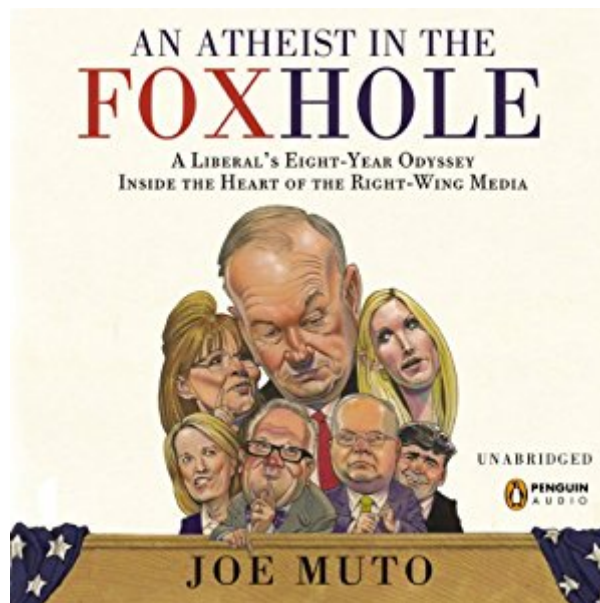




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# An Atheist In The FOXhole: A Liberal's Eight-Year Odyssey Into The Heart Of The Right-Wing Media



## Synopsis

The "Fox Mole" - whose dispatches for Gawker made headlines in Businessweek, The Hollywood Reporter, and even on The New York Times website - delivers a funny, opinionated memoir of his eight years at the unfair, unbalanced Fox News Channel working as an associate producer for Bill O'Reilly. Imagine needing to hide your true beliefs just to keep a job you hated. Now imagine your job was producing the biggest show on the biggest cable news channel in America, and you'll get a sense of what life was like for Joe Muto. As a self-professed bleeding-heart, godless liberal, Joe's viewpoints clearly didn't mesh with his employer - especially his direct supervisor, Bill O'Reilly. So he did what any ambitious, career-driven person would do. He destroyed his career, spectacularly. He became Gawker's so-called Fox Mole. Joe's posts on Gawker garnered more than 2.5 million hits in one week. He released footage and information that Fox News never wanted exposed, including some extremely unflattering footage of Mitt Romney. The dragnet closed around him quickly - he was fired within 36 hours - so his best material never made it online. Unfortunate for his career as the Fox Mole, but a treasure trove for book listeners. An Atheist in the FOXhole has everything that liberals and Fox haters could desire: details about how Fox's right-wing ideology is promoted throughout the channel; why specific angles and personalities are the only ones broadcasted; the bizarre stories Fox anchors actually believed (and passed on to the public); and tales of behind-the-scenes mayhem and mistakes, all part of reporting Fox's version of the news.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joe Muto is a midwestern guy who grew up with dreams of moving to the Big Apple & establishing a career. Unfortunately, his only "shot" of getting his proverbial foot in the door is to become an employee of FOX News. As a Liberal, this is quite a complex and convoluted direction to take. Such is the story told within these pages. Muto finds himself getting by on a meager salary whilst working for the "evil empire" that is Rupert Murdoch's prized network. He ends up rubbing shoulders with the likes of Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, Ann Coulter and Karl Rove. Not exactly "natural surroundings" for someone of the leftist mindset! Muto gives short intermittent chapters that take us through his last day @ FOX News; the day he was identified as the (gasp!) mole who leaked unauthorized footage of Newt Gingrich getting his hair done & Mitt Romney discussing horses with Sean Hannity. The chapters in between are flashbacks to his first days on the job & detail his meteoric rise to becoming an assistant for the bombastic Bill O'Reilly's radio show. The book is told with a sense of humor unbecoming a Notre Dame grad, and that was refreshing. Not surprisingly, Muto describes his fiery Irish boss as being every bit as bellicose in person as he appears to be on TV. Somewhat surprisingly, he describes Ann Coulter as being very friendly so long as she's not in "attack dog" mode. Least surprisingly of all, he characterizes Sarah Palin as being even more(!) clueless than people give her credit for. Of course, this should not come as a shock to anyone who has watched "The Game Change". For myself, the most curious part of the book is the revelation that there are actual human beings(!) with personalities(!) who work in the control rooms & behind the scenes @ FOX. I never gave the matter much thought, but I always pictured the FOX building as being full of stodgy, overdressed & humorless Right Wing drones who cared for nothing save the company line. Interesting. The title of the book is a bit of a misnomer as Joe doesn't really delve into atheism. That he is an atheist is nothing more than a sidenote as he doesn't compare this aspect of his outlook with the hardcore Religious Right. For those who are expecting a book of this type (as I was), that's not the case. I get it: A LIBERAL IN THE FOXHOLE doesn't have quite the same ring to it ~ for obvious reasons. If you're a Left Wing type who relishes anything that pokes fun at the pompous pundits on the Right, then you're sure to enjoy this book. Much of it, in fact, reminded me of "The Newsroom: The Complete First Season" as it peeks into what goes on behind-the-scenes in the making of news shows. As for Joe, here's to hoping that you find a career where you can feel good about yourself!

