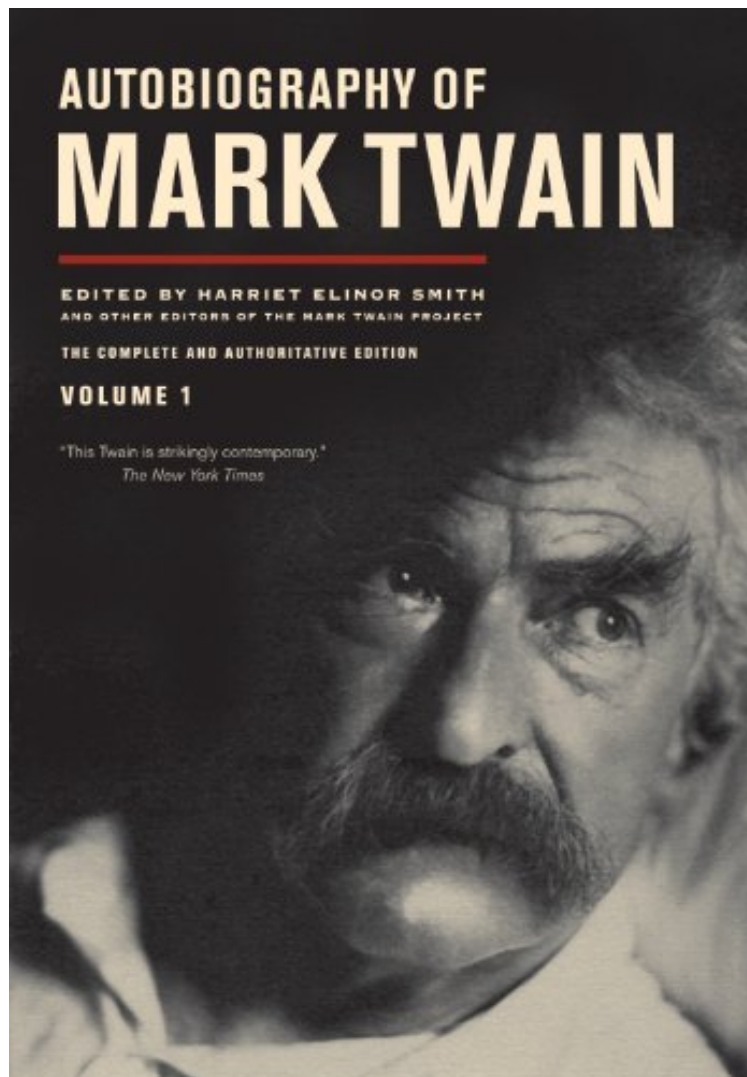


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Von Mark Twain, Harriet E. Smith, Benjamin Griffin, Victor Fischer, Michael B. Frank
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KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "I speak

from the grave rather than with my living tongue for a good reason: I can speak thence freely." [Mark Twain, Preface, x Von Monika Sophia Wiechen [= Preface, xxxv of this Autobiography] Wer ernsthaft lernen möchte, die zuweilen "scheinbar" absonderlichen Weisheiten dieses unvergleichlichen Autors Samuel Clemens Langhorn aka Mark Twain zu begreifen und damit letztlich von seinen klugen Überlegungen zu "profitieren", sollte diese Autobiographie mit Bedacht lesen. Die aufmerksame Leserin wird ihn als klugen Leser zukünftig davon abhalten, diesen Autor Mark Twain jemals leichtfertig irgendwo beliebig zu zitieren, weil's gerade mal zu passen scheint ... Obwohl: Eigentlich "pat's" immer. Denn sein persönliches Schicksal gab Mark Twain reichlich Gelegenheit, seine eigenen bitteren Lebenserfahrungen derart klug zu kompensieren, indem er sie niederschrieb; manchmal als Erzählungen, manchmal als Reiseberichte, manchmal in Form eines Tagebuchs -- jedoch IMMER als geistreiche Wiedergabe schicksalhafter Ereignisse und Erkenntnisse. Viele seiner so entstandenen klugen Stücke werden heutzutage zuweilen schnell mißbraucht als Zitate für banalste Begebenheiten -- nun ja, immerhin! Nun gut, ich gebe es zu: ich bin ein glühender Verehrer dieses Autors, nicht zuletzt WEIL ich inzwischen so ungefähr alles aus der Feder dieses Autors gelesen habe, was jemals zur Veröffentlichung kam. Deshalb mahne ich auch dazu, diese hier vorliegend rezensierte Autobiographie mit einem gebotenen liebevollen Abstand zu den gewohnten "geistreichen" Werken dieses Mark Twain zu lesen. Denn hier schreibt nicht nur ein großartiger Autor, sondern hier schreibt ein vom Schicksal hart gebeutelter Mensch, der zwar "relativ" klaglos sein hartes Schicksal annahm, zuweilen jedoch gern daran verzweifelt hätte, wenn er nur gewußt hätte, wie man sowas macht ... Er habe keinen Humor, müsse er sich gelegentlich bescheinigen lassen, sagt Mark Twain in seiner unnachahmlich harmlos-unbedarft erscheinenden Art, und die Diskussion darüber habe er selbst jemals am wenigsten verstanden. Vermutlich habe er tatsächlich keinen Humor, denn er sage und schreibe ausschließlich seine eigene Meinung, und sonst nichts. Und was an seinen persönlichen Reflexionen wohl humorvoll sein sollte, sei ihm ohnehin völlig unverständlich und auch irgendwie nebensächlich. "Forty or fifty years ago, Fowler and Wells stood at the head of the phrenological industry, and the firm's name was familiar in all ears", erinnert der Autor sich statt dessen [S.84ff], denn er interessiert sich nun mal dafür, ob seine eigenen "bumps" auf seinem eigenen Kopf "in puncto Intelligenz" "would compare favorably with George Washington's", und das findet er weder komisch noch humorvoll. Er habe es einfach wissen wollen. "Fowler received me with indifference, fingered my head in an uninterested way and named and estimated my qualities in a bored and monotonous voice. He said I possessed amazing courage, an abnormal spirit of daring, a pluck, a stern will, a