

Through It All I've Always Laughed

(An autobiography of myself)

by

Count Arthur Strong - The well known Celebrity.

↖
Bolder that up!!
Bigger as well

ff

FABER & FABER

and Maker!

Shoddy!!!

fill this up with
something

FRONTISPIECE

I don't really know what a 'Frontispiece' is? Or if that's how you spell it? Or if we're having one? No one's said anything to me. Is it where you get someone people will know to write something nice about you? Because if it is, I might get Barry Cryer to do it? For a fiver or something? He could make something up. Get back to me on that. I'll move on. You'll have to pay the fiver by the way. That'll not be coming out of my wages for doing this. If you can call it 'wages'.

get a necl pen

AN INTRODUCTION

BY

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG - THE AUTHOR HIMSELF

Good afternoon. Firstly, can I thank you for purchasing this book. I'm sure it will prove to be a wise investment. Books do accrue in value and some of THE BOOKS OF Charles's Dickenses, for instance, can exchange hands for a nice bit of money. If you're not buying it, and you've no intention of buying it, and you're just looking through it because it's raining outside and you're early for the opticians, would you mind putting it neatly back on the shelf please, because you're spoiling it for someone else by thumbing all the pages and everything. I never buy the book at the front of the pile because of that. I take the third or fourth one. Also, some people don't wash their hands when they've been to the toilet. And that's not a very nice thought to have in your head when you're buying a book. I remember reading in the paper that you

shouldn't eat the nuts that they put in a bowl, in a bar because other people might not wash their hands after they've 'paid a visit'. In fact in this article, it said they tested the nuts off a bar and found traces of twenty eight different types of urine in the bowl. So if you're reading this and you haven't washed your hands after urinating, then I think you should do the decent thing and purchase this wonderful book.

You know, when the people at Faber and Faber and Faber signed me up to write this memoir, I only had one stipulation and that was that in this book I would set out to write the truth. This book wouldn't be a dressed up version of events. This book would tell it like it was. This book would have Oliver Cromwell's warts and all in it.

But at the same time I wanted this book to be more than Oliver Cromwell's warts. I wanted this book to be a guide for people embarking on the showbiz journey. An aid. But not a manual of do's and don't's for aspiring performers, like Peter Barkworth's now sadly very dated book, 'About Acting', once was, once. Whilst I like Peter, and applaud him for what he was trying to do, that's

just too rigid a format for someone like I am (me). So what I'll try to do, after I've been to Lidl's, is write from the heart, with the great honesty and humility that's got me where I am today.

*pickled
onions*

I've been very lucky in my life in that I've probably achieved everything I set out to do and very much more on top of all that. If someone would have told me when I was a baby that one day I would have been in close proximity to the Queen Mother, accidentally standing on one of her bunions, I would, quite frankly, have looked at them as though they were mad. If I could have understood what they were saying to me. I must admit, I'm never quite sure how much a baby can understand. Some of them look quite bright, as if they know what's going on, yet others look as though they haven't got a clue. For arguments sake, let's say I was amongst the former, that did have a clue.

Now, there are many, many people to thank for helping me with this book. My wonderful editor, who's name has just escaped me for the moment, without who's tireless help this book wouldn't have been half the book it is/was. Barry Cryer

for his encyclopaedic memory. Thanks Barry! The drinks are on me! (No they're not. I'm joking). I wish I could mention them all but honestly the list is just too long to remember anyone.

Before I leave you though, I'd just like to say this, and that is, that in this profession that I've spent my life in, I have been blessed to have two of the most wonderful parents someone like me, or indeed 'me', because that's what I meant, could have. It was whilst under their care and guidance that I flourished and grew. They nurtured me as you would a flower and I bloomed and turned into the huge plant that stands before you today. So I'd just like to say a thank you to my Mamma and Father, wherever they went. Without them this book would not have been possible. It goes without saying that if they hadn't met I would have not been conceived. I suppose I might have been conceived by one of them with someone else, but I would have been quite different. For instance I could have been a woman. I suppose if they'd not met each other and had a baby with two different people, there could have been two of me, with half of me each in them, wandering around. However, sadly for

me, they did meet and there is only one of me, I think.

So, sit back everybody, get your glasses on, open this book, (I know you've already opened it, but you know what I mean), and laugh, cry and the other one, at the sometime hilarious, sometime touching and sometime moving, but always entertaining collection of my life's lives lives's? memories.

Could I just say before I stop typing this, if you enjoy the book, and frankly, there'd have to be something wrong with you if you didn't, could I ask you not to lend it on to a friend, or give it to the charity shop? Because that would only mean that someone wouldn't buy it at full price. And that's not very nice for me if you flood the market with cheap used ones. Also lending the book on to someone could lead to a wider urine/hygiene problem, as outlined earlier. So I am really thinking of other people.

Anyway, whatever happens everybody, one thing's for sure, everybody, 'Through It All I've always Laughed'.

And I've got the title in!

PREFACE

Are we having a preface? I'll move on for now.

What is a preface?