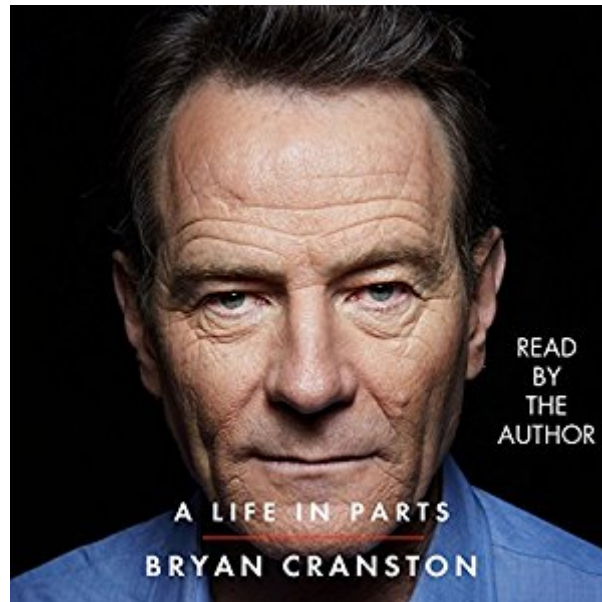




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A Life In Parts



Synopsis

Winner, 2017 APA Audie Awards - Narration by Author A poignant, intimate, funny, inspiring memoir - both a coming-of-age story and a meditation on creativity, devotion, and craft - from Bryan Cranston, beloved and acclaimed star of one of history's most successful TV shows, *Breaking Bad*. Bryan Cranston landed his first role at seven, when his father, a struggling actor and director, cast him in a United Way commercial. Soon Bryan was haunting the local movie theater, memorizing and reenacting favorite scenes with his older brother. Acting was clearly the boy's destiny - until one day his father disappeared. Suddenly destiny took a backseat to survival. Seeking something more stable, perhaps subconsciously trying to distance himself from his absent father, Cranston decided on a career in law enforcement. But then, while a young man on a classic cross-country motorcycle trip, Cranston one day found himself stranded at a rest area in the Blue Ridge Mountains. To pass the time, he read a tattered copy of *Hedda Gabler*, and in a flash he found himself face-to-face once again with his original calling. Suddenly he thought this was what he wanted to do, what he would do, with the rest of his life. Act. In his riveting memoir, *A Life in Parts*, Cranston traces his zigzag journey from his chaotic childhood to his dramatic epiphany and beyond, to megastardom and a cultlike following, by vividly revisiting the many parts he's played on camera (astronaut, dentist, detective, candy bar spokesperson, president of the United States, etc.) and off (paperboy, farmhand, security guard, dating consultant, murder suspect, dock loader, son, brother, lover, husband, father). With great humor and much humility, Cranston chronicles his unlikely rise from a soap opera regular trying to learn the ropes and the politics of show business on the fly to a recurring spot as Tim Whatley on *Seinfeld*, finding himself an indelible part of popular culture. He recalls his run as the well-meaning goofball, Hal, on *Malcolm in the Middle*, proving to writers and fans that he was willing to do anything, anything, for a laugh, and he gives a bracing account of his run on Broadway as President Lyndon Johnson, pushing himself to the limit as he prepared, physically and mentally, for a tour de force that would win him a Tony to go along with his four Emmys. Of course Cranston dives deep into the grittiest, most fascinating details of his greatest role, explaining how he searched inward for the personal darkness that would help him create one of the most riveting performances ever captured on-screen: Walter White, chemistry teacher turned drug kingpin. Discussing his failures as few men do, describing his work as few actors can, Cranston has much to say about innate talent and its benefits, challenges, and proper maintenance, but ultimately *A Life in Parts* is about the necessity and transformative power of hard work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I purchased "A Life in Parts" with a mixture of excitement and dread because one never knows how an author - let alone an ex-spouse - will portray certain aspects of his life. I came away with a sense of relief and confirmation that - yes, Bryan is still the Bryan I knew when our meals consisted of whatever he could bring home from his job as a waiter or the 1,000 ways of preparing the bags of zucchini his mother left on our doorstep. The book reads...like Bryan. Bryan's writing is unaffected by fame and fortune and is his own voice. He tells his story clearly, with exactly the right words for the situation and the precise amount of pages devoted to each "part" of his life. If his book seems to devote little to Breaking Bad or Malcom in the Middle, it's because those are just parts of the whole that is Bryan Cranston. The book is honest, witty, sensitive, funny, unapologetic, and heartbreaking. And that, too, is Bryan Cranston. When reading, be prepared to laugh and cry, for this is a story of a man who came from sad circumstances, made the best of what he had (incredible talent), and stayed true to his dream. The book is a fast read, but you will find yourself picking it back up and rereading parts to experience them again and again. Bryan Cranston is a man who continues to live a life in parts, and it is my privilege to have been one such part.

