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EDDIE: The Life And Times Of America's Preeminent Bad Boy



Synopsis

Eddie Haskell was the bad kid who never went away. When child actor Ken Osmond stepped onto the set of *Leave it to Beaver* in 1957, he not only entered our living rooms, he homesteaded a permanent place in the American pop culture. The poster child for sneaky, rotten kids everywhere, he was the reference point for cautious mothers to warn their children about. And everyone in America knew an Eddie Haskell at some point in his or her lives. The amazing phenomenon of Ken Osmond's character is still going strong, over half a century after the show's cancellation. Even today, the name Eddie Haskell remains firmly entrenched in the American lexicon. Political foes from both sides of the ideological spectrum love to accuse their opponents of, "acting like Eddie Haskell," and when Kobi Bryant argues a referee's call, tweets go out labeling him as an "Eddie Haskell." Psychology Today Magazine has published articles about recognizing and treating "Eddie Haskell Syndrome" and Matt Groening created Bart Simpson as his own version of "the son of Eddie Haskell." Now it's time to meet Ken Osmond, the man behind America's preeminent bad boy. A man who, as co-star Jerry Mathers said, "Was the best actor on the program, because he was so diametrically opposed to the character he played." A devoted husband, father and patriot, he's a man who's been forever shadowed by Eddie Haskell, but whose own life, was even more amazing than the character he portrayed.

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Customer Reviews

This book resolves all the rumors of Officer Osmond entering a porn theater, and shutting it down because a porn actor was impersonating Eddie Haskell. It is a great American story of how a poor, but hardworking family immigrated to southern California two separate times to find better lives for themselves and their children. It is told with such freshness, such openness, that you leave the book thinking you might really know Ken Osmond, and the many challenges and great joys in his life. Let's face it: How many bad kid characters from sitcoms are as indelible as Eddie Haskell. The book, however, could benefit with more polished editing.

The true life story of Ken Osmond, aka- Eddie Haskell is a Baby Boomer's chance to reminisce about the portrayal of this t.v. actor's role as a scheming, deceptive young male who is friends with The Beaver & Wally. The book also tells some not commonly known facts about Eddie Haskell's alter ego and life tribulations. A worthwhile read down memory lane to the present times.

Son of hard scrabble and hard working Great Depression and Dust Bowl parents, child actor, US Army Reservist, ten year veteran of LAPD where he was shot three times at point blank range and survived, loyal husband and father, real estate entrepreneur, Ken Osmond has lived an interesting, event filled life. This work describes all of these events and more. Through it all, the author comes across as a humble, hard working man who never took himself too seriously, disdained those who did, and appreciated the life he was given to live. The author(s) have taken great care to describe the child acting world of the 1950's and 60's, where the children were encourage to remain as normal as possible, supported by concerned adults, and allowed to grow up into the wider world beyond Hollywood. Ken Osmond relates the great affection that he has not only for his real family, but his fellow actors from "Leave It To Beaver," the officers he worked with on the LAPD and the many others who have touched his life. The book is skillfully written by Ken Osmond and his co-author Christopher Lynch, and opens with a riveting scene from the night a convicted killer tried to end Ken's life. The reading is never heavy and always entertaining. If you dislike self-promoting celebrity screeds, you will be happy to find such crud absent from this work. You don't need to be able to recall the television show to enjoy this book, although it would certainly add richness to the reading experience. If you like to read about decent people living a decent life and being grateful for

it, this book is for you. If you are a cop or ex-cop, you will find the chapters involving Ken's time on the job entertaining and very realistic. Pick up a copy of "Eddie" and enjoy a good read.

For those of us "of a certain age", this book is not only a must but a delight. Mr. Osmond's life is not only interesting but shows heroism, integrity and sensitivity. He should be justly proud that not only did an entire generation "grow up with him", but that his character, Eddie Haskell, left an enduring memory. I am sure he has heard these things many times before. To have created with the "Leave it to Beaver" cast such a treasure of memory is quite a legacy. Thank you for this gift and for this book. I hope it finds its audience.

When I was growing up, Leave It to Beaver was one of my favorite TV shows (along with Superman, The Mickey Mouse Club, and Dennis the Menace). I wasn't really into cartoons. Anyway, watching Beaver, Wally, and Eddie was a regular event for my brother and me. However, when Eddie, played by Ken Osmond, came on the screen, we would say "Uh oh! It's Eddie Haskell!" Eddie was known as the "bad boy" of television at that time, always getting Beaver, and sometimes Wally, into trouble. Over the years, I never heard much about Ken Osmond other than the rumor that he was supposed to be a famous actor of adult movies. I had also heard that he had become a cop. I wondered how those two conflicting rumors could be possible. (In the book, you will discover that one of those rumors isn't true, and the complete story behind it.) Recently, I saw some Leave It to Beaver episodes on an oldies TV channel, and wondered whatever happened to Eddie. Much to my surprise, I happened to discover that there is a biography/autobiography, called Eddie, which was written by both Ken Osmond and Christopher Lynch. What a great book! The first thing you find out is that Ken Osmond is nothing like the Eddie character. The second thing you find out is that Osmond had a really hard life, growing up very poor, going to numerous auditions as a child, getting shot at in two different incidents, living in an extreme fixer-upper house, and so on. I don't want to give too much of the book away, but no matter what happened to him, he was a survivor. One of the nice features about the book is that every chapter ends with an Eddie Haskell trivia question and an answer for the question from the previous chapter. The amount of research that went into the book, which is filled with pictures by the way, is massive, as excerpts from interviews with Jerry "Beaver" Mathers, Tony "Wally" Dow, Alice Cooper, various family members, and many others are included. If you are a Leave It to Beaver fan, you will love this book.

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