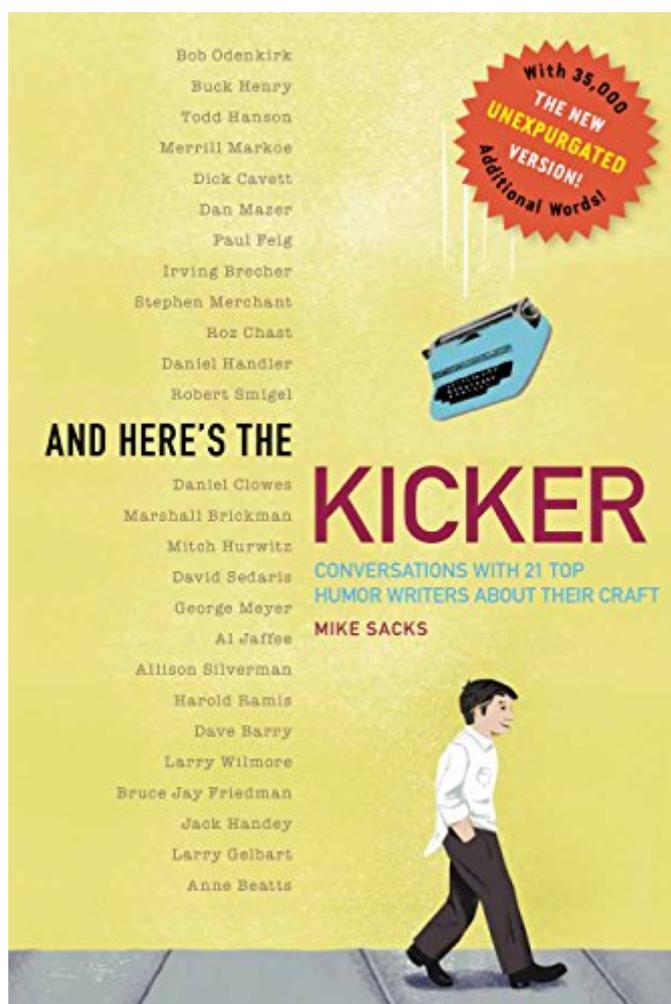


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# And Here's The Kicker: Conversations With 21 Top Humor Writers--The New Unexpurgated Version!



## Synopsis

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT? Every great joke has a punch line, and every great humor writer has an arsenal of experiences, anecdotes, and obsessions that were the inspiration for that humor. In fact, those who make a career out of entertaining strangers with words are a notoriously intelligent and quirky lot. And boy, do they have some stories. In this entertaining and inspirational book, you'll hear from 21 top humor writers as they discuss the comedy-writing process, their influences, their likes and dislikes, and their experiences in the industry. You'll also learn some less useful but equally amusing things, such as: How screenwriter Buck Henry came up with the famous "plastics" line for *The Graduate*. How many times the cops were called on co-writers Sacha Baron Cohen and Dan Mazer during the shooting of *Borat*. What David Sedaris thinks of his critics. What creator Paul Feig thinks would have happened to the *Freaks & Geeks* crew if the show had had another season. What Jack Handey considers his favorite Deep Thoughts. How Todd Hanson and the staff of *The Onion* managed to face the aftermath of 9/11 with the perfect dose of humor. How Stephen Merchant and Ricky Gervais created the original version of *The Office*. What it's really like in the writers' room at SNL. Funny and informative, *And Here's the Kicker* is a must-have resource - whether you're an aspiring humor writer, a fan of the genre, or someone who just likes to laugh.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Look, this book doesn't need my review... Merrill Markoe reviewed this book, you guys! But, I'm doing it anyway. Long overdue...As long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the people who write for the TV. As a child, I hid behind the couch while my parents watched Carson, so I could watch Late Night with David Letterman. I haven't missed a Saturday Night Live since October of 1986. In the 90's, I was obsessed with Get A Life, then Conan O'Brien's Late Night and Mr. Show with Bob and David. I even formed my personal Comedy TrinityÃ¢â¬ of Conan O'Brien, Bob Odenkirk and Robert Smigel. Guess what, y'all? They are all in this book (well, a couple people who wrote for Conan, at least Ã¢â¬ LOOPHOLE!!!)!!!Guys! Mike talked to so many amazing writers for this book. Sure, yeah, people I loved already BUT also people I had vaguely heard of OR didn't even know existed & wrote things I'd never heard of. This book hepped me to the realization that I wasn't the only one completely fascinated by comedy writers. This book made me fall in love with comedy all over again. In fact, reading this was the impetus for me trying my own hand at writing comedy Ã¢â¬ something that completely intimidated me Ã¢â¬ and I just quit my job after 10 years in marketing & advertising and moved to Los Angeles to pursue comedy professionally. Mike Sacks interviewed all of these people and put this book together as a labor of love but, now, EVERYONE wants to be a comedy writer! If you love comedy as a fan or if you want to BE a comedy writer, you must read this book! Plus, if you ever meet me, I'll never shut up about it until you do read it.

