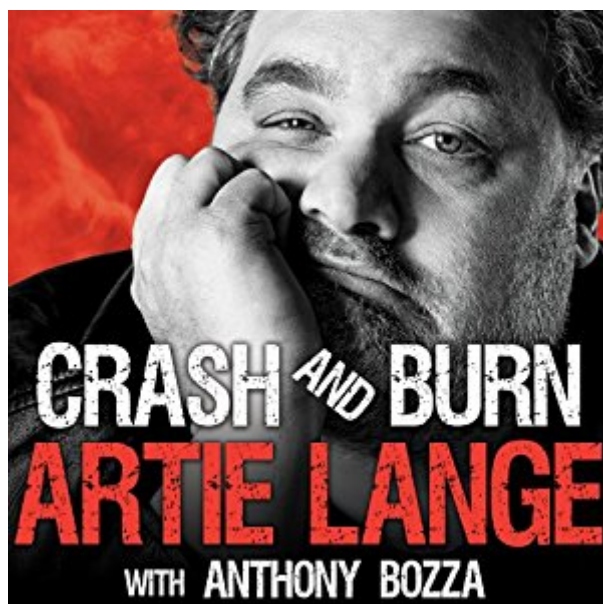


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# Crash And Burn



## Synopsis

At a high point in his career, Artie Lange performed a sold-out show in Carnegie Hall-and he did it with a pocketful of heroin. In the midst of a deep, self-destructive depression, addicted to heroin, cocaine, and prescription drugs, he lashed out at everyone around him - from his cohosts on The Howard Stern Show to celebrity guests and even his longtime friends. Then came his legendary meltdown on-air, with 6 million people listening, after which Lange pulled himself together enough to go to a buddy's bachelor party in Amsterdam. He never made the party, but instead used the trip as an opportunity to hole up in his hotel room with a prostitute and do drugs. By turns dark and harrowing, hilarious and poignant, and always drop-dead honest, *Crash and Burn* is a blow-by-blow account of Lange's years of addiction, a suicide attempt (which he relates in terrifying detail), hitting rock bottom, stints in rehab, and painful relapses. With the help and support of friends and family, Lange manages to recover and get his life and career back on track. And despite his slip-ups, backslides, and permanent losses, Artie Lange forges on. From drugs to sports to falling in love, Lange tells all in *Crash and Burn*, the story of his life that is as shocking as it is funny, ever tempered by his characteristic humor, self-awareness, and inimitable way with words.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a long time fan of the Howard Stern show, I was well aware of Artie Lange's problems with drugs and alcohol even before reading his first book, *Too Fat to Fish*. I found that book a good read, although I found myself bored with some of Artie's stories that were rehashed from the show. As a

knowledgable Stern fan, this book went into greater detail about Artie's mental and emotional state and taught me many things about his personality that I had not known beforehand. I found the behind the scenes stories to be, for the most part, informative and insightful, and sometimes even disgusting. One of the best stories included was his account of an embarrassing night at the playboy mansion, a hilarious tale that reminded me of how talented a story-teller Artie can be. This book covers the time period from after his first book came out in 2008 to the present day. During that time period, Artie Lange went through a personal hell, cycling through drug binges and withdrawals, constantly trying to dupe and outwit his friends and family so he could continue his destructive habits until it all came to a head in a most disturbing way. Some of this book is very hard to read, especially if you are a fan of Artie and wish to see him well. I actually saw Artie Lange when I went to a book signing for *Too Fat to Fish* in 2009, and can personally attest to the fact Artie looked totally out of it. At the time I had no idea how bad off he was. The book is a fantastic and highly emotional account of a man who lost everything due to his own demons, but some parts of the book made me a little frustrated. Even though this was written after his crash and burn, he doesn't seem very regretful for the horrible things he's done to himself and others. Sometimes he regrets his actions, but then a paragraph later he will defend them or even praise his own contentious and irresponsible behavior. In the book he also bashes many celebrities and normal people who, in my opinion, didn't deserve to be ridiculed in such a way. A sarcastic wit is what makes Artie's humor so great, but at some points it seemed to me like he was being too harsh, and that made me sympathize with him less. That aside, he does say nice things about some of his fellow comedians who have passed away such as Greg Giraldo and Mitch Hedberg, which I found very informative and nicely written. These comedians struggled with addiction and lost their battle. Their passings effected Artie deeply, and that hurt resonates with the reader in a profound way. It was in these passages where I felt he was being the most genuine. For fans of Artie Lange, this book is a must read. For fans on the outside, as a stand alone book of an addict who descends into an abyss of drugs and booze, the book is still effective. However, it does have a tendency to become redundant as he tells one too many stories of getting high on airplanes and his general disdain for flying. I did find his rituals of scoring drugs while keeping it a secret from his friends and family very intriguing. Overall, I must say I enjoyed this book more than *Too Fat to Fish*, and besides a few minor complaints I had a great time reading.

Brings out the worst of Artie. I loved him on Howard Stern and we even went to Miami a few years ago to see his show which was disappointing. I originally chalked it up to him having an off night but

looking back he probably was stoned and /or drunk since he seemed ill prepared. When they say don't meet your idols ( or celebrities) since you will be disappointed, they are right. Very revealing book , I now feel like I know Artie and I really don't like him.

If you can tolerate how many times Artie Lange describes yet another time he gets drunk and high (it feels like you are reading the same chapter over and over again) then you may not be able tolerate the descriptions themselves, which are often completely rambling. This is a laundry list of people he offended, but more often people who offended him and how much it cost him (financially, not emotionally). I've come out of it only knowing three things about Artie Lange--he is selfish, he holds a grudge, and he seems to think that he is a lot funnier than he actually is.

I was very excited to read "Crash and Burn", especially after really enjoying "Too Fat To Fish". There were so many question's I was hoping he would answer in this book. I was looking forward to hearing Artie's side of his departure from the Stern Show, what he really thought about the different personalities on Stern, and why he decided to attempt suicide again. Unfortunately this didn't happen. There is one brief conversation he had with Howard near the end of his tenure but that was really it. Is he bitter about Stern having him back on?"Too Fat to Fish" was a funny book with a lot of heart. This book captures none of that energy and can be quite tedious at times. My biggest gripe has to be his explanation of the suicide attempt. I won't give it away, but let me say his explanation is very hard to believe. I'd read the book if you are a fan of the baby gorilla, but don't expect to learn much...Salute!

Book had alot of repetition...Artie would say the same things over and over. He had interesting stories, but by the end I was tired of reading about them. All basically horrific drug induced stories. I was feeling sorry for him, especially when reading about his suicide attempt. But when I got to the part about how he treated his girlfriend in Paris, I lost all respect for him. I know he's an addict, but he really is a piece of s\*\*\* for how he treated his "sweet little angel"...which is so patronizing for him to even call her that. I googled alot about him during the reading of the book and now think that he's back on the drugs. Too bad, because he is a funny guy...but he treats people like crap...regardless of whether he's high or not.

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