

# At Random: The Reminiscences Of Bennett Cerf

Bennett Cerf, the legendary humorist, publisher, and raconteur, has left an enduring mark on the world of literature and entertainment. His autobiography, "At Random," offers a delightful and insightful journey into his extraordinary life.



## At Random: The Reminiscences of Bennett Cerf

by Bennett Cerf

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 14550 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 306 pages



Born in New York City in 1898, Cerf began his publishing career in the 1920s with Horace Liveright. In 1925, he co-founded Random House, which quickly became one of the most influential publishing houses in the world. Under Cerf's leadership, Random House published a wide range of authors, from Ernest Hemingway to Dr. Seuss.

Cerf was not only a brilliant publisher but also a consummate storyteller. His anecdotes and jokes were legendary, and he could hold an audience spellbound with his wit and charm. "At Random" is a treasure trove of these

stories, offering glimpses into the literary world, the publishing industry, and the fascinating characters Cerf encountered along the way.

In one memorable anecdote, Cerf recounts a meeting with Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway had just submitted a manuscript to Random House, and Cerf was eager to read it. However, Hemingway insisted that Cerf read it aloud to him while he listened. Cerf protested that he was not a good reader, but Hemingway was adamant. So, Cerf began to read, stumbling over the words and feeling increasingly self-conscious.

Finally, Hemingway could bear it no longer. "Stop!" he shouted. "You're ruining my prose!"

Cerf's wit was sharp and his humor was infectious. He had a gift for finding the absurdity in everyday situations and turning them into hilarious stories. In "At Random," he shares his misadventures as a book collector, his encounters with eccentric authors, and his travels around the world.

But "At Random" is more than just a collection of funny stories. It is also a poignant memoir that reflects on Cerf's life and the people who shaped it. Cerf writes about his family, his friends, and the mentors who helped him along the way. He also shares his thoughts on the importance of humor and the role of literature in society.

In one particularly moving passage, Cerf reflects on the death of his beloved wife, Phyllis. He writes:



***“I have often said that Phyllis's death left a hole in my heart that no one else could ever fill. But that is not entirely true. The hole is still there, but it is now filled with memories of her love and laughter. And those memories are a precious treasure that I will cherish for the rest of my days.”***

"At Random" is a delightful and inspiring read for anyone who loves humor, literature, or simply a good story. It is a testament to the wit, wisdom, and indomitable spirit of Bennett Cerf, a man who truly lived life at random.

**Image Description:** A black-and-white photograph of Bennett Cerf, seated at a desk, surrounded by books and papers.



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