



Based on a True Story: A Memoir

Norm Macdonald

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Wild, dangerous, and flat-out unbelievable, here is the incredible memoir of the actor, gambler, raconteur, SNL veteran, and one of the best stand-up comedians of all time.

As this book's title suggests, Norm Macdonald tells the story of his life—more or less—from his origins on a farm in the-back-of-beyond Canada and an epically disastrous appearance on *Star Search* to his account of auditioning for Lorne Michaels and his memorable run as the anchor of Weekend Update on *Saturday Night Live*—until he was fired because a corporate executive didn't think he was funny. But *Based on a True Story* is much more than a memoir; it's the hilarious, inspired epic of Norm's life.

In dispatches from a road trip to Las Vegas (part of a plan hatched to regain the fortune he'd lost to sports betting and other vices) with his sidekick and enabler, Adam Eget, Norm recounts the milestone moments, the regrets, the love affairs, the times fortune smiled on his life, and the times it refused to smile. As the clock ticks down, Norm's debt reaches record heights, and he must find a way to evade the hefty price that's been placed on his head by one of the most dangerous loan sharks in the country.

As a comedy legend should, Norm peppers these pages with classic jokes and fondly mythologized Hollywood stories. This wildly adventurous, totally original, and absurdly funny saga turns the conventional "comic's memoir" on its head and gives the reader an exclusive pass into the mad, glorious mind of Norm Macdonald.

Praise for *Based on a True Story*

"A glut of books by comedians has hit bookshelves in recent years. . . . Norm Macdonald has a leg up on all of them. . . . [*Based on a True Story* is] the best new book I've read this year or last."—*Wall Street Journal*

"Hilarious and filled with turns of phrase and hidden beauty like only a collection of Norm Macdonald stories could be."—*Esquire*

"It's disorienting, funny, sometimes stupid, and often wildly beautiful. . . . There has never been a less straightforward book. It's playful and spry and just unbelievably cagey. But it broke me, and I'll tell you why: Macdonald is a pretty extraordinary wordsmith, capable of working in an impressive range of styles and genres."—*The Week*

"A driving, wild and hilarious ramble of a book, what might have happened had Hunter S. Thompson embedded himself in a network studio."—*Washington Post*

"Part personal history and part meta riff on celebrity memoirs, the book, it quickly becomes clear, is also just partly true (and all hilarious)."—*Vulture*

"Norm is brilliant and thoughtful and there is sensitivity and creative insight in his observations and stories. A lot of comics over the years have been compared to Mark Twain, but I think Norm is the only one who actually matches the guy in terms of his voice and ability. I seriously f**king love Norm Macdonald. Please

buy his book. He probably needs the cash. He's really bad with money.”—**Louis C.K., from the foreword**

“Norm is one of my all-time favorites, and this book was such a great read I forgot how lonely I was for a while.”—**Amy Schumer**

“I always thought Normie’s stand-up was the funniest thing there was. But this book gives it a run for its money.”—**Adam Sandler**

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Danielle Smith:

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Sharyl Nettles:

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John Street:

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June Slater:

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