This book is engrossing, and it's entertaining, but even more you could easily put a course together on how to write humor using this as the textbook. Not that I'm suggesting that. But if you're a humor writer, or a would-be humor writer, or you have the misfortune to be in a relationship with a would-be humor writer and don't want to lose your mind, you need to read this book or you're missing out.

There are tons of excellent interviews in this book and, at least the way I see it, if you read it closely you can learn an amazing amount about the arcane craft of writing comedy. For instance, there is a wonderful moment in the Dick Cavett interview where Cavett talks about rewriting one of his jokes. In his explanation about what happened and how he doesn't understand why he even tried, he essentially explains how to write humor without realizing he's doing it. It's priceless. As to practical

advice, it's in there. The author makes a serious effort to provide little nuggets along the way. I found several. Will it hand you an easy-to-follow business plan on how to advance in your comedy career? Hardly. But then again again, there probably isn't one other than being in the right place at the right time and being funnier than anybody else in the room. Seriously, if you want to write comedy, this book is worth way more than its price. Read it.

Mike Sacks's *And Here's the Kicker*, was a wonderful read. I had trouble putting it down and I was late for work several times because of it. I purchased this mainly for the interviews with Sedaris, Barry, and Handey, as they were the humorists closest to my personal style but all the comedians and writers interviewed provided great insight and knowledge into the craft. As has been said in several reviews of this wonderful book, you may not recognize all of the names that emblazon the cover, however, you will definitely be familiar with their work. The interviewer asked a lot of great questions and allowed his subjects to display their humor all while providing insight into their backgrounds and helping the reader to figure out what makes a comedy writer tick. I was able to benefit from not only a lot of insider knowledge, but found out about some great new authors and books in the process. It's reassuring to know that most comedy writers suffered the same horrible high school years that I did, and that comedy writing is not something that can be taught in a college course or bought with tuition dollars. Either you have it or you don't. And if you have it... it's up to you to use it. If you're curious about the world of humor writing, or looking to break in, this will be a helpful piece of reference.

I usually don't like "interviews with experts" books very much. I love this book! Just bought it again for a friend. Because the author knows his field so well, he really gets the comedy experts to open up, relax, share, and entertain. It's peer to peer, and the reader gets the benefit of a knowledgeable insider getting the best from other great comedy writing talents. Add to that the lists of helpful ideas and navigation, and it's a winner. - Elayne Boosler

Interesting insights on humor writing from writers of *Annie Hall*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Daily Show*, *The Onion*...ect ect.... I bought this book after reading *Mike Sacks Poking a Dead Frog* which I also enjoyed and for extremely insightful. Comedy writers I highly recommend this book. Comedy nerds too.,

This book is a great blend of comedy writer war stories, tales from the trenches, comedy theory, and

practical advice. Mr. Sacks chose great subjects to interview, and was wise to speak to a variety of comedic minds, whose specialties vary from classic TV sitcoms to modern news satire. I found it informative and fun, and enjoyed the conversational style of the interviews. Very interesting and entertaining.

Mike Sachs has written a fascinating book. He found top-notch people and conducted wonderfully surprising and enlightening interviews. Plus, I learned that the "Plastics" line in *The Graduate* could have been "Mohair." We dodged a bullet, people. Full disclosure: I've worked with Mike Sachs a bit. But even if I hadn't, I would have really liked this book. I just realized I spelled his name wrong. It's Mike Sacks. With a K. See? I don't know him very well at all. Sorry about that Mike.

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