TV Land Legends features your favorite television icons photographed with reverence (Herb Rittss moving shot of the cast of Alex Haleys Roots) and sheer irreverence (Mark Seligers giddy shots of the Seinfeld cast re-creating The Wizard of Oz). TV Land Legends also includes classic archival footage from Andy and Opie strolling the streets of Mayberry to James and Florida Evans embracing on a classic episode of Good Times. From shots of Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore posing in rubber and whips to Bob Hope captured alone in a mail room, the images will move fans, reminding us all why these greats have left indelible marks. Both color and black and white, the photographs are primarily portraits, incredibly personal, and often the most iconic and memorable photo ever taken of that celebrity, whether Herb Rittss hilarious shot of Milton Berle or Annie Liebovitzs shot of a stoic James Garner. The photos, some of which have appeared in magazines like Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, and TV Guide, captivate readers and move us with a new way to view a familiar face. TV Land Legends brings them all together, making this collection one of unparalleled content and rarity. Interwoven throughout the images are original and reprinted texts and quotes from the TV stars themselves and the stars that inspired them. Read Robin Williams talking about playing Mork, Billy Crystal talking about Sid Caesar, a hilarious take on playing a doctor from George Clooney, and some priceless zingers from Bob Hope. The book will also feature 35 short essays that ponder what makes a TV legend. Why is it, exactly, that we cannot avert our eyes? Read original essays by todays most original thinkers. TV Land Legends is a book of the highest design and manufacturing quality, perfect for showing off in (where else?) the living room, near the family television.

My Personal Review:
There will probably be some disagreements as to what individuals have legendary status in the realm of television; however, the people at TV Land, for the most part, have assembled a fitting homage to those people and faces that have entered American homes for the past five decades. From classic performers like Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, and Bob Hope to
such Johnny-come-latelies as the cast of "Friends" or Ellen Degeneres, the book has beautiful photographs chronicling the history of the television program.

The book primarily showcases those that starred in those shows that were considered major hits during their time. Of course, there are some glaring omissions - Jack Lord from "Hawaii 5-0" or even one of the "Law and Order" incarnations - that would probably disappoint fans, but there are enough top-notch photographic memories to satisfy even the passing TV fan.

Although the majority of the photographs are in color, the most impressive of them are the black and white, many capturing moments that are poignant, humorous, reflective and somewhat sexy.

The assembly of western stars, many of the actors now well into their eighties, is a wonderful homage. The photo of Barbara Eden and Larry Hagman in a loving embrace is sexier than anything that the pair did for their five-season-long series "I Dream of Jeannie."

The "Roots" photo featuring cast members Ben Vereen, Leslie Uggams, John Amos, Cicely Tyson, and Levar Burton is breathtaking by being both simplistic and powerful.

The book is a tribute to television as well as a testament to the photographer's craft and comes highly recommended.

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