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# Angry Optimist: The Life and Times of Jon Stewart

*Lisa Rogak*

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**Angry Optimist: The Life and Times of Jon Stewart** Lisa Rogak

**A *New York Times* Bestseller**
Since his arrival at *The Daily Show* in 1999, Jon Stewart has become one of the major players in comedy as well as one of the most significant liberal voices in the media. In *Angry Optimist*, biographer Lisa Rogak charts his unlikely rise to stardom. She follows him from his early days growing up in New Jersey, through his years as a struggling standup comic in New York, and on to the short-lived but acclaimed *The Jon Stewart Show*. And she charts his humbling string of near-misses—passed over as a replacement for shows hosted by Conan O'Brien, Tom Snyder, and even the fictional Larry Sanders—before landing on a half-hour comedy show that at the time was still finding its footing amidst roiling internal drama.

Once there, Stewart transformed *The Daily Show* into one of the most influential news programs on television today. Drawing on interviews with current and former colleagues, Rogak reveals how things work—and sometimes don't work—behind the scenes at *The Daily Show*, led by Jon Stewart, a comedian who has come to wield incredible power in American politics.

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