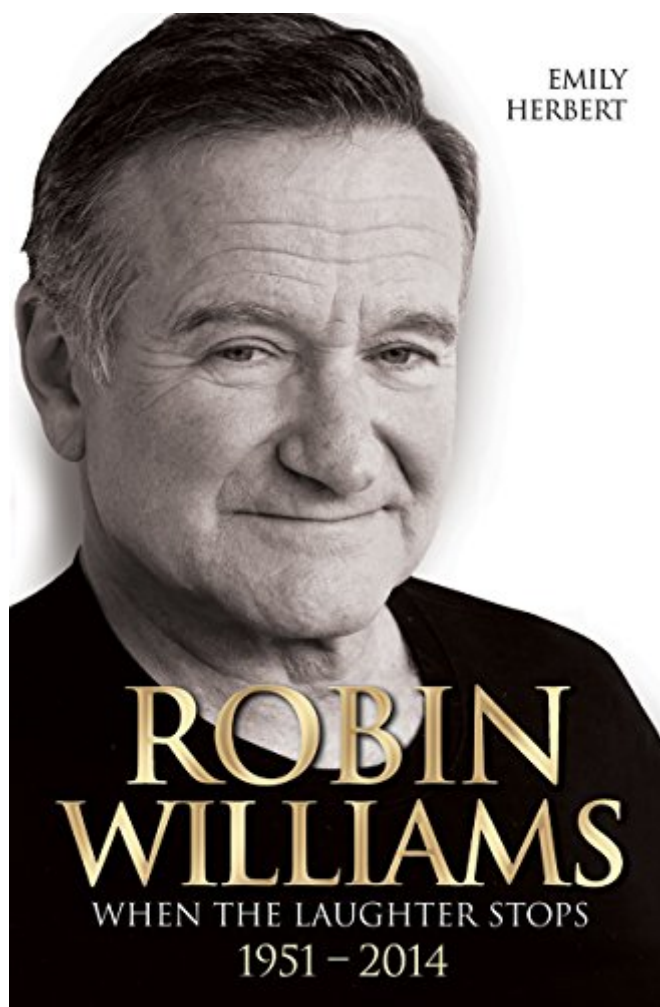


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Robin Williams: When The Laughter Stops 1951–2014



Synopsis

A thoughtful look at the brilliant life and tragic death of a comedy icon — At midday on August 11, 2014, much-loved comedian Robin Williams was pronounced dead at his California home. From Mrs. Doubtfire, Jumanji, and Aladdin to Good Will Hunting and Dead Poets Society, Robin Williams brought laughter and deep joy to a generation. He was sparkingly funny, a lightning-fast improviser, and a wonderful comic. But what touched millions of people was the warmth and compassion he exuded. The deeply tragic manner in which he took his own life has come as a shock to the world and caused people to wonder about the desperately troubled life behind the laughter he gave to millions. With Twitter igniting from record volumes of tributes to the much-loved actor, the death of Robin Williams has caused a public outpouring of grief not seen since the passing of Michael Jackson or Whitney Houston. Emily Herbert's sensitive and thoughtful biography celebrates his genius, and attempts to understand what could have driven such a warm and gifted man to take his own life.

Book Information

File Size: 1611 KB

Print Length: 244 pages

Publisher: John Blake (November 15, 2014)

Publication Date: January 1, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B013O7Q40A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,172 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers > Comedians #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers > Actors & Actresses #15 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers

Customer Reviews

This book is little more than a compilation of quotes from magazine articles and movie reviews. Emily Herbert does little to delve into Robin Williams' life, except to make assumptions about his ongoing depression and its causes (without verifying any of it factually). She reports rumors (some from RadarOnline.com, a site equivalent to the National Enquirer newspaper, complete with anonymous sources) without double checking the truth, and spoke with no members of the family or actually contacted any live bodies for their input. There are other errors (she states "the comedian David Steinberg" was Williams' manager, when the comedian and the manager were two different men with the same name). Herbert doesn't mention Williams' friendships with the likes of Bobby McFerrin, with whom he performed music outside the film industry, or his trips to Scotland to participate in Billy Connolly's annual birthday celebration. Overall, a shallow biography. Not much better than Andrew Duggan's biography from 1999.

I was given this book as a gift from someone who knew how much I admired Williams and having read it, I am no more informed than I was before I read it. It was obviously thrown together (Williams died on August 11th, 2014. The book was published 96 days later) using biographical facts already well known, quotes from Williams as well as friends and associates and far too many in depth descriptions of plots of his films that his fans already know by heart. Then there is the "Monday morning quarter-backing". On page 236 of a 239 page book the author has the nerve to say, "Without wishing to become too much the amateur psychologist...", especially nervy since, using subjective narrative and innuendo, that is what she does through the entire book. Her writing style is anti-pedantic and dull, and she seems to have a belief that the use of the exclamation point is a writer's tool which will alert the reader to A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT OR ISSUE! I hope one day someone who actually knew the man (I'll settle for someone who can actually write) will pen a biography worthy of his genius. Because, to borrow Emily Herbert's favorite writer's tool for a moment, this isn't it!

Some parts are hard to read because of the content, but it gives you insight as to what this amazing comedian battled.

Robin was a man with many talents and a heart of gold. He was truly a good friend and helped many people thru the organizations he supported. It's too bad he couldn't fight the demons that nagged him. He is missed.

To read about Robin William's life in good detail was rewarding!! He was loved by millions.

Just an amazing talent gone way before his time. It is an obvious dark read and I don't read it daily but so far, it is very good.

So sad to read about this unhappy man

Moving, informative, inspiringly depressing. I cried, laughed, and learned new things about the world's greatest comic ever (in my opinion).

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