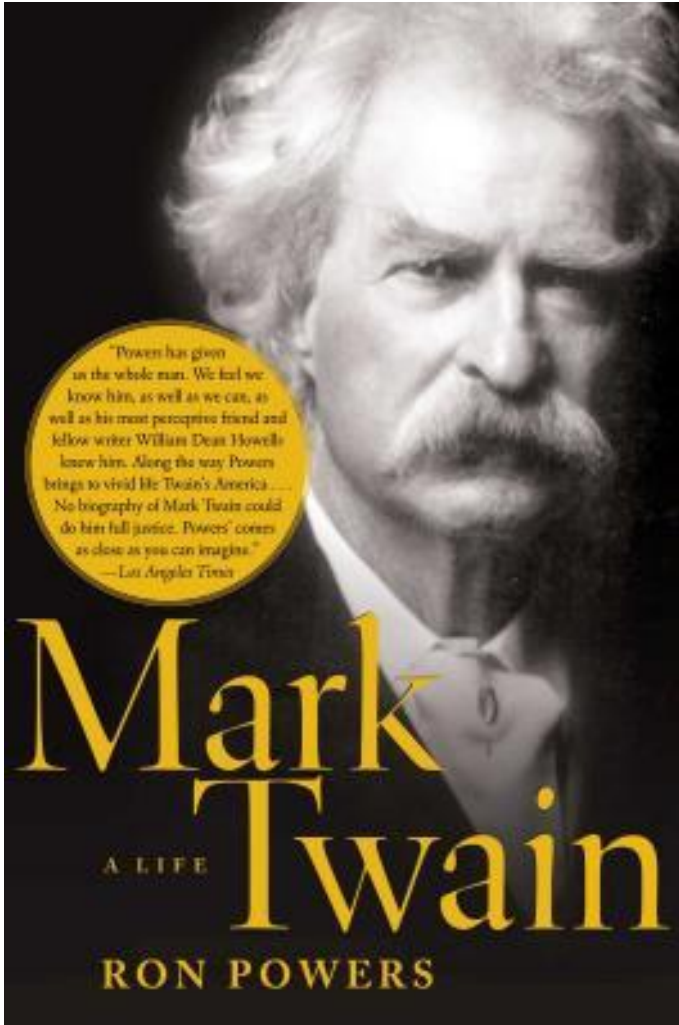

Ron Powers

Mark Twain



Title: Mark Twain

Author: Ron Powers

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Description

Samuel Clemens, the man known as Mark Twain, invented the American voice and became one of our greatest celebrities. His life mirrored his country's, as he grew from a Mississippi River boyhood in the days of the frontier, to a Wild-West journalist during the Gold Rush, to become the king of the eastern establishment and a global celebrity as America became an international power. Along the way, Mark Twain keenly observed the characters and voices that filled the growing country, and left us our first authentically American literature. Ron Powers's magnificent biography offers the definitive life of the founding father of our culture.

Insightful reviews

Bill Walker: It could be argued that Samuel Clemens's life is more representative of "19th century America" than the characters in his stories. He flirted with fighting for the south in the Civil War but had enough sense to head for California and Nevada instead. Everyone knows he was a successful writer, but he was also an unsuccessful entrepreneur, losing most of his fortune in failed business schemes. First as a journalist and then as a public speaker and humorist he developed views on religion, politics, mores, society, empire, etc. etc. Like a 19th century John Stewart. This book does a good job of laying it all out. 21st century America has evolved from its past. This is well worth reading.

Petesea: A detailed examination of one of America's best. From his days on the Mississippi, to the Silver and Nutmeg states and around the world this book is a fascinating read about an American original. I wished that Twain had focused his energies on writing rather than getting distracted by the entrepreneurial bug that had a devastating effect on him and his finances. I appreciated all the insight into his family life as well.

a.t.m.: **Great book about one of America's legendary authors**

The book is not easy to read at times because of the amount of details in the life of Mark twain. However, this is where the magic is to be found. It is in the details that you get to meet and know this legendary author, in a very intimate way. I have a whole different opinion of Mark twain because of this book. His humor, his military time during the civil war, his time as a steamboat pilot, his penchant for making dubious investments, all this and more. I highly recommend this book.

Mary-Ellen: This ebook is extra fascinating if the index is used to discover subject matters of interest. i locate that I decide up the booklet from time to time and should do this. no matter what I learn is interesting. but if I learn the e-book from the beginning, it appeared tedious. Twain is a fascinating life, no doubt.

Terry Clague: "A puppy is der Hund the dog; a ladies is die Frau the wom[an]; a horse is das Pferd, the horse; now you set that puppy within the Genitive case, & is he an analogous puppy he used to be before? No sir; he's das Hundes; placed him within the Dative case & what's he? Why, he's dem Hund. Now you grab him into the accusative case & how is it with him? Why he's

den Hunden? ... learn moreBut believe he occurs to be twins & you should pluralize him – what then? Why sir they'll change that dual puppy round thro' the 4 circumstances until eventually he'll imagine he's a whole foreign puppy express all in his personal person. I don't like dogs, yet I wouldn't deal with a puppy like that. I wouldn't even deal with a borrowed puppy that way."

Caroline: it's not that i am certain what I made up of this book. i feel my response to it certainly says extra approximately me than it does the writer or his approach. I felt interestingly indifferent from it; I by no means at any element got here to care approximately Samuel Clemens, alias Mark Twain. He did not come alive for me in those pages. In fact, he felt a great deal extra like a personality from one in all his personal books than a true living, respiring person, and never a completely likeable one either. I definitely imagine loads of that may be ascribed to Powers' kind - this booklet used to be as choked with humourous asides and dramatic foreshadowing and wry statement as any of Mark Twain's writings. and positively if ever there has been an issue who may swimsuit that sort of procedure it might be Mark Twain. possibly that used to be the point? Or perhaps, given the duality of Sam Clemens/Mark Twain and his shifting, mischievous, sophisticated nature, it'd be very unlikely to truly get to the guts of him in any biography, whatever the approach. I consider i am used to the extra straight-forward kind of biography, accordingly why I hesitate to put any blame on the author's feet. Powers definitely understands his topic - the extent of study that should have long gone into this is often rather striking - and his admiration for Mark Twain's paintings and his impression at the rising American 'voice' basically understands no bounds. one other quarter the place we differ, and maybe anything else that impacted on my enjoyment. As I said, i believe this can be one the place it greatly comes right down to own taste, very similar to Twain's book. So maybe in that feel it's a biography admirably suited to its subject.

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