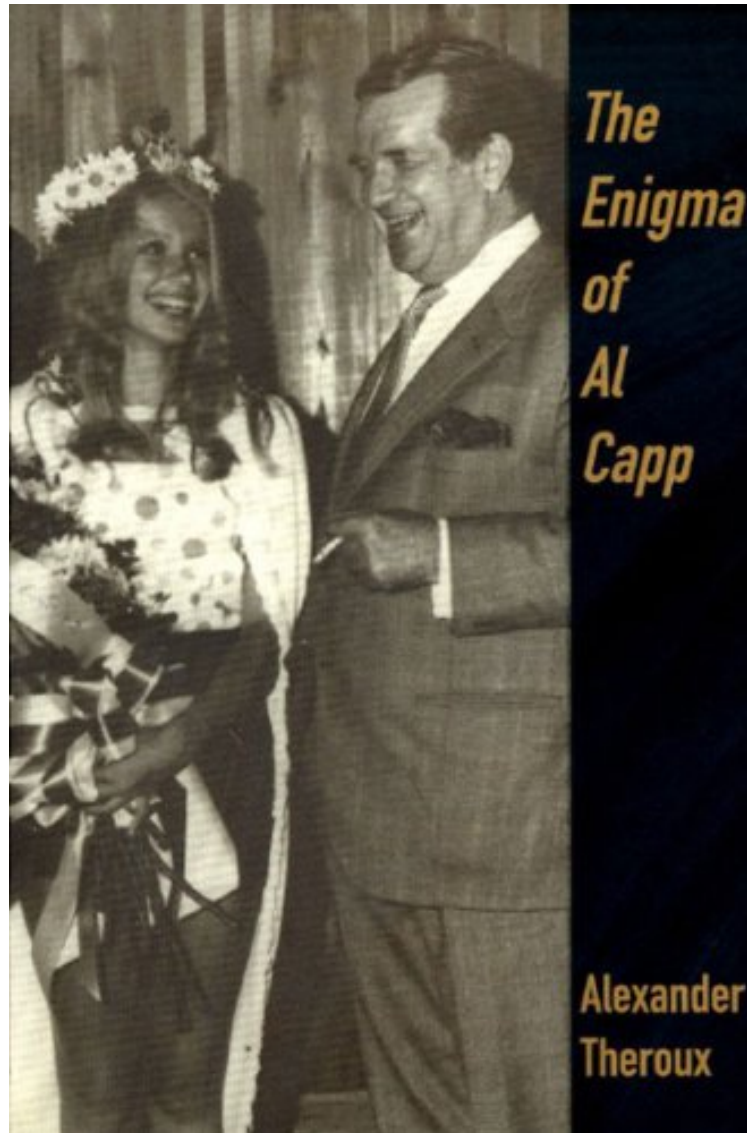


(Download pdf ebook) Enigma of Al Capp

Enigma of Al Capp

Alexander Theroux

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Alexander Theroux : Enigma of Al Capp before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enigma of Al Capp:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A summary for a book, not an actual biographyBy Larry FeignThis miniscule book reads more like a synopsis that the author would have submitted to a publisher as a book proposal, not an actual fleshed-out biography. There is a smattering of biographical information, a few patches of analysis, and not much more. For example, the last two years of Capp's life took two sentences: "He was suffocating. Two years later he

died." Suffocating from what? Emphysema? Where and when did he die? What happened to his assets?The writing style is uneven, ranging from obtuse comma-heavy sentences filled with sub-sub-sub-clauses, to clear and passionate passages.Either there simply isn't enough source material to flesh out a biography of Al Capp, or this author gave up after finding a few sources.Either way, Al Capp deserves a much more thorough biography, which this author presumably could have written. I give this two stars just because it's the only thing available on the topic.2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. About the only honest biography Capp will get.By CustomerI read Al Capp's strips as a child in the early 1960's. By the late 1960's he was doing audio commentaries on NBC Radio's weekend show "Monitor." Slowly, those commentaries became more right-wing and reactionary.The review that called this a "hatchet job" is obviously from a political conservative of the Limbaugh school. The critical point made in this book is that Capp was a hypocrite; while he was doing strips almost daily that blasted "dirty hippies," he regularly drew women with huge breasts - his Daisy Mae went from slender to porn star proportions in a short time.And when he went to college campuses to scream at liberal kids, he was propositioning and seducing girls half his age or less. As a married man.I saw Capp interviewed once on a TV news show in my youth. He was loud, smug, insisting he was right about his political views. By then, he was a long way from the man who wrote and illustrated books for amputee veterans about how to live with their injuries.As mentioned, this book is short. But Capp's life wasn't as varied or detailed as, say, Charles Schultz's, whose biography is much larger. Given that Li'l Abner is forgotten almost completely today, and Capp's political commentary is dated and uninteresting today, this slim book is about all the biography he'll get. And, frankly, Mr. Theroux is more fair to Al Capp than Capp would have been to him.10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Al Capp: American Icon?By clayface9@aol.comAl Capp was the creator of "Li'l Abner", which in my opinion was the greatest comic strip ever. Capp was a very complicated man, and this book does a credible job of telling his life story. Much of this information was already know to me, however. For Capp fans only.

The creator of Li'l Abner goes under the microscope in this handsome monograph.The National Book Award-nominated author of Darconville's Cat and Three Wogs delivers this slender-yet-rich monograph on the controversial life of cartoonist Al Capp, creator of Li'l Abner. "The left eventually broke his heart," wrote John Updike of Capp. A genuine American mythmaker and celebrated funnyman, Capp used his strip for years to expose greed, corruption and social injustice, while bringing belly laughs and dramatic suspense to the lives of millions of people every day. Theroux, however, dives head-first into the often glossed-over side of Capp, delivering a keen (but not without compassion) analysis of Capp's degeneration into a bitter, disillusioned, conservative extremist, who began using his strip in later years to attack the very causes he once championed. This is a rich and compelling investigation into the psyche of a paradoxical American icon, who at the height of his fame was one of America's highest-paid and most well-known entertainers, gracing the cover of Time and other magazines, and franchising Li'l Abner into film, theater, radio, merchandising and more. Illustrated throughout with examples of Capp's cartoons.

Theroux's analysis is at its finest when he explores Capp's inability to negotiate in his own life. -- Josh Glenn, HermenautAbout the AuthorAlexander Theroux has taught at Harvard, MIT, Yale, and the University of Virginia, where he took his doctorate in 1968. He is best known as the author of Darconville's Cat and An Adultery, as well as the essay "The Primary Colors," hailed by John Updike as "an amazing display of omnidirectional erudition and an omnivorous poetic instinct." He resides in West Barnstable, MA.