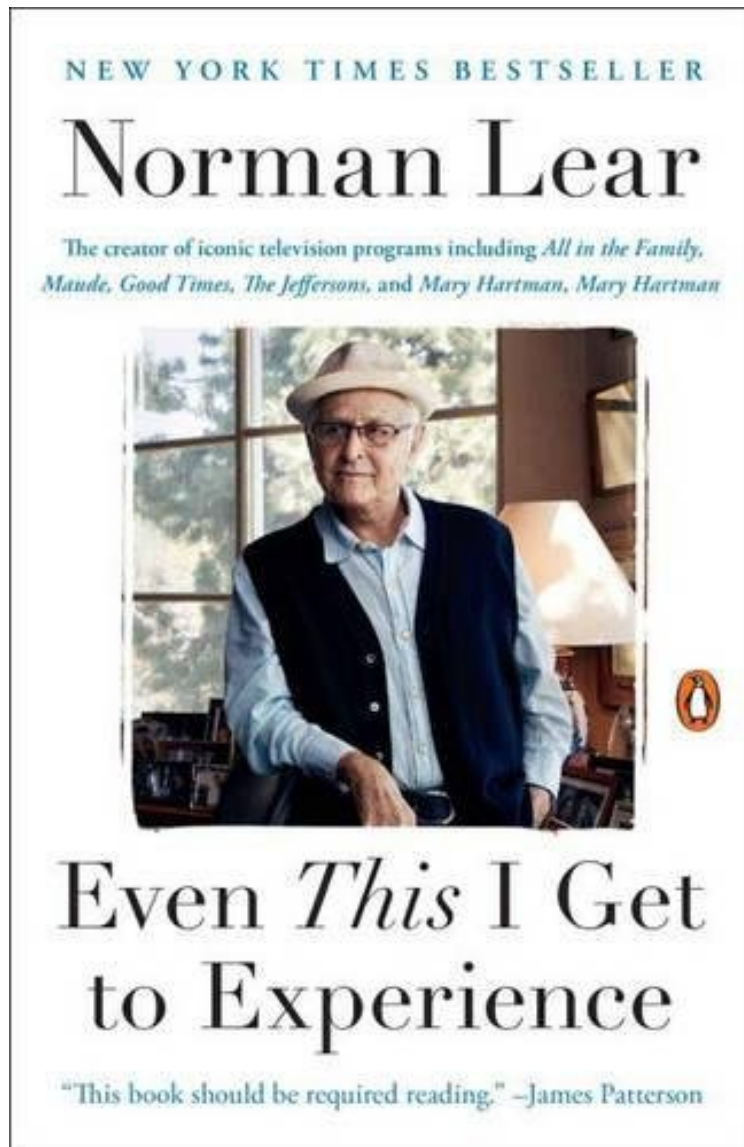


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Even This I Get to Experience

Norman Lear

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Norman Lear : Even This I Get to Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Even This I Get to Experience:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Man Ahead of His Time By LFrock A true Hollywood legend! While the book does talk at length about Hollywood don't expect it to be a tell-all trash feast. Lear (as always) tells it like it is but doesn't reveal all that many secrets about the people we've all been watching onscreen most if not all of our lives. However, he does share a lot of fascinating tidbits about how the shows themselves were created week by week and