fearlessness that were without limit. I was astonished at this, and gratified, too; I had not suspected it before; but then he foraged over on the other side of my skull and found a hump there which he called "caution". [S.85ff]. Für Uneingeweihte: Der zuweilen recht spitzbübische Mark Twain möchte mal wieder einen "Scharlatan" berühren ... und luft heftig Gefahr, "gläubig" zu werden. Wie er sich mal wieder wortgewaltig herauslaviert, ist sehr interessant ... und zuerst "komisch". Was immer schmeichelhaftes oder niederschmetterndes dieser Scharlatan gefunden haben mag, Mark Twain beschreibt solche und ähnliche Erlebnisse zwerchfellerschütternd "humorlos", wie es nun mal seiner vorgeblich "harmlosen" Art gem. ist. Diese Autobiographie ist so unkonventionell wie der Autor selbst. Denn in dieser Autobiographie spricht Mark Twain über sich selbst so, wie man über sich selbst spricht, wenn man sich als greiser Mensch geruhsam bei einem guten Glas Wein erinnert, weil man bereits irgendwie mit dem Leben abgeschlossen hat ODER, sich bereits als gestorben empfindet. Und aus dieser "Issigen" Haltung dürfte man doch wohl endlich mal "Klartext" reden und sich genlich an dies oder das oder jenes erinnern, das uns sehr gekränkt ... oder gefallen hatte --- und es führte von Hilsken auf Sticksken ----- und plötzlich waren wir selbst wieder gebannte Zuhörer und ... kleine Kinder, und wir empfanden die harten Stockschläge trotz all der vielen vergangenen Jahre der Verharmlosung doch wieder als schmerzhaft, obwohl --- es war doch so viel geschehen, seither? Und wir lachen ein wenig verlegen mit dem Autor Mark Twain und blättern lieber weiter, zu erfreulicheren Erinnerungen. Tja, da war diese Olivia ... und seine Tochter, die eine beraus liebevolle Schilderung erhalten --- aber eigentlich findet man tatsächlich nichts "humorvolles" in dieser Autobiographie des Mark Twain, wohl aber sehr viel Geistvolles, über das sich nachzudenken lohnt. Tja, dies ist keine Autobiographie im herkömmlichen Sinne. Nix fängt bei A an und nix hört bei Z auf. Diese Autobiographie wird geschildert von dem Autor Samuel Clemens Langhorn aka Mark Twain, der sich erinnert, und der zuweilen seiner eigenen Zettelwirtschaft entkam, weil's dann irgendwann doch schon ein Diktiergerät gab -- und kluge Biographen. Gottlob -- kann ich als Leser da nur zuerst dankbar stoseufzen! Es gibt persönliche Reflexionen des Mark Twain, die tatsächlich jeden Humor vermissen lassen. Zum Beispiel, wenn Mark Twain seine Empfindungen schildert, die er hatte, als seine heiligeliebte Olivia gestorben war. Aus Respekt vor Mark Twain und um die Würde solcher Momente zu wahren, werde ich hier lediglich auf meine Rezension verweisen, in der ich einen derart sensiblen Moment geschildert habe. Die schreckliche deutsche Sprache /The Awful German Language Nun ja, Mark Twain zu lieben, ist eigentlich ganz leicht. Ihn NICHT zu lieben, ist wesentlich schwieriger, aber möglich. Denn Mark Twain redete niemals jemandem nach dem Munde, damals nicht und heutzutage? Würde er es wohl erst recht nicht tun. Tja, windschlipfrig und angepat war er nie, dieser Mark Twain. Aber beraus scharfsinnig und weitsichtig. Selbst die hartleibigsten Gegner dieses faszinierenden Autors Mark Twain werden es schließlich einsehen müssen: Es GIBT einfach keinen Gedanken, den dieser Mark Twain nicht bereits durchdacht und -- schlimmer noch --- auf seine eigene feine und sehr hinterhältig subtil-geistreiche Weise niedergeschrieben haben mag. Und genau das macht diesen Mark Twain so einzigartig: Es gibt eigentlich nichts Neues unter dieser wundervollen Sonne. Mein inniger Wunsch wäre,