If you told me I could sit down for lunch with any 3 people in all of history, Brian Cranston would be one of those people. This memoir solidified that belief. This book was emotional, hilarious, and inspirational. It was a beautifully written and constructed book that I couldn't put down (you don't say that for many memoirs). His life is truly a life in parts and the book was written that way. Such an interesting life, coming from a man with an abstract yet down to earth take on that life. I recommend

this read to anyone, fan or not. 5/5.

This was such an entertaining and insightful book. I have always enjoyed Bryan Cranston's work. He is talented and a consummate actor. Who knew he was also a fantastic storyteller? A story filled with humor but also sadness as Mr. Cranston relives his childhood and parents' broken dreams. It's an honest portrayal of the experiences and struggles he faced that made him the man and talent he is today. It's not your typical bio in the sense that it doesn't chronologically recount every aspect of his life. Rather, Mr. Cranston poignantly touches the most important parts of his backstory while beautifully weaving in the laughter and life lessons this history embodies. This is a must read and is hard to put down.

I'm an actress so, reading an autobiography of an actor I respect is not uncommon for me. This autobiography however, left me with the feeling that I actually knew who Brian Cranston really was and is. I recommend this book for other actors. There are lessons to be learned within these pages because of his honesty in dealing with his own difficulties with certain parts. Not every well-known and successful actor would be brave enough to tell the world about some of these all too real experiences that all actors have had but would never admit. I applaud him and thank him for this. Connie C. Connie C.

I "Like" it because it's a good read. I might have "Loved" it, except I actually wish I hadn't read it at all. Here's why: I realize I like my favorite performers to be a blank slate. If I know too much about their politics or their process as a performer (the latter being the case with this book), it begins to get in the way of my enjoyment of the actor's work. I'd rather NOT know, for example, that Cranston was unhappy with a particular "Breaking Bad" scene. Sometimes a little mystery is a good thing.

I loved this book. It's so real, so true, so Bryan Cranston. It held my interest from the first word to the last and I didn't want it to end. Bryan Cranston is a man's man and yet thoughtful and kind. He has an energy that shines and a humbleness that one can clearly see and feel. The best book I've read all year!! Walter White is his most memorable character but the man inside of Walter is the most memorable of all.

I was did not know who Bryan Cranston was until his appearance on Breaking Bad. I loved the story, the characters, the acting, honestly I can't think of anything I didn't like about the show. A

while back I lucked out and got a chance to hear Mr. Cranston speak while he was in town and I must say he is a very inspirational person. He was not in town to give a motivational speech but to talk about his life and his book. The only downside to this book is that it's not longer. A must buy for fans of Bryan Cranston.

This acting business...not easy, as I can see after reading Cranston's book. He nearly tears his heart out, trying to portray all of these people. He's quite a guy. Look, many of us had a rough childhood. He is gutsy enough to get into therapy with the siblings. I have to admire them for that. His writing is good, his story is interesting, what he has accomplished is nothing short of amazing. He came with nothing and had to work at his craft. I admire him. Glad to have read the book.

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