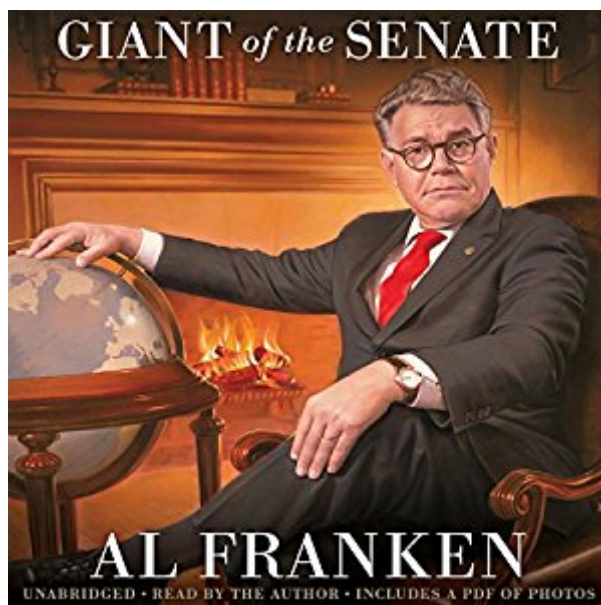


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Al Franken, Giant Of The Senate



Synopsis

From the best-selling author - the story of an award-winning comedian who decided to run for office and then discovered why award-winning comedians tend not to do that. Al Franken, *Giant of the Senate* is a book about an unlikely campaign that had an even more improbable ending: the closest outcome in history and an unprecedented eight-month recount saga, which is pretty funny in retrospect. It's a book about what happens when the nation's foremost progressive satirist gets a chance to serve in the United States Senate and, defying the low expectations of the pundit class, actually turns out to be good at it. It's a book about our deeply polarized, frequently depressing, occasionally inspiring political culture, written from inside the belly of the beast. In this candid personal memoir, the honorable gentleman from Minnesota takes his army of loyal fans along with him from Saturday Night Live to the campaign trail, inside the halls of Congress, and behind the scenes of some of the most dramatic and/or hilarious moments of his new career in politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I was about halfway through this book, I thought, "Well, I guess Franken definitely isn't running for president." By the end, I thought, "Well, maybe he is." For strategic reasons, Franken has tried very hard not to be funny -- not even at the wit level of a "normal" thoughtful politician -- since taking office. That seemed like it was tough on him, and this memoir makes it clear just how tough it was, not only because Franken had been professionally funny for decades, but also because Franken had always used humor to say whatever he pleased throughout his life. This book is very funny, and

Franken both borrows and satirizes the tropes of the traditional political bio in telling his own strange story of his rise to office. Because Franken gives himself leave to be funny again in this book, he is also very honest about his colleagues, the state of American politics, and himself. He also reminds readers that most politicians do not actually hate each other, and are close friends across the aisle. (He and his wife were close with Sens. Mike Enzi and Mike Johanns, and Franken lauds Sen. Pat Roberts for having a great appreciation of humor.) His chapter on Ted Cruz has gotten the most attention -- though it's just a few pages out of the book -- but it's clear that what really irks Franken about Cruz isn't the latter's politics (though he loathes them) but that Cruz refuses to see the Senate as anything more than a battleground, and stands apart from (and in his mind, above) his peers. I started thinking that Franken may not have ruled out a presidential run when I got to the parts of the book about his time in the Senate. (This is a memoir of his whole life, though he spends most of it on his political career, so that's maybe half the book.) He writes with sincerity and passion about the issues he cares about, and is honest about flaws in his own party's approach as well as that of the Republicans'. Some of these portions are a bit preachy, but they indicate that Franken really is interested in advancing a progressive agenda. (Franken is farther to the left than I am, so I did not always agree with him, but his points are well-argued.) This is a fair, funny, and frank book about both today's politics and perhaps its most interesting participant.

As expected. Amusing, insightful, revealing, sometimes preachy. Published well into the dreaded Trump administration and very contemporaneous with it. Anecdotes most worth reading: about deciding to be a candidate, funding a campaign, assembling a staff, dealing with fair and unfair competition, learning to hold one's tongue, learning the traditions of the Senate. Well, that's 75% of the book. There are recollections about debates on health care and matters in the Judiciary Committee. The Republican anti-humor movement is revealed. And a few jokes and cat-calls to obvious morons like Senator Cruz. It wouldn't be Franken without smiting the idiots when they're down.

Full disclosure, I've been a fan of Al Franken since before the Al Franken Decade. I've read all his books but this one is special as he now has standing in the Senate & there he has become a leader in the Democratic Party. He's not hesitant to express his opinion of what's happening to this country, often he uses the funny to get his point across. I laughed out loud many times. This is a great read, though he does have some help in making the writing good.

Fun, easy read. A bit self promoting, but what politician writes a book without it. If you like Franken's politics, he won't disappoint you; if you don't, I warned you.

As someone involved with implementing Obamacare in my state I very much appreciated Mr. Franken's thoughts on the subject (which were exactly what I'd been thinking). At least someone in D.C. is a grownup.

I learned a lot and appreciated Sen. Franken's sense of humor throughout. Being a Senator is a really hard job.

Intelligent, very humorous, politically informative. A very fun and interesting read!

I like Al Franken. This book has humor along with a serious side. I did not know how much he was involved in visiting our troops. Before He became senator He writes about his experiences. It is a great read.

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