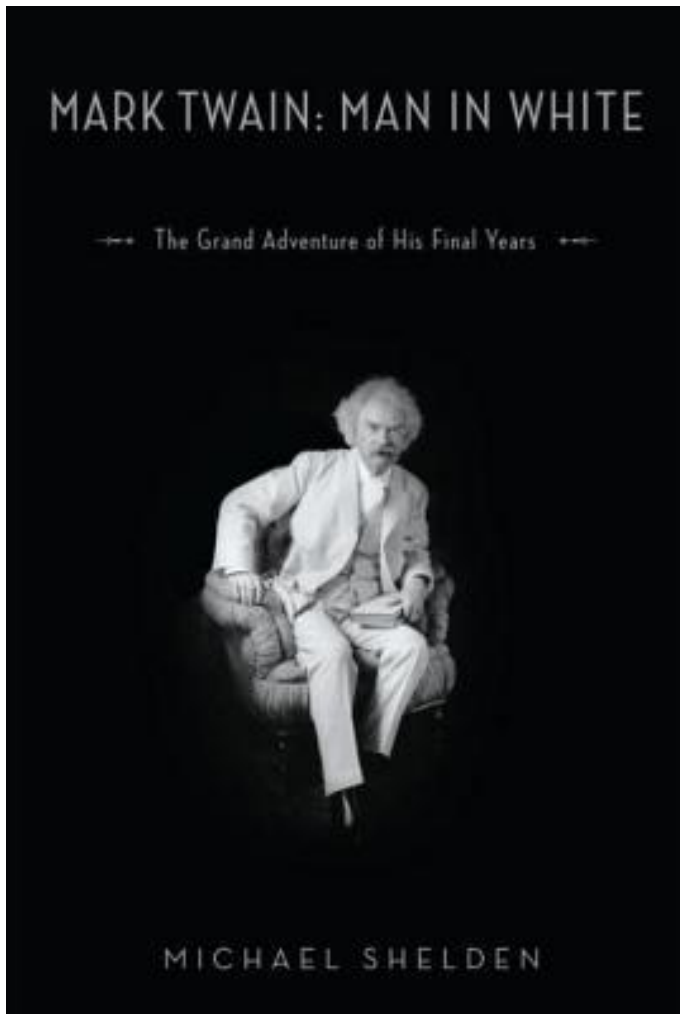

Michael Shelden

Mark Twain: Man in White: The Grand Adventure of His Final Years



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Description

One day in late 1906, seventy-one-year-old Mark Twain attended a meeting on copyright law at the Library of Congress. The arrival of the famous author caused the usual stir—but then Twain took off his overcoat to reveal a "snow-white" tailored suit and scandalized the room. His shocking outfit appalled and delighted his contemporaries, but far more than that, as Pulitzer Prize finalist Michael Sheldon shows in this wonderful new biography, Twain had brilliantly staged this act of showmanship to cement his image, and his personal legend, in the public's imagination. That afternoon in Washington, less than four years before his death, marked the beginning of a vibrant, tumultuous period in Twain's life that would shape much of the now-famous image by which he has come to be known—America's indomitable icon, the Man in White.

Although Mark Twain has long been one of our most beloved literary figures—Time magazine has declared him "our original superstar"—his final years have been largely misunderstood. Despite family tragedies, Twain's last half-decade was among the most dynamic periods in the author's life. With the spirit and vigor of a man fifty years younger, he continued to stir up trouble, perfecting his skill for living large. Writing ceaselessly and always ready with one of his legendary quips, Twain would risk his fortune, become the willing victim of a lost-at-sea hoax, and pick fights with King Leopold of Belgium and Mary Baker Eddy.

Drawing on a number of unpublished sources, including Twain's own journals, letters, and a revealing four-hundred-page personal account kept under wraps for decades (and still yet to be published), **Mark Twain: Man in White** brings the legendary author's twilight years vividly to life, offering surprising insights, including an intimate, tender look at his family life. Filled with first-rate scholarship, rare and never-published Twain photos, delightful anecdotes, and memorable quotes, including numerous recovered Twainisms, this definitive biography of Twain's last years provides a remarkable portrait of the man himself and of the unforgettable era in American letters that, in many ways, he helped to create.

From the Hardcover edition.

Insightful reviews

Anne: I'm listening to the audio book. Sheldon begins with the first time Mark Twain made an appearance in what would be his signature white suit. Twain was 71 at the time. The prologue is slow going but the rest of the book is deftly written, thoroughly researched and so far, objective, if a tad on the naive side when it comes to Twain's assistant Isabel Lyons.

Cynthia Karl: This is a toss up between 3 and 4 stars - it is an enjoyable read and one gets a good picture of Twain the public man and Twain the private man. His incredible popularity with the public both in the US and England is offset by the family difficulties and tragedies that he had to deal with in his final years. He is someone that I would have loved to meet - emotional, incorrigible, kind, irascible and altogether interesting.

Jess: How I wish this book had been published a year and a half before so that I may have used it for my graduate thesis!

Michael Sheldon manages to bring together letters and fiction to compile a fascinating account of Mark Twain's last years. Where most biographies tend to displace their subject's sense of humor, Sheldon captures it in a way that makes Twain feel as though he is still alive. I can't recall another biography I've read on Mark Twain that was so thoroughly engaging, straight to the point, and subjected the reader to so much laughter and humor.

I could go on about how terrific "Man in White" was, but really - just read it. The details, the relationships, and the excerpts give you more insight into Mark Twain's nature than the many books I've read previously.

Marie: I alternated among frustration and pleasure in analyzing this book. every now and then I felt the ebook was once so tedious and choked with too many information of Twain's day-by-day life. Then there have been sections the place i could not position the e-book down. i used to be really intrigued by way of Twain's utter gullibility and wrongfully put belief while it got here to his monetary matters. i could not wait to work out how he was once going to most sensible those deceitful staff in whom he positioned rather a lot trust. i am completely happy I learn the ebook simply because i've got continuously enjoyed Mark Twain however it used to be a sluggish read.

Shawn Thrasher: a stunning pageturner and enormously sad. I knew a few naked bone proof approximately Mark Twain and sufficient of his emotional lifestyles to grasp that his humor concealed a dismal side. however the final years of his existence have been middle breaking. a guy choked with such pleasure and lust for life, struck via tragedy after tragedy. He certainly knew the top highs and the bottom lows. Still, whilst it is all acknowledged done, i'm hoping i will be a "man in white" on the finish of my life. Mark Twain used to be a one-man pink hat society, lengthy ahead of it truly is existence.

John Harder: Mark Twain: guy in White takes us throughout the ultimate years of Twain's life. Twain by the point he used to be in his 70's was once a superstar, loved via thousands -- and he enjoyed it. He reveled in his acclaim, loved the corporate of 1 of the world's wealthiest men, vacationed in Bermuda and beamed like a toddler with a brand new toy whilst Oxford conferred an honorary degree. regrettably it was once no all frivolity and glory. His daughters have been by no means faraway from his concepts and matters and he narrowly dodged large monetary losses a pair times. yet given all of the ups and downs Mark controlled to suck the marrow out of lifestyles till his date with worms. this can be a heartwarming biography of 1 of our best american citizens and Mr. Sheldon tells and compelling and touching tribute. i've got firmly decided: i need to be Mark Twain -- with the exception of the complete being lifeless part.

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