

"I have read dozens of Hollywood memoirs. But *The Boys* stands alone. A delightful, warm, and fascinating story of a *good* life in show business."

—MALCOLM GLADWELL

THE BOYS

*A Memoir
of Hollywood
and Family*

RON HOWARD &
CLINT HOWARD

FOREWORD BY BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD

THE BOYS - About the Book:

Happy Days, The Andy Griffith Show, Gentle Ben—these shows captivated millions of TV viewers in the '60s and '70s. Join award-winning filmmaker Ron Howard and audience-favorite actor Clint Howard as they frankly and fondly share their unusual family story of navigating and surviving life as sibling child actors.

“What was it like to grow up on TV?” Ron Howard has been asked this question throughout his adult life. In *The Boys*, he and his younger brother, Clint, examine their childhoods in detail for the first time. For Ron, playing Opie on *The Andy Griffith Show* and Richie Cunningham on *Happy Days* offered fame, joy, and opportunity—but also invited stress and bullying. For Clint, a fast start on such programs as *Gentle Ben* and *Star Trek* petered out in adolescence, with some tough consequences and lessons.

With the perspective of time and success—Ron as a filmmaker, producer, and Hollywood A-lister, Clint as a busy character actor—the Howard brothers delve deep into an upbringing that seemed normal to them yet was anything but. Their Midwestern parents, Rance and Jean, moved to California to pursue their own showbiz dreams. But it was their young sons who found steady employment as actors. Rance put aside his ego and ambition to become Ron and Clint’s teacher, sage, and moral compass. Jean became their loving protector—sometimes over-protector—from the snares and traps of Hollywood.

By turns confessional, nostalgic, heartwarming, and harrowing, *THE BOYS* is a dual narrative that lifts the lid on the Howard brothers’ closely held lives. It’s the journey of a tight four-person family unit that held fast in an unforgiving business and of two brothers who survived “child-actor syndrome” to become fulfilled adults.

The Boys – Generic Discussion Questions

For the person who chose this book: What made you want to read it? What made you suggest it to the group for discussion? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?

What do you think motivated the author to share his or her life story? How did you respond to the author's "voice"?

Do you think the author is trying to elicit a certain response from the reader, such as sympathy? How has this book changed or enhanced your view of the author?

Discuss the book's structure and the author's use of language and writing style. How does the author draw the reader in and keep the reader engaged? Does the author convey his or her story with comedy, self-pity, or something else?

Were there any instances in which you felt the author was not being truthful? How did you react to these sections?

What is the author's most admirable quality? Is this someone you would want to know or have known?

Compare this book to other memoirs your group has read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you've read? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book?

What did you like or dislike about the book that hasn't been discussed already? Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Do you want to read more works by this author?

A B O U T T H E A U T H O R S

Academy Award-winning filmmaker RON HOWARD is one of this generation's most popular directors. From the critically acclaimed dramas **A Beautiful Mind (2001)** and **Apollo 13 (1995)** to the hit comedies **Parenthood (1989)** and **Splash (1984)**, he has created some of Hollywood's most memorable films. Howard made his directorial debut in 1978 with the comedy **Grand Theft Auto (1977)**. He began his career in film as an actor. He first appeared in **The Journey (1959)** and **The Music Man (1962)**, then as **Opie** on the long-running television series **The Andy Griffith Show (1960)**.

CLINT HOWARD is a character actor and brother to filmmaker Ron Howard. He began his acting career at the age of three when he landed the role of **Leon** in **The Andy Griffith Show**. He played the starring role in the late-60s CBS series, **Gentle Ben** and has gone on to act in several TV shows and films over the years, including cult horror movies.

He has played roles in several **Star Trek** episodes and had appearances on **Arrested Development**, **Married...with Children**, **Seinfeld**, and **My Name is Earl** among others.