how they struggled with the network censors. Even though I'm a bit of a Hollywood fanatic I wasn't disappointed with the lack of dirty little secrets because hearing the inner workings of my favorite shows is still incredible. Making the connections between his shows and his life was just as interesting. For me, I was also curious to read how much his father still effects this "ninety-something". More style and substance than most Hollywood memoirs overall it is a great read. 40 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Born Again Lear By Robert Scheer Truly brilliant in its honesty as one would expect from the man who transformed television from a myopic center of banality into a medium of accountability. All of the major controversies that confront us today, from war and peace on through race relations, gay rights, gender equality, freedom of and from religion, economic inequality, the right and obligation to challenge power and the powerful, and the reality that the American ideal would always be a work in progress was brought into the American home by this genius. From the first pages of this book, one is made aware that he did all that because he has lived his near century on this earth as a constant challenge to find justice as well as joy in all of his actions both private and public. I first met Norman Lear more than 30 years ago interviewing him for the Los Angeles Times when he told me there was no reason to fear failure as a writer because "you can always put another blank piece of paper in the typewriter and get it right," which is what he has once again done in what may be his best work ever. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An American Treasure By Lynne Spreen Norman Lear is a force of nature. He had a crappy childhood which is a gift to an artistic person. Throughout his life, he's been creative, innovative, driven, and - he freely admits - lucky. I enjoyed, in the first part of the book, reading about the weirdness of his family, and his feelings at the time. He was tenacious and funny in overcoming many obstacles to follow his dreams. I was rooting for that engaging kid. However, at a certain point in the book, after he became successful, my interest flagged a bit, because now it's just a chronology of his continuing successes. He wrote this script, hired these people, bonded with those people, etc. What made this otherwise placid section interesting was his revelations about the personalities of the actors and famous people he worked with, like Frank Sinatra, Jerry Lewis, Carroll O'Connor, Bea Arthur, and Jean Stapleton. One of the most interesting parts was about All in the Family, and Lear's other creations of the time; it was groundbreaking TV and there were so many obstacles. Getting past the purity police, for example; or the way some of the actors began to drink their own Kool-Aid and take on a mission within their fictional role, making it harder to get them to play their parts. What I was less enthralled with was the fact that, for me (although others may disagree), Lear wasn't highly introspective. He says, toward the end of the book, that he lacked emotional intelligence, but even then, he didn't go much of anywhere with it. One reason I bought the book - hardcover, yet! - was to learn what a brilliant 92-year-old might have to say about growing older. Although Norman Lear wasn't sufficiently articulate on this point, everything about this book is inspiring. He makes mistakes and learns from them. He's self-deprecating if unreconstructed. He's tears-rolling-down-the-face patriotic. And by finding another gear at 70, he demonstrates the power of not letting oneself be defined by external forces. So, ultimately, I was able to take away from my reading two things: an enjoyable read and a sense of empowerment. Well worth my money and time. Norman Lear is an American treasure, and I'm glad he took the time to write this book.

Flat out, one of the best Hollywood memoirs ever written . . . an absolute treasure. Booklist (starred review) In my ninety-plus years I've lived a multitude of lives. In the course of all these lives, I had a front-row seat at the birth of television; wrote, produced, created, or developed more than a hundred shows; had nine on the air at the same time; founded the 300,000-member liberal advocacy group People For the American Way; was labeled the no. 1 enemy of the American family by Jerry Falwell; made it onto Richard Nixon's Enemies List; was presented with the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton; purchased an original copy of the Declaration of Independence and toured it for ten years in all fifty states; blew a fortune in a series of bad investments in failing businesses; and reached a point where I was informed we might even have to sell our home. Having heard that we'd fallen into such dire straits, my son-in-law phoned me and asked how I was feeling. My answer was, Terrible, of course, but then I added, But I must be crazy, because despite all that's happened, I keep hearing this inner voice saying, Even this I get to experience. Norman Lear's work is legendary. The renowned creator of such iconic television programs as All in the Family; Maude; Good Times; The Jeffersons; and Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, Lear remade our television culture from the ground up. At their peak, his programs were viewed by 120 million people a week, with stories that dealt with the most serious issues of the day: racism, poverty, abortion yet still left audiences howling with laughter. In Even This I Get to Experience, Lear opens up with all the candor, humor, and wisdom to be expected from one of America's greatest living storytellers. But TV and politics are only a fraction of the tale. Lear's early years were grounded in the harshness of the Great Depression and further complicated by his parents' vivid personalities. The imprisonment of Lear's father, a believer in the get-rich-quick scheme, colored his son's childhood. During this absence, Lear's mother left her son to live with relatives. Lear's comic gifts were put to good use during this hard time, as they would be decades later during World War II, when Lear produced and staged a variety show for his fellow airmen in addition to flying fifty bombing missions. After the war, Lear tried his hand at publicity in New York before setting out for Los Angeles in 1949. A lucky break had a powerful agent in the audience the night Danny Thomas performed a nightclub routine written by Lear, and within days his career in television began. Before long, his work with Dean Martin and

Jerry Lewis (and later Martha Raye and George Gobel) made him the highest-paid comedy writer in the country, and he was spending his summers with the likes of Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks. Movies followed, and soon he was making films starring Frank Sinatra, Dick Van Dyke, and Jason Robards. Then came the 70s and Lears unprecedented string of TV hits. Married three times and the father of six children ranging in age from nineteen to sixty-eight, Lears penetrating look at family life, parenthood, and marriage is a volume in itself. A memoir as touching, funny, and remarkable as any of Lears countless artistic creations, *Even This I Get to Experience* is nothing less than a profound gift, endlessly readable and characteristically unforgettable.

