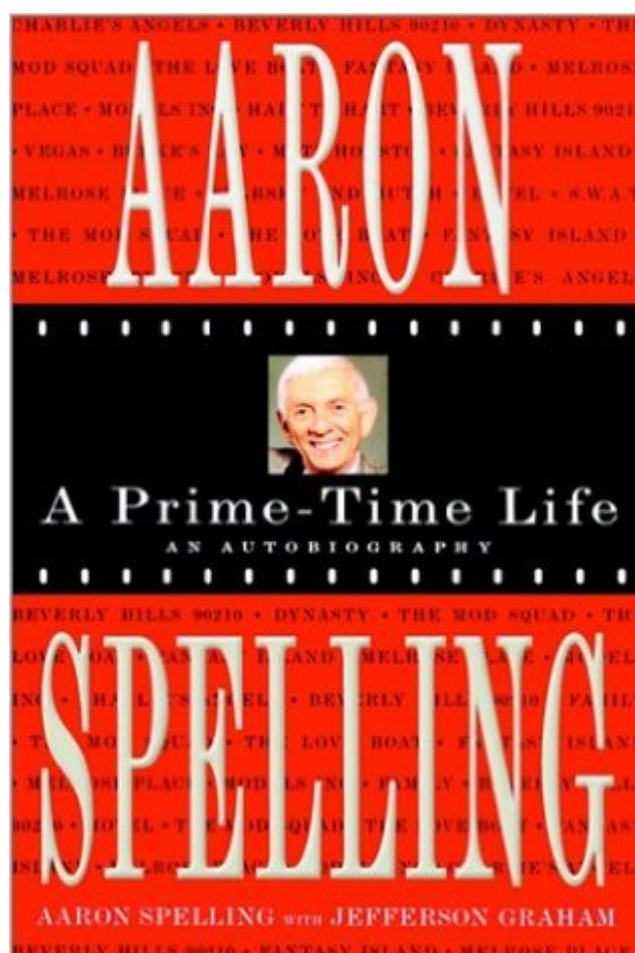


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# Aaron Spelling: A Prime Time Life



## Synopsis

As the producer of such TV shows as *Dynasty*, *The Love Boat*, *Melrose Place* and *Charlie's Angels*, Aaron Spelling has enjoyed a successful career. Here, he tells his life story--personal, revealing and filled with candid observations about Hollywood and the TV business, along with the inspiring rags to riches of a poor Jew from Texas who overcame insurmountable odds to become the most successful TV producer ever. Simultaneous hardcover release from St. Martin's Press. 2 cassettes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Spelling gives a once-over-lightly review of his life and work. I have to admit I never watched his shows, at least not that I could recall - so I only had the book's description to rely on. After a while, it appears to be something of a stream of name-dropping. But then again - Spelling made most of the actors the household names that they and that their characters became, so I guess he's entitled. Spelling was basically a feel-good guy, at least that's the way he came across in the book. Nothing wrong with that, but because he really won't criticize or make any harsh observations about anyone he encountered (including types like Eisner and Orvitz) - that limits the depth of his observations and insights. Spelling obliquely observes that Hollywood is a tough town, but really doesn't tell us how tough it can be. Rather interestingly, he remarks that when one of his shows was cancelled - he would go home and spend a few days in bed with a bout of depression. The book is a worthwhile read if you want to get a sense of some of the history of television programming - Spelling produced something like 3,500 hours - by comparison, Dick Wolf's *Law & Order*, which

seems to be everywhere - is only about 600 hours. I would have liked Spelling to be a bit more philosophical about what's involved in producing serial television, and his insights as to why his programs were such hits. But you won't find such insights in this book. About all he said in that regard is: > television is teamwork > hire the best writers you can and give them credit > look into the actor's eyes when you audition them - that will tell you who's good. Since Spelling recently passed away, no telling if there is an update or additional biography in the works. I would hope so, and one that would give us more insights into the man, his times and his work.

I was looking to buy this book since forever because I am a fan of his works and I love all the tv-shows he wrote and produced, but I never found the book at Barnes & Nobles .. so I decided to buy it via Amazon and as soon as I got it I started reading it. Very nice the way he writes also about his life as a poor kid in Dallas. I think he wrote this book in a very candid way. I loved this book a lot!

Although published 12 years ago (2002), this autobiography is a fun one. In the audio book, Spelling narrates his story with a beautiful balance of retrospection and humbleness. It's a great delivery, that really delivers an uplifting and entertaining story. The script is well-written and engaging. The audio book version is only offered in the abridged format; I was eager for it to be longer.

Hi, I found Mr. Spelling's book entertaining, insightful and innovative because he candidly talks about his humble beginnings growing up in a poor neighborhood in Dallas, being taunted and teased mercilessly, and then discusses how hard he worked to get where he is today! As Candy Spelling, Mr. Spelling's wife and mother of Tori and Randy Spelling, argues in his book, they worked hard and deserve to live in a palatial estate. I couldn't agree more with her commentary. When you work hard, and do the right thing with the right attitude as Mr. Spelling has done, then you deserve to enjoy the fruits of your labor, so kudos goes to Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Spelling and their children for working hard and maintaining a strong work ethic. Anyone who is a fan of Mr. Spelling's work, will thoroughly enjoy this informative, entertaining and down-to-earth memoir. It's almost as if Mr. Spelling is in the room with you talking to you about his life. Very enjoyable! I give his autobiography the highest rating, which is 5 stars! Buy it, read it, and enjoy it because it's truly an excellent book to add to your library!

Aaron Spelling claims he is a creative writer, but you wouldn't know it by reading this book. He quickly glides through his hit shows, bragging along the way about being the "first" to do many of the

things in Hollywood (though often he is not correct about his claims). He uses superlatives throughout about his shows and claims 3 or 4 of them as his favorite or the one his is most proud of. Most distracting is that he includes in the book scripts from some of the shows--which feel like padding. He doesn't spill enough inside information on his life so he needs to make the book long enough to buy by including pages and pages of actual scripts from 90210, Dynasty, Charlie's Angels and others. Some film students may enjoy that, but for the average reader it is meaningless. He does tell a couple surprising stories of how he cheated others when he didn't have much money--but he never says he repaid those people once he got rich. He also doesn't go into his own wealth, other than to brag that he gives his wife lots of jewelry because he loves her so much. One thing that the reader does discover is that Spelling himself does not deserve the credit for many of his most famous shows--he merely helped get the show on the air or took someone else's idea and headed the company that produced it. The conclusion that the reader comes to is that this guy made a lot of money on shows that others created. There just isn't enough meaty material in this book. He is positive about everything he has done, everyone he has met and every show he has produced. Namely, the book is dull. And if he is such a great writer (which he brags about throughout the book), then why did he need a co-author for his own autobiography?????

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