



Sunday Nights at Seven: The Jack Benny Story

By Jack Benny, Joan Benny

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From Publishers Weekly Comedian Benny left behind his unpublished autobiography when he died at age 80 in 1974. Here, in what PW termed an "entertaining and moving" manner, he reveals the secrets of his tremendous appeal as his daughter supplements the text with accounts of the family's home life. According to PW, "The daughter's sensibilities, at least as expressed here, contrast sharply with the father's bighearted outlook on life." Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. From Library Journal About half of this book consists of an unpublished autobiography that Jack Benny wrote in the late 1960s; the remainder comprises reminiscences and commentary by Joan Benny. Joan's feeling for her mother, Mary Livingstone, could best be described as ambivalent, and her life (including three marriages) hasn't been perfect, but the love and admiration she feels for her father is apparent. By virtually all accounts Benny was a nice, pleasant man, and those same adjectives also apply to this book. The best Benny biography is still *The Jack Benny Show* by Milt Josefsberg (LJ 3/15/77), a long-time writer for Benny. But *Sunday Nights* is better than his manager Irving Fein's *Jack Benny: An Intimate Biography* (LJ 12/15/75) or Mary Livingstone Benny and others' *Jack Benny* (LJ 2/15/78). Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 7/90. - John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"He was a nice man," writes George Burns in the foreword to this book by and about his friend of 50 years, a sentiment readers will resoundingly agree with. When Jack Benny died at age 80 in 1974, he left this unpublished autobiography, to which his daughter adds accounts of the family's home life. But far more entertaining and moving is Jack Benny's related story, tracing how this one-time vaudeville troupier who left his native Waukegan, Ill., in his youth rose to stardom on radio, in TV and films. The secret of his tremendous appeal, he reveals--as though taking us into his confidence--was impeccable timing as a comedian and an ability to endear himself to people. His daughter's contribution to the memoir offers interesting if repetitious recollections on growing up in Hollywood and vivid portraits of family friends Cary Grant, Ronald Colman, Lucille Ball and other famous folk. And although she professes love for her mother, Mary Livingston, she also criticizes her as pretentious, a spendthrift and generally mean-spirited. The daughter's sensibilities, at least as expressed here, contrast sharply with the father's big-hearted outlook on life. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour.

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Jerry Brock:

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Margaret Clayton:

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