

WAITING FOR THE PUNCH

Words to Live By from the *WTF* Podcast

By Marc Maron and Brendan McDonald

Foreword by John Oliver

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A longtime stand-up comedian and early podcaster (*WTF*, est. 2009), Marc Maron self-describes as "a conversationalist" (not an interviewer), and claims to "need to be heard and seen . . . to know I exist" (3). Both his minimal prep work and maximal engagement are impressive. Culled from over a thousand *WTF* conversations and left undated (Barack Obama taped in the original garage in 2015), Maron's latest book is arranged topically (e.g., growing up, addiction, failure, sexuality, parenting) with multiple guests. Wanda Sykes, Sir Ian McClellan, and RuPaul are standouts. Many snippets admit defeat followed by an awakening, and hence, the book's subtitle might better be "words to *return* by." Marc Maron is the original comeback kid, most eloquent in each topic's preamble. The trending mantra is: It's their fault, but my responsibility. —Lisa Thaler, author of *Look Up: The Life and Art of Sacha Kolin*, 22 October 2019