Having been in the television business for 35 years, I've been fascinated with FNC since the day it went on the air. Just by watching, anybody could tell that Roger Ailes broke all the rules to create something brand-new in cable news coverage! But I wanted to know more than what I saw on

television. I wanted to know about the personalities and how they interacted with the "little people" and each other. I wanted to know the behind-the-scenes stuff that nobody talked about. How was news content gathered? How much did the "suits" control the content and/or the POV (Point of View) of the network ? And how much was Roger Ailes personally involved in the newsroom on a day-to-day basis ? What is Bill O'Reilly like to work with? This book answers all those questions and much more. For anyone who's ever been in television, for anyone interested in why cable news covers some stories and ignores others, for Republicans and for Democrats, and for those who are FOXNews viewers or FOXNews haters, this is a must read book ! I promise you that you won't be able to put this down...and I further promise you that you'll never view FOX or CNN or MSNBC the same way again !

Joe Muto was the now infamous 'Fox Mole,' who posted a couple of semi-scandalous items about the inner workings of Fox News on Gawker back in 2012. He's now written a book about his experiences there. When the reader looks at the cover, and even the title, what we expect is a scathing take-down of Fox News and especially Bill O'Reilly, since his head looms large over the rest in the artwork. That's not what we get at all. Instead, what we get is a very personal account of Muto's time at Fox. It's a memoir. And a pretty good one. The reader will learn tons about the inner workings of a cable news network (and that stuff is fascinating), and tons about Muto's love life (not as much). While the book is at Fox (80-85 percent of the time), it's a fairly good read. When it strays into his personal life, via the copious footnotes and anecdotes liberally sprinkled throughout, it loses steam. I did enjoy the book. It's a quick, breezy read, well-written, often funny. A lot of people who liberals like to cast as villains come off better than you'd expect. I like O'Reilly more than I did before now that I've seen him up close and personal. Ditto for Shep Smith and Megyn Kelly. I appreciated getting a closer look at the inner workings of cable news. I just wish Muto would have stayed there, and with his coworkers, throughout the book. Still, with that minor caveat, more than worth your time.

nothing to surprise ex fans of Fox, like this Reviewer; but there's plenty to entertain the general public, with exactly \*how\* the "fair and balanced" station went to great pains to be as unfair and imbalanced as humanly possible, directed by the ex-publicity director of the RNC and driven (ratings-wise) by ex puff anchor for the bigs he now derides, incessantly. for all of you who sat with lower jaw dropping to your ankeles when Fox reported that 50,000 dollar flying jackets for LA Police were in use, or that President Obama was planning to spend one billion dollars a day in a trip to India, that a Breitbart-edited video of Shirley Sherrod was presented as evidence she condoned

racism (rather than eschewed it), this is the one 4 U.there's a nice side story of Muto's own relationship with a lady who provided the real "balance" in his life.I will not play spoiler...but don't expect deep self-inspection on spiritual matters. this is all about very worldly egomaniacs.buy it. read it. love it.

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