The Wall Street Journal: The Norman Lear who emerges from *Even This I Get to Experience* is engaging and unpretentious, an amusing storyteller who pokes fun at himself and writes with brutal honesty about his life, especially his childhood. And what a story!" Associated Press: An entertaining, penetrating celebration of a richly lived life. Los Angeles Times: Immensely likeable [Lear] isn't always a mensch in "*Even This I Get to Experience*" (italics, characteristically, his), but at least he can write like one. In this city, Norman Lear and his post-coaxial contemporaries built a mass medium with their bare hands. On good days as Lear well recalls, and recalls well they made it sing. If only more with their talent had lived so long; if only more who live so long had his talent. Booklist (starred): This is, flat out, one of the best Hollywood memoirs ever written. An absolute treasure. Kirkus (starred): "A TV titan on his memorable life and storied career. Lear, best known as the creative mind behind such classic comedies as *All in the Family*, *Maude*, *The Jeffersons* and *Good Times*, recounts his extraordinarily eventful life with his signature wit and irreverence. The result is not just a vividly observed and evocative portrait of a long life, but also a fascinating backstage look at the evolution of the American entertainment industry... Lear writes movingly of his service in World War II, his difficult upbringing and subsequent troubled marriages, and his commitment to liberal causes, evidenced by his founding of the advocacy organization People for the American Way and his purchase of an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. That he makes these subjects as engrossing and entertaining as his Hollywood reminiscences speaks to Lear's mastery of storytelling and humor. A big-hearted, richly detailed chronicle of comedy, commitment and a long life lived fully." Publishers Weekly: [A] feisty, thoughtful autobiography Lear pens sharply observed studies of the creative process on his many iconic productions and bares plenty of raucous, sometimes bawdy anecdotes readers get to experience a nude and lewd Jerry Lewis [I]n keeping with the bigoted, mouthy, complex and loveable characters he created, Lear's knack for sizing up a flawed humanity makes for an absorbing read. ADVANCE PRAISE President William J. Clinton That Norman Lear can find humor in life's darkest moments is no surprise it's the reason he's been so successful throughout his more than nine decades on earth, and why Americans have relied on his wit and wisdom for more than six. It's also why *EVEN THIS I GET TO EXPERIENCE* is such a great read. Carl Reiner Norman Lear could never write a more dramatic, touching, or funnier tale of his life than he's done here in *EVEN THIS I GET TO EXPERIENCE*. Bill Moyers Many have known the Man behind the stories. Now all of us can know the stories behind the Man. Archie, Edith, Gloria, and Meathead couldn't have told them better! Arianna Huffington *EVEN THIS I GET TO EXPERIENCE* is not just the brilliant, moving story of a man who has lived an amazing number of lives from making it onto Richard Nixon's Enemies List to changing the face of television but also a life manual on how to live a life of depth, purpose, and meaning. will.i.am Norman Lear is a hero and a friend . . . he experienced so much in his life . . . sometimes I just want to sit down and ask him questions about life and his perspective . . . to do it right it would take years of interviews . . . but now that he wrote this book I can experience his journey and wisdom over and over again. Trey Parker Fantastic stories from one of the wisest, most subversive, and most beautiful human beings the comedy world has ever known. Like the man himself, this book is charming, awe-inspiring, and hilarious. About the Author Norman Lear is the television producer of such groundbreaking sitcoms as *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son*, *One Day at a Time*, *The Jeffersons*, *Good Times*, and *Maude*. He has received four Emmy awards, a Peabody, and the National Medal of Arts. As an activist, he founded People For the American Way. He lives in Los Angeles. Most recently, Mr. Lear is the subject of the PBS *American Masters* episode, *Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You*, premiering 10/25/16. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. WHEN I WAS A BOY I thought that if I could turn a screw in my father's head just a sixteenth of an inch one way or the other, it might help him to tell the difference between right and wrong. I couldn't, of course, and ultimately he had to pay a serious price for his confusion. In late June of 1931, just out of third grade and a month away from turning nine, I was eagerly looking forward to my first experience at summer camp. A roll of cloth tape imprinted with Norman M. Lear, Norman M. Lear, Norman M. Lear... sat on the kitchen counter, waiting for my mother to cut it up and sew my name into the clothes I'd be taking with me in a few weeks. Meanwhile, my father was about to take a plane to Tulsa. None of my friends in Chelsea, Massachusetts, knew anybody who had ever flown anywhere. It had been only four years since Charles Lindbergh flew thirty-three and a half hours in his single-engine Spirit of St. Louis to get from New York to Paris, and the rare plane that was spotted in the sky had us kids chasing around in the street yelling, Lindy, Lindy! So Dad flying to Oklahoma was a big deal. He was traveling on some kind of business. Monkey business! said my mother, who sensed that the men he'd fallen in with were not to be trusted and for my upcoming birthday he was going to bring me back a ten-gallon hat just like the one worn by my favorite film cowboy, Ken

Maynard.Herman, I dont like this, she told him. I dont want you to see those men. But Herman, as always, knew better.Jeanette! he screamed, the veins in his neck bulging as he stood over her with his nose all but pressing hers. Stifle! And off he went.