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The Baby Boom: How It Got That Way, And It Wasn't My Fault, And I'll Never Do It Again



*How It Got That Way
And It Wasn't My Fault
And I'll Never Do It Again*

**P. J.
O'Rourke**



Synopsis

P.J. O'Rourke began writing funny things in 1960s underground newspapers, became editor-in-chief of National Lampoon, then spent 20 years reporting for Rolling Stone and The Atlantic Monthly as the world's only trouble spot humorist, going to wars, riots, rebellions, and other "Holidays in Hell" in more than 40 countries. Now O'Rourke, born at the peak of the Baby Boom, turns his keen eye on himself and his 75 million accomplices in making America what it is today. With laughter as an analytical tool, he uses his own very average, if sometimes uproarious experiences as a key to his exceptional age cohort. He writes about the way the post-war generation somehow came of age by never quite growing up and created a better society by turning society upside down. The Baby Boom: How it Got That Way And It Wasn't My Fault And I'll Never Do It Again is at once a social history, a group memoir of collectively impaired memory, a hilarious attempt to understand his generation's messy hilarity, and a celebration of the mess the Baby Boom has made.

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Customer Reviews

Classic O'Rourke, maybe a little less humorous than previous books, but a little more thought provoking. As someone born at the very end of the Baby Boom generation, I still don't consider myself a baby boomer, but don't feel like a part of Gen X either, so this was a good primer of what I should be feeling/dealing with as a boomer.

After a bit of a slow start in chapter one, the book immediately became incredibly interesting and

hilariously funny. I bought the audio book version and I am sure I was a sight laughing out loud while on the highway. I have recommended the book often. Perfect for anyone who is a baby boomer, but also great for those looking for insight into this generation. Highly Recommended.

Interesting synopsis of growing up in the era of the Baby Boom generation with the foibles of cartoons, TV programs & monkey shines serving as adult entertainment to the masses. Now that the era has passed us by PJ looks upon it as a tongue in cheek graduate of being schooled in a time & place which can not be replicated.

I'm one of the world's biggest PJ O'Rourke fans - own and love nearly everything he ever wrote, he's one of the few authors I find laugh out loud funny, but also deeply insightful and able to cut through to the heart of difficult issues. So I'm not writing this from the perspective of (for example) a hater, who just detests curmudgeonly right-wing types. But this book was intensely annoying - poorly written and edited in a way I found shocking. There's occasional gems, and a few bits of genuinely cogent analysis and comment. And there's a few funny stories. But much of it was just so rambling and incoherent that I struggled to wade my way through it. I could never conceive of not finishing one of his books, until now. Maybe I'm missing something, maybe he was making ironic comment on the rambling & incoherent nature of much of the baby-boom's contribution to the world of ideas. Dunno - if he was, it didn't work.

Not the best review of the Boomers because it dwelt too much on O'Rourke's grade school experiences. In fact, after reading the book you'll probably think P. J. got his name from wearing pajamas. That's how much childish stuff is in it.

A witty series of shotgun blasts about an era in US history. He did not zero in with a rifle scope on anything. His commentary on the era flowed from one thing to another. In order to understand what he was talking about you have to be a baby boomer. My birth year is 1948, so I am in his senior class. I was left under the impression that the title: Greatest Generation should change from those who fought WWII with guns and bullets to those who fought the cultural wars of the second half of the century with words, inaction, and sexual play.

Actually I'm a pre-Boomer (1944) but the book was so accurate to my experience in most instances that I think O' Rourke has done a marvelous job of showing what it was like to grow up in the forties,

fifties and sixties at least.. I had many a good chuckle as his commentary was spot on to the circumstances of my life (I grew up just across the G.W. Bridge from New York in New Jersey). We saw such a swift evolution in the postwar era and the magnitude of that change really makes today's technological speed and development pale by comparison. Yes, we are moving toward the speed of light in all we do, but it was the demands of WWII that made it all possible and probable.

A bit too rambling and unfocused, repetitive. Some "luster nuggets" among the dross but it takes some searching. I read it from the perspective of a "senior" member of the baby boom cohort and recognized that many of his observations do ring true but much of it is simplistic and over-generalized. I have often enjoyed O'Rourke's wit and satire but this one does not rank among his best.

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