloid written by an Andy Kauffman impersonator (a good one, though).

This very funny book answers long held suspicions about Elliott's sleazy associations with Shelley Winters and Big Edie of Grey Gardens. Laugh out loud about his Benny Hill hijinks with Aileen Wuornos and John Gotti! Marvel at the trail of dead bodies Elliott leaves in his wake (along with the slimy trail of shame he oozes at one point). Find out what really happened between him and Marlon Brando in Tahiti (and make sure you are not eating while reading this chapter).

A word of caution (as mandated by my legal advisors) – if you don't know or like Chris Elliott – then this is not the book for you. If this does not apply to you – go forth and READ!

Chris says

Very disappointed. I'm a big Chris Elliott fan and expected this book to be hilarious. It absolutely wasn't. Perhaps print isn't the best medium for Elliott's sense of humor. He falls into the trap of many books that are supposed to be funny: the jokes simply can't sustain the reader for the length of a book. This book would have been a lot better and probably a lot funnier if it had been a true and accurate version of Elliott's life. That or it might have worked on film but as a book I just didn't find it funny or entertaining. It gets two stars instead of one only because I'm a fan of the author.

Andrew says

Along with Norm MacDonald, Michael Showalter, and Larry David, Chris Elliott could read a cereal box and have me in tears. While this book is better than a box of cereal, it's starting to feel like his act is wearing a bit thin. Just a touch, as I still love me some Chris!

Simply, Daddy's Boy was the better of the two fake autobiographies. Taking a different approach for this one and actually telling real stories of his experiences on Get A Life and Cabin Boy would have been more interesting. Maybe not as funny, but more interesting.

Still, if you are a fan of Chris, then it's hard not to at least get a few laughs out of his bizarre, random, and surreal tales. For me, this is a pretty high 6, just not quite a 7. Perhaps I am the one who needs to get a life.

Noah K. says

The idea of a fictional autobiography is great.

Lara says

I mean, it's Chris Elliott, what do you want?

You'll probably really enjoy this, *if* you're an Elliott fan, *if* you can handle jokes that are sometimes ridiculous, sometimes gross, sometimes stupid, sometimes in extremely poor taste, and sometimes just completely nonsensical, and *if* you can handle the fact that this autobiography is pretty much entirely a work of *fiction*. It's basically a <u>spoof</u> of the traditional celebrity auto/biography.

I thought it was pretty hilarious.

I suppose we have John Gotti to thank for this?

P.S. I now reeeeally want Elliott to go back and record audio versions of all his previous books. Pleeeease?

Beth Newman says

Not as absurdly endearing as 'Daddy's Boy', but certainly funny. I don't think Elliot's fans will be disappointed.

Ashley says

Disappointing. I didn't find it at all funny, just vaguely annoying. I thought I might like it as I find him funny in person but I don't think I laughed once.

Dennis says

If you like the comedy of Chris Elliott, then this is the book for you. It's an offbeat history of Chris' career so far.