Mark Twain von seinem unverdienten Image als "nur" Kinderbuchautor des Huck(Lebberly Finn) und Tom (Sawyer) insoweit herauszulösen, um ihn einer intellektuell gewachsenen Erwachsenenwelt als einen der klügsten Autoren der Weltgeschichte zu empfehlen. Denn wenn wir auch heute noch völlig zu Recht unseren Kindern "Huck(Lebberly Finn)" und "Tom"(Sawyer) in der "Bildungs"-Lesestunde völlig bedenkenlos zur Lern-Literatur berlassen, sollten WIR Erwachsenen es ebenfalls verdient haben, uns einen der besten Autoren dieser Weltgeschichte für unsere Feierabend-Lektüre zu erlauben: mal satirisch, mal unverständlich-heiter, mal bitterböse, mal gespenstisch und furchterregend, oder auch mal derart zynisch-auftrumpfend, so daß selbst dem berzeugtesten Pazifisten Hören und Sehen vergeht ["The War Prayer"] .Mark Twain.5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. WonderfulVon Ein KundeThis is technically perhaps not a great autobiography, in that it is rather a scrap book of anecdotes from Twain's life, with a casual tone that serious-minded readers might find less than fulfilling; but the anecdotes that work are brilliant, and I have read the brilliant ones countless times. I have read the parts about Twain's mother over and over, because she is the type person I aspire to be!! I'll give one anecdote about her to explain: There was a fierce, strongly built Corsican in Hannibal chasing his daughter through the streets with a thick rope, threatening to beat her with it. All the strongest men did not interfere as this man chased his daughter. The daughter finally came to Mrs. Clemens' door, and she let the girl in the door. But rather than shut the door, Mrs. Clemens--a frail woman--stood in the door way, blocking the way of the Corsican. The Corsican yelled at her, threatening her with the rope to get out of the way so he could get to his daughter. But Mrs. Clemens stood firm, and then berated the Corsican for chasing his daughter, and shamed his manhood, so that he finally swore with a blasphemous oath that she was the bravest woman he had ever met. He gave the rope to her, left his daughter alone, and he and Mrs. Clemens were friends after that. For, as Twain puts it, "he had found in her a long-wanted need. Someone who was not afraid of him."I'd truly love typing my favorite bits of this book for you to read here. But Twain certainly tells them better, so I recommend you buy the book instead. You won't regret it. It will make you feel good about being American. And not in any patriotic sense, but in a down-to-earth sense.23 von 25 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fascinating Anatomy of a Difficult Writing ChallengeVon Donald Mitchell"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." -- John 8:32 (NKJV)I haven't had this much fun with a new book since the corrected version of Joyce's Ulysses came out. Let me explain. The only thing better than reading an outstanding work by a great writer is seeing the anatomy of how the work was written. It's fascinating to see the false starts, the problems, their solutions, and the process of mixing it all together to make a wonderful, tasty concoction for readers.Samuel L. Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain) decided he wanted to write a truthful autobiography that would be so accurate in its portrayals that he directed it not be published for 100 years. Despite that admonition, his source material has been scoured to produce earlier versions of "an autobiography." It turns out that what Clemens had in mind was something much more difficult, writing an exhaustive autobiography that allowed him to also candidly share his unusual turn of mind and insert the kind of humor that makes his writing so appealing. As a result of many unsuccessful attempts, he chose to ignore the normal chronological order in favor of dictating segments (and side trips that are not necessarily very related) that appealed to him.In the process, I came away with a strong feeling that it's hard to put your imprint on an autobiography . . . even if you are a wonderful storyteller and writer. The constraint of telling the truth (no more and no less) is also a daunting one, one that the footnotes to this fascinating volume indicate that Clemens often violated (probably unwittingly in many cases).Even the "failed" sections make for fascinating reading, including his close association with Ulysses S. Grant while that ex-president and retired general coped with lethal cancer to complete his memoirs and to earn a little money for his family that was financially struggling, the many ways that publishers took advantage of Clemens, and his awful experiences with investing in new technology for typesetting.To me, the most moving sections are those where his daughter Susy's biography is displayed and he elaborates on her stark, utterly honest thumbnail sketches. I came away impressed that he learned quite a lot about himself from Susy and wanted to rise to the challenge of not "embroidering" his personal history. Alas, the storyteller in him turned out to be stronger than the researcher. The result is a candid portrait of a man (like all men) who had feet of clay, but aspired to do better. I liked him the more for it, and my desire to read more of his writing was vastly increased.The book is not an easy read. It starts with some very tiny type that even made my post-cataract operation eyes with reading glasses squint to see clearly. The material is very dense. I found myself settling down each day to study 15 to 30 pages at a time (an amount I would normally devour in a few minutes). In addition, there's much food for thought here. It would be a crime to leave it undigested. The notes in the back are very helpful for turning sections that are hard to penetrate into more accessible material. Don't neglect them.Normally, I would question devoting so much scholarly effort into an autobiography. Having seen Volume I of this one, I think it's well worth the time, money, and effort . . . especially since this book begins to expose what Clemens most wanted us to know about him, in the way he intended.Don't miss this book!!If you know any writers, give them this book as a gift. They'll adore it (and probably you, as well, for being so thoughtful).

