

[Free] American Top 40: The Countdown of the Century

## American Top 40: The Countdown of the Century

*Rob Durkee*

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**Rob Durkee : American Top 40: The Countdown of the Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Top 40: The Countdown of the Century:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Big Fan of AT 40By A CustomerAs a HUGE fan of AT40, I found this book answered most of my questions and memories of the show. There were a couple of things not included that I thought should have been, but they were covering 24 years. Couldn't give it 5 stars, but it is a good book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book On A Popular Countdown ShowBy Don McCullenAmerican Top 40 has become highly regarding as one of the premiere music countdown programs in the world, although it may have not

been the first it truly set the standard for other countdown programs to follow. The show covers the main people involved in launching AT40 (Casey Kasem, Don Bustany, Tom Rounds, and Ron Jacobs) and how a pop music festival in Miami helped AT40's original distributor Watermark get the money needed to launch the program. Also the book talks about the early years when Watermark was losing money, and how it actually took 18 hours to record the very first AT40 program. There are chapters about 'Long Distance Dedication' segments of the program and how it was a segment that took about eight years to finally be featured on AT40, and a chapter on very popular outtake in which Casey lost his self control and cussed out his partner and producer Bustany. He could not get in mood when he was coming out of an up-tempo song and was going into a dedication about the loss of a pet. The book goes into much detail on how ABC Radio handled the show when they acquired Watermark in 1982, and according to Durkee it was not good. ABC used AT40 as a way to make radio stations air more ABC Radio Network programming and if they refused they will lose AT40 to another station. One of those stations that lost AT40 was LA's KIIS which in turn would birth a chief rival countdown program (Rick Dees Weekly Top 40). By the mid 1980's Casey was in contract renewal talks which went nowhere thus Casey leaving the show he co-created after being host for about 18 years to host a rival countdown with his name in the title (Casey's Top 40). Meanwhile AT40 just hired Shadoe Stevens to be the new host in attempt to make AT40 hip, but ABC did not give Shadoe creative control and also tried many gimmicks and effects to make the show stand out. It did not work and eventually the show would end in 1995, only to have it revived by Casey Kasem in 1998 in the original format that people were used to. Durkee's book is indeed for those who want to know about AT40 in detail. It may not give you everything you want to know about the program, but it gives you a lot of into the rise and fall, and rebirth of an American Institution, and how it created many countdown clones including AT40's spinoff program "American Country Countdown" along with many others in different radio formats. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book for casual fans By dman The book is good but doesn't merit the high price tag since much of the information is available on line for free, strictly for collectors.