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Me The People: One Man's Selfless Quest To Rewrite The Constitution Of The United States Of America

"I would rather read a Constitution written by Kevin Bleyer than by the sharpest minds in the country." —JON STEWART



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Synopsis

Audie Award Nominee, Humor, 2013 The United States Constitution promised a "More Perfect Union". It's a shame no one bothered to write a more perfect Constitution - one that didn't trigger more than two centuries of arguments about what the darn thing actually says. Until now. Perfection is at hand. A new, improved Constitution is here. And you are about to listen to it. But first, some historical context: In the 18th century, a lawyer named James Madison gathered his friends in Philadelphia and over four long months, wrote four short pages: the Constitution of the United States of America. Not bad. In the 19th century, a president named Abraham Lincoln freed an entire people from the flaws in that Constitution by signing the Emancipation Proclamation. Pretty impressive. And in the 20th century, a doctor at the Bethesda Naval Hospital delivered a baby - but not just any baby. Because in the 21st century, that baby would become a man, that man would become a patriot, and that patriot would rescue a country... by single-handedly rewriting that Constitution. Why? We think of our Constitution as the painstakingly designed blueprint drawn up by, in Thomas Jefferson's words, an "assembly of demigods" who laid the foundation for the sturdiest republic ever created. The truth is, it was no blueprint at all but an Etch-A-Sketch, a haphazard series of blunders, shaken clean and redrawn countless times during a summer of petty debates, drunken ramblings, and desperate compromise - as much the product of an "assembly of demigods" as a confederacy of dunces. No wonder George Washington wished it "had been made more perfect." No wonder Benjamin Franklin stomached it only "with all its faults." The Constitution they wrote is a hot mess. For starters, it doesn't mention slavery, or democracy, or even Facebook; it plays favorites among the states; it has typos, smudges, and misspellings; and its Preamble, its most famous passage, was written by a man with a peg leg. Which, if you think about it, gives our Constitution hardly a leg to stand on. [Pause for laughter.] Now stop laughing. Because you are about to listen to no mere audiobook, but the most important document of our time. Its creator, Daily Show writer Kevin Bleyer, paid every price, bore every burden, and saved every receipt in his quest to assure the salvation of our nation's founding charter. He flew to Greece, the birthplace of democracy. He bused to Philly, the home of independence. He went toe-to-toe (face-to-face) with Scalia. He added nightly confabs with James Madison to his daily consultations with Jon Stewart. He tracked down not one but two John Hancocks - to make his version twice as official. He even read the Constitution of the United States. So prepare yourselves, fellow patriots, for the most significant literary event of the 21st, 20th, 19th, and latter part of the 18th centuries. Me the People won't just form a "More Perfect Union". It will save America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Me the People is an absolute delight with a surprising amount of historical and constitutional insight. Before reading this book I didn't know that Bleyer was once a writer for Jon Stewart. In hindsight that explains a lot about this terrific book. Much of Stewart's shtick was substance wrapped in sarcastic, satirical humor and so is much of Me the People. I stumbled across this book when it was mentioned in an online article I was reading and what a find it was. I have recommended Me the People to loads of friends who have already begun thanking me and recommending it to their friends. In Me the People Bleyer does something exceedingly difficult, he makes learning about the U.S. Constitution fun. Read Me the People, you'll be glad you did.

Kevin Bleyer's "Me the People" fills a serious gap in American Constitutional history--he makes it makes interesting. Now, no longer are we required to wonder, "How many Americans have actually read the Constitution (besides Henry Rollins, to whom Bleyer gives props), but we can actually enjoy reading the document. Bleyer almost convinces me that he wants to be a real historian. His research is nearly complete, and where he skips out on necessary follow through he provides a sufficiently long and incorrectly cited footnote to fully disclose this fact. Bleyer speaks with the movers and shakers in Constitutional politics, including Justice Antonin Scalia and several archivists in buildings that house replicas of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. He never gets his hands on the actual parchment himself, unlike Nicholas Cage, which is probably a good thing. As someone who not only enjoys real scholarship on this stuff and teaches it, I'm going to give Kevin Bleyer's "Me the People" an A+ for effort, content and entertainment. I think the American people have something to learn from Bleyer here--the Founding Fathers were real people in a chaotic time doing their best to write a document that even they were not sure would work. Bleyer writes no hagiography here--he gives an honest assessment of what it might have been like to be in the room

with some of the people American textbooks worship most. He deconstructs them individually, and then adds them back to the mix as a whole. Bleyer kept me laughing the entire time. Although I'm not sure he will convince the nation to convene a constitutional convention any time soon, his message underscores the seriousness of the Constitution in the development of the nation, and offers some insight into politics today.

This book was a hoot. Really enjoyed it. Funny while providing some interesting lesser known historical facts.

Funny, informative, and finely researched. Breyer knows his stuff and presents it in a highly amusing way. It's not liberal or conservative. It's just a very funny lesson in what the Constitution means, how it was written, and how the author would change it (though his "rewrite" is mostly tongue in cheek).

This book cracks me up. I own the Kindle edition, and I am constantly returning to re-read this book. You can pick a chapter or section at random and just dive in. It is apparent that he did quite a lot of research but still manages to make the whole thing quite funny. Who knew the founding fathers were so drunk when they were working on the Constitution while a prison riot took place across the street? Well now I do.

I wish we had this to read in my U.S. Government class in high school. Well written, moves at a good place and deals with the good, the bad and the ugly (yes, we put slavery in there.) But also gained a sense of why we should see the constitution evolve over time. If you want a better understanding of our constitution, read this book.

Very humorous book. Kevin gives us a constitution that truly(?) works for America

For lovers of history, the Constitution, or plain ol' great satire this is the book for you! Not only is it historically accurate (as far as I can tell), but it is loaded with fascinating anecdotes. Plus, it's satire at its finest. Let the rewrite begin!

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