

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



A lively and revealing biography of Andy Griffith and Don Knotts, celebrating the powerful real-life friendship behind one of America's most iconic television programs. Andy Griffith and Don Knotts met on Broadway in the 1950s. When Andy went to Hollywood to film a TV pilot about a small-town sheriff, Don called to ask if the sheriff could use a deputy. The comedic synergy between Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife ignited *The Andy Griffith Show*, elevating a folksy sitcom into a timeless study of human friendship, as potent off the screen as on. Andy and Don - fellow Southerners born into poverty and raised among scofflaws, bullies, and drunks - captured the hearts of Americans across the country as they rocked lazily on the front porch, meditating about the simple pleasure of a bottle of pop. But behind this sleepy, small-town charm, de Vises exclusive reporting reveals explosions of violent temper, bouts of crippling neurosis, and all-too-human struggles with the temptations of fame. Andy and Don chronicles 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, with Andy visiting Don at his deathbed. Written by Don Knotts' brother-in-law and featuring extensive unpublished interviews with those closest to both men, Andy and Don is the definitive literary work on the legacy of *The Andy Griffith Show* and a provocative and an entertaining listen about two of America's most enduring stars.

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