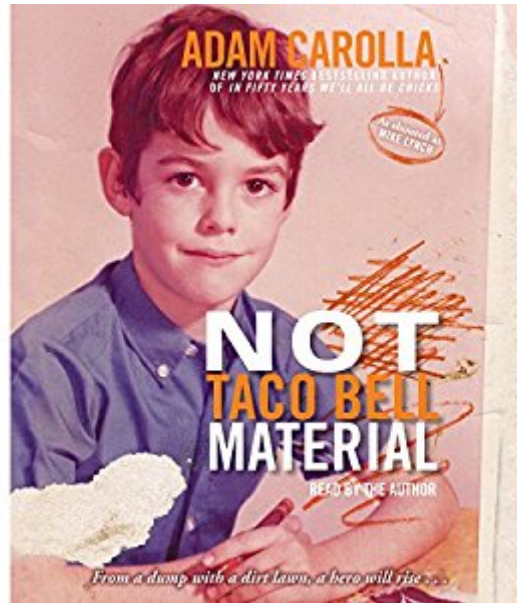


The book was found

Not Taco Bell Material



Synopsis

In his second book, Adam Carolla - chart-topping podcaster and author of New York Times best seller *In Fifty Years We'll All Be Chicks* - reveals all the stories behind how he came to be the angry middle-aged man he is today. Funnyman Adam Carolla is known for two things: hilarious rants about things that drive him crazy and personal stories about everything from his hardscrabble childhood to his slacker friends to the hypocrisy of Hollywood. He tackled rants in his first book, and now he tells his best stories and debuts some never-before-heard tales as well. Organized by the myriad "dumps" Carolla called home as a child - through the flophouse apartments he rented in his 20s, up to the homes he personally renovated after achieving success in Hollywood - the anecdotes here follow Adam's journey and the hilarious pitfalls along the way. Adam Carolla started broke and blue collar and has now been on the Hollywood scene for over 15 years. Yet he never lost his underdog demeanor. He's still connected to the working class guy he once was, and delivers a raw and edgy, fish-out-of-water take on the world in which he lives (but with which he mostly disagrees), telling all the stories, no matter who he offends - family, friends or the famous.

Book Information

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Version: Abridged

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Customer Reviews

Adam Carolla's "Not Taco Bell Material" is a laugh-out-loud memoir about growing up poor and awkward in the San Fernando Valley. The series of stories each centers around a particular abode, and comes complete with each home's purchase price, square footage, and a summary statement of the home and his life at the time (such as "Zero hope"). As a kid, Carolla moved around quite a bit, and he recounts many hilarious family events with an eye for detail and the absurd. I laughed many times during my quick read of this book, and loved how he presented the little facts about his

family that made them unique and lovable, in their own way. He describes how his grandmother's house had only one bathroom, yet two front doors. These two doors were right next to each other. At 90 degrees. His mother was so honest that when little Adam found a \$50 bill, she made him return it to the 'Lost and Found.' The owner of the \$50 bill collected it and gave Adam a \$10 reward, which he had to split with his sister (Boo! Hiss!). Some of these quirky but funny family details were somewhat David Sedaris-like, which I consider a great compliment. Adam's self-deprecating humor is on display. Every so often he offers a small funny anecdote, labeled a "Tan Gent," most of which are little stories which display the biting wit that permeates his podcast and Lovelines shows. Overall, I really enjoyed "Not Taco Bell Material." It's a perfect beach read, funny and quick. I give it my highest recommendation. I'm a big fan of funny male memoirs. If you enjoyed Adam's book, then you may consider trying the following: Artie Lange's

Not Taco Bell Material is a hilarious recounting of Adam Carolla's formative years up through his discovery by Jimmy Kimmel and subsequent success, but the humor covers up a deeper message about a poor, traumatized kid growing up and persevering in the face of adversity. Adam grew up in the 1970s and faced adulthood in the early 1980s -- a time, he notes, when unemployment in the United States was actually worse than in 2012. Each chapter centers around the "dump" he lived in during that phase of life, from the ovens he slept in in the attic to the ovens he slept in in the garage, to the oven he moved into with his friend "The Weez." Adam recounts in vivid detail the effects on his psyche of living in these various locales, which, combined with the non-parenting provided by his divorced mother and father, sent him on a trajectory of working digging ditches, cleaning carpets, and painting commercial buildings through his late teens and early twenties. While print is not Adam's medium of choice, Not Taco Bell Material's prose is polished and highly readable. Likely due to the talents of his co-author Mike Lynch, Adam's signature sense of comedic timing, sarcasm, and penchant for hilarious and poignant metaphors are clearly recognizable in each sentence. Ultimately, the story is about someone who dug himself literally and figuratively out of a rut in life. That rut could just as easily have trapped him in an unending cycle of living in dumps, hooking up with other damaged people and cranking out another generation of do-nothing Carollas. Instead, he applied a little discipline and kept it together long enough to get his big break.

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