

(Mobile book) Flip: The Inside Story of TV's First Black Superstar

Flip: The Inside Story of TV's First Black Superstar

Kevin Cook

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Kevin Cook : Flip: The Inside Story of TV's First Black Superstar before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flip: The Inside Story of TV's First Black Superstar:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Blast from the past By zeta333I can recall watching the Flip Wilson show as a kid growing up in NY. At the time, there were so few African Americans on t.v, so it was a treat to see his show and all of the talent that came on. The book did give tremendous insight to a person that the public really knew nothing about (these were the days before the media divulged every aspect of an entertainers life). It showed

tremendous fortitude for his ability to climb to the top. It also shows that regardless of the level of success a person may achieve, their childhood can continue to haunt them forever. His emotional detachment from his children, his distrust and general "dislike" of women sad yet understandable based on his childhood. His later years seemed bittersweet, yet another cautionary tale to successful entertainers who have everything yet nothing. He is seldom mentioned nor remembered by comedians of today although he was a pioneer of comedy. While we all currently laugh at Madea, Geraldine was here first!!!!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the Funniest Comedians Ever! By Kiwes I remember watching the Flip Wilson Variety Show when I was a little girl, and I loved it. My favorite character, of course, was Geraldine "What you see, is what you get, honey!"--with a snap of the finger. Flip was so ahead of his time, and paved the way for so many comedians today, like Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor and Tyler Perry. He made dressing up in drag the thing to do, and how groundbreaking was that! But, like with most comedians, Flip had his fair share of demons to combat--marijuana and coke! He wasn't the best father figure to have around, but I believe he truly loved his children. This was an outstanding book, and if you're looking to learn more about this iconic comedic symbol, this book will give you what you're looking for, honey, in my best Geraldine voice. There are many things you'll learn about the man that may surprise you, as it did me. I wish he was still with us today, but the legacy he left behind is golden! Way to go, Clerow! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a Great Peek Inside the Mind of a Comic Pioneer and Genius! By Vernon L. Wesley Having grown up in the 60s 70s and remembering the impact of watching a TV show hosted by a Black man, it was huge. It was big for me, my family, and my friends. This book was a walk down memory lane for me. At each historical moment I could visualize what was happening in my family at the time and hear us quoting Flip Wilson and Geraldine. This is a rough, street tough, graphic read that makes no attempt at hiding the realities of his life and the happenings behind the scenes in the lives of entertainers. If you are a child of the 70s, loved The Flip Wilson Show, and interested in learning about the beginnings of modern Black comedy that gave birth to the many comics and TV shows we love today, then this hands down should be your next read!

The rags-to-riches story of a groundbreaking, beloved entertainer When The Flip Wilson Show debuted in 1970, black faces were still rare on television, black hosts nonexistent. So how did Clerow Flip Wilson go from Jersey City grade-school dropout to national celebrity, heralded on the cover of Time as TV's First Black Superstar? Flip is a candid, entertaining biography of a consummate comedian who changed the face of American popular culture. Kevin Cook chronicles Flips meteoric rise through the Chitlin Circuit of segregated nightclubs to his breakthrough on Johnny Carsons Tonight Show to his hit variety show, on which he created such outrageous and hilarious characters as the sassy Geraldine and flock-fleeing Reverend Leroy. As one of the biggest stars of his time, he performed and partied with Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, and other stars of the 1970s. Drawing on interviews with family, friends, and celebrities, Cook delivers the inspiring story of a complex man who broke the prime-time color barrier, blazing a trail for generations of African American performers who followed him.

From Booklist What you see is what you get was one of comedian Flip Wilsons most famous lines. Delivered in drag as Geraldine, it was always funny, but it also reflected Wilsons policy of personal privacy. Most television viewers nationwide saw him as a happy soul akin to Bill Cosby, not a dangerous subversive, such as Dick Gregory or Red Foxx. His appeal was to all races. Forgotten was his early reliance on profanity-laced race material, and hidden were his sexual affairs and heavy use of marijuana and cocaine. In this frank but somewhat sympathetic biography, Cook recounts how the comedian constantly practiced his art through the 1950s and 60s and achieved his dream of fame in the early 70s only to be eclipsed soon after by younger, bolder comedians, including Richard Pryor and George Carlin. Though some readers may be offended by the language, this is a well-told story of a man desperate to succeed in the rapidly changing world of American entertainment. --Rick Roche "Candid and entertaining... Cook's fiercely honest biography captures the tumultuous and winning personality of the man." ~Publishers Weekly An engaging story. ~The Los Angeles Times [Kevin Cook] keeps the story just as Flip Wilson kept his act and his audience, "in fun." ~The Wall Street Journal "Flip Wilson was wonderful. His material advanced the possibility of human unity and hilarity." ~Lily Tomlin About the Author Kevin Cook is the author of The Last Headbangers, Titanic Thompson, and Tommys Honor. The former editor in chief of Golf Magazine, he has written for Sports Illustrated, GQ, Playboy, Details, Mens Journal, and many other magazines, and has appeared on ESPN, CNN, and FOX TV. He lives in New York City.