Kurzbeschreibung "I've struck it!" Mark Twain wrote in a 1904 letter to a friend. "And I will give it away to you. You

will never know how much enjoyment you have lost until you get to dictating your autobiography." Thus, after dozens of false starts and hundreds of pages, Twain embarked on his "Final (and Right) Plan" for telling the story of his life. His innovative notion to "talk only about the thing which interests you for the moment" meant that his thoughts could range freely. The strict instruction that many of these texts remain unpublished for 100 years meant that when they came out, he would be "dead, and unaware, and indifferent," and that he was therefore free to speak his "whole frank mind." The year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Twain's death. In celebration of this important milestone and in honor of the cherished tradition of publishing Mark Twain's works, UC Press is proud to offer for the first time Mark Twain's uncensored autobiography in its entirety and exactly as he left it. This major literary event brings to readers, admirers, and scholars the first of three volumes and presents Mark Twain's authentic and unsuppressed voice, brimming with humor, ideas, and opinions, and speaking clearly from the grave as he intended. Editors: Harriet E. Smith, Benjamin Griffin, Victor Fischer, Michael B. Frank, Sharon K. Goetz, Leslie Myrick

Pressesstimmen "Promises a no-holds barred perspective on Twain's life, and will be rich with rambunctious, uncompromising opinions."-- "Herald Scotland" "This is a book for dipping, not plunging. Read, as Twain might put it, until interest pales, and then jump. It feels like a form of time travel."-- "New York Times/The Opinion Pages" "Twain generously provides the 21st century aficionado a marvelous read. His crystalline humor and expansive range are a continuous source of delight and awe. . . . [He] has given us 'an astonishment' in his autobiography with his final, beautifully unorganized genius and intertemperate thoughts. Pull up a chair and revel."-- "Los Angeles Times Book" "Dip into the first enormous volume of Twain's autobiography that he had decreed should not appear until 100 years after his death. And Twain will begin to seem strange again, alluring and still astonishing, but less sure-footed, and at times both puzzled and puzzling in ways that still resonate with us, though not the ways we might expect."-- "New York Times" "Sometimes the autobiography seems Twain's letter to posterity. At other times, reading it feels like eavesdropping on a conversation he is having with himself. . . . This first installment of Twain's autobiography brings us closer to all of him than we have ever come before."-- "New York of Books" "Mission accomplished, Mr. Clemens."-- Roger Boylan "Boston " (11/01/2010) "The bestseller chart is awash with memoirs -- but none offer the extreme reading of the Autobiography of Mark Twain."-- Debra Craine "The Times" (10/18/2010) "Twain's 'Final Plan' has been released in a truly spectacular first volume of his posthumous 'Autobiography'."-- Vitali Vitaliev "Engineering Technology" (02/01/2011) "Mission accomplished, Mr. Clemens."-- Roger Boylan "Boston " (11/01/2010) "The bestseller chart is awash with memoirs -- but none offer the extreme reading of the Autobiography of Mark Twain."-- Debra Craine "The Times" (10/18/2010) "Twain's Final Plan has been released in a truly spectacular first volume of his posthumous Autobiography. . . . Vitali Vitaliev "Engineering Technology" (02/01/2011) "Kurzbeschreibung" "I've struck it!" Mark Twain wrote in a 1904 letter to a friend. "And I will give it away to you. You will never know how much enjoyment you have lost until you get to dictating your autobiography." Thus, after dozens of false starts and hundreds of pages, Twain embarked on his "Final (and Right) Plan" for telling the story of his life. His innovative notion to "talk only about the thing which interests you for the moment" meant that his thoughts could range freely. The strict instruction that many of these texts remain unpublished for 100 years meant that when they came out, he would be "dead, and unaware, and indifferent," and that he was therefore free to speak his "whole frank mind." The year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Twain's death. In celebration of this important milestone and in honor of the cherished tradition of publishing Mark Twain's works, UC Press is proud to offer for the first time Mark Twain's uncensored autobiography in its entirety and exactly as he left it. This major literary event brings to readers, admirers, and scholars the first of three volumes and presents Mark Twain's authentic and unsuppressed voice, brimming with humor, ideas, and opinions, and speaking clearly from the grave as he intended. Editors: Harriet E. Smith, Benjamin Griffin, Victor Fischer, Michael B. Frank, Sharon K. Goetz, Leslie Myrick