



Andy and Don: The Making of a Friendship and a Classic American TV Show

Daniel de Visé

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A lively and revealing biography of Andy Griffith and Don Knotts, this “humorous, informative, and poignant book” celebrates the powerful real-life friendship behind one of America’s most iconic television programs and “shows how the magic was created” (*Library Journal*).

Andy Griffith and Don Knotts first met on Broadway in the 1950s. When Andy moved to Hollywood to film a TV pilot for a comedy about a small-town sheriff, Don called to ask if Andy’s sheriff could use a deputy. The friendship and comedy partnership between Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife ignited *The Andy Griffith Show*, elevating the folksy television sitcom into a timeless study of human friendship. Together, they created a program with a uniquely small-town dynamic that captured the hearts of Americans across the country as they watched the two men rocking on the front porch, meditating about the pleasure of a bottle of pop.

But behind this sleepy charm, de Visé’s exclusive reporting reveals explosions of violent temper, bouts of crippling neurosis, and struggles with the temptations of fame. *Andy and Don* “captures the complexity of both men and the intimacy of their friendship with extreme detail and sensitivity” (*Publishers Weekly*), from unspoken rivalries, passionate affairs, unrequited loves, and friendships lost and regained. Although Andy and Don ended their Mayberry partnership in 1965, they remained best friends for the next half-century.

Written by Don Knotts’s brother-in-law, *Andy and Don* is “a rewarding dual biography that is also a lively look inside the entertainment industry in the latter half of the twentieth century” (*News & Observer*). Entertaining and provocative, it “captures a golden moment in modern Americana. You’ll not only return again to Mayberry, you’ll feel as though you’ve never left” (Tom Shales, Pulitzer Prize–winning television critic).

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