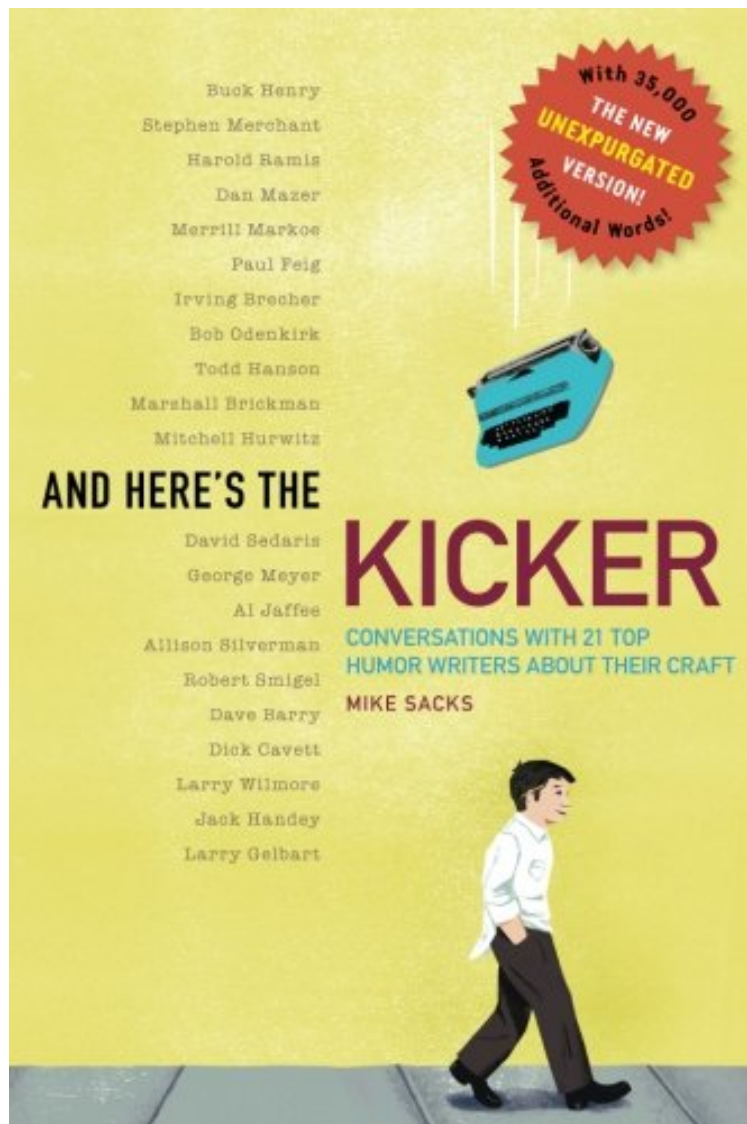


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And Here's the Kicker: Conversations with 21 Top Humor Writers--The New Unexpurgated Version!

Mike Sacks

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Mike Sacks : And Here's the Kicker: Conversations with 21 Top Humor Writers--The New Unexpurgated Version! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Here's the Kicker: Conversations with 21 Top Humor Writers--The New Unexpurgated Version!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This should be a textbook (Heaven forbid)By Bruce BonafedeThis

book is engrossing, and it's entertaining, but even more you could easily put a course together on how to write humor using this as the textbook. Not that I'm suggesting that. But if you're a humor writer, or a would-be humor writer, or you have the misfortune to be in a relationship with a would-be humor writer and don't want to lose your mind, you need to read this book or you're missing out. There are tons of excellent interviews in this book and, at least the way I see it, if you read it closely you can learn an amazing amount about the arcane craft of writing comedy. For instance, there is a wonderful moment in the Dick Cavett interview where Cavett talks about rewriting one of his jokes. In his explanation about what happened and how he doesn't understand why he even tried, he essentially explains how to write humor without realizing he's doing it. It's priceless. As to practical advice, it's in there. The author makes a serious effort to provide little nuggets along the way. I found several. Will it hand you an easy-to-follow business plan on how to advance in your comedy career? Hardly. But then again again, there probably isn't one other than being in the right place at the right time and being funnier than anybody else in the room. Seriously, if you want to write comedy, this book is worth way more than its price. Read it.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Kicker is... it's Great! By Wes Locher Mike Sacks's *And Here's the Kicker*, was a wonderful read. I had trouble putting it down and I was late for work several times because of it. I purchased this mainly for the interviews with Sedaris, Barry, and Handey, as they were the humorists closest to my personal style but all the comedians and writers interviewed provided great insight and knowledge into the craft. As has been said in several reviews of this wonderful book, you may not recognize all of the names that emblazon the cover, however, you will definitely be familiar with their work. The interviewer asked a lot of great questions and allowed his subjects to display their humor all while providing insight into their backgrounds and helping the reader to figure out what makes a comedy writer tick. I was able to benefit from not only a lot of insider knowledge, but found out about some great new authors and books in the process. It's reassuring to know that most comedy writers suffered the same horrible high school years that I did, and that comedy writing is not something that can be taught in a college course or bought with tuition dollars. Either you have it or you don't. And if you have it... it's up to you to use it. If you're curious about the world of humor writing, or looking to break in, this will be a helpful piece of reference.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read For Comedy Lovers (and Comedy Writers) By Bill Siddons I usually don't like "interviews with experts" books very much. I love this book! Just bought it again for a friend. Because the author knows his field so well, he really gets the comedy experts to open up, relax, share, and entertain. It's peer to peer, and the reader gets the benefit of a knowledgeable insider getting the best from other great comedy writing talents. Add to that the lists of helpful ideas and navigation, and it's a winner. - Elayne Boosler

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT ? Every great joke has a punch line, and every great humor writer has an arsenal of experiences, anecdotes, and obsessions that were the inspiration for that humor. In fact, those who make a career out of entertaining strangers with words are a notoriously intelligent and quirky lot. And boy, do they have some stories. In this entertaining and inspirational book, you'll hear from 21 top humor writers as they discuss the comedy-writing process, their influences, their likes and dislikes, and their experiences in the industry. You'll also learn some less useful but equally amusing things, such as: How screenwriter Buck Henry came up with the famous "plastics" line for *The Graduate*. How many times the cops were called on co-writers Sacha Baron Cohen and Dan Mazer during the shooting of *Borat*. What David Sedaris thinks of his critics. What creator Paul Feig thinks would have happened to the *Freaky Geeks* crew if the show had had another season. What Jack Handey considers his favorite Deep Thoughts.? How Todd Hanson and the staff of *The Onion* managed to face the aftermath of 9/11 with the perfect dose of humor. How Stephen Merchant and Ricky Gervais created the original version of *The Office*. What it's really like in the writers' room at SNL. Funny and informative, *And Here's the Kicker* is a must-have resource - whether you're an aspiring humor writer, a fan of the genre, or someone who just likes to laugh.