

IS IT JUST ME OR IS EVERYTHING SHIT?

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
MODERN LIFE

STEVE LOWE & ALAN MCARTHUR



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Is It Just Me Or Is Everything Shit?: The Encyclopedia of Modern Life Steve Lowe , Alan McArthur Is It Just Me or Is Everything Shit?: The Encyclopedia of Modern Life is a book by Steve Lowe and Alan McArthur. It was published in Britain in 2005. The authors give satirical criticisms of people, places, institutions and phenomena seen in modern British life. Subjects include Live 8, 50 Cent, Chris Martin, Philip Green and The Daily Mail. The jacket copy describes the book as a "broadside against consumer capitalism," and this is a recurring theme throughout. The book displays a broadly left-wing view of life.

Is It Just Me Or Is Everything Shit?: The Encyclopedia of Modern Life Details

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From Reader Review Is It Just Me Or Is Everything Shit?: The Encyclopedia of Modern Life for online ebook

Barbara Ab says

Witty, funny, sometimes boring if you don't know what he is mumbling about.

This is cheap but I couldn't help laughing ...

Hare Krishnas

Hare, hare Krishna

hare, hare

hare bollocks

bollocks

bollocks Krishna

Hare bollocks

bollocks hare

(REPEAT)

Myagmarsuren Tsoggerel says

Just good title

Mrs JR Denyer says

Shit!!

Sarah Sammis says

Apparently there's a new American edition of Is It Just Me or is Everything Shit? by Steve Lowe. Brendan Hay of The Daily Show collaborated on the Americanization of this encyclopedia of all things shit. Although I'm an American and an active book blogger, I apparently missed the memo on this new edition.

By strange book karma I got a copy of the original British edition through BookCrossing and that's the edition I read. So when reading my review please keep in mind I am reviewing an older and different book. For your convenience, I am providing links to reviews of the 2009 American edition.

Is it Just Me or is Everything Shit is an encyclopedia of whining on the worst pieces of modern culture: it's excesses, it's celebrities, government, politicians, food and so forth. As it is a critique of British (for the most part) pop culture as it was in 2005 the biting humor by 2010 has lost a few teeth.

My two biggest problems with the book stem from just how dated much of it felt and the constant whining from the author. Yes I got the jokes and the references and the slang but after about letter F or G, I stopped

caring.

I don't think the Daily Show revisions will make the book any better. If you've read both versions, let me know in the comments how they compare.

Owen Daniel says

This is without a doubt a superb piece of shit. Laugh out loud, hell yes. Hilarious, possibly. But as it states on the inlay cover, 'no book has ever been more full of shit'. Amen to that...

Graham says

Is It Just Me Or Is Everything (including this book) Shit? Answer: Yes.

Heather says

I picked away at this book for months.

Basically it's a collection of short rants about various pop culture and political topics, most of which are UK-centric. Some were hilarious, some were stupid, and some I really didn't get. Some of the references are rather dated since the book was written when the US & UK were deep in the throes of the Bush 43/Tony Blair bromance.

Venla Kivilahti says

Kirja ivaa erilaisia brittipopulaarikulttuurin trendi-ilmiöitä, jotka olivat pinnalla vuonna 2006. Asuin tuolloin itsekin Lontoossa, joten muistan aikakauden hyvin. Toimittajan suomiskenelisäyksistä huolimatta kirja on silti erittäin brittikeskeinen.

Lukeminen oli osittain retrotrippi, mutta enimmäkseen se kuitenkin muistuttaa miten kulttuuri-ilmiöt ja meemit ilmestyvät ja katoavat kiihtyvällä vauhdilla. Ketä kiinnostavat kymmenen vuoden takaiset tyrkkyjulkikset? Ilmestyessään teos on ollut eittämättä kuumaa kamaa, mutta nyt jäljellä on enää reliikki, joka saa hetken hymyilemään ja sitten unohtuu.

Lisa says

My boyfriend pretty much forced me to read this. It's one of the few books he owns and when he was looking for something underneath the bed the other day, he was all "This is the best book ever".

It's not actually but it had some funny bits, like his rant on IKEA or the words "smart casual".

I really need to get it back out from underneath the bed and add a few quotes to this review.

Anyway, the author is also a bit moronic at times and says things that are kind of dumb. And there are other times where his rant will go on for pages on an uninteresting subject.

It is what it is. It's a humour book and I'm sure there are wayyyy better out there. It was brilliant at moments but other parts were boring and tedious.

Good idea, flawed execution.

Patrick Gibson says

“You know, that sorta-sticky, sorta-not stuff that holds a free CD or DVD into a magazine ad. What is that? Where do they get it from? Is it bat sperm? Is it hellspawn? Is it mined by infants? We know it has the consistency of nose goblins, but what is it?”

I bought this book as a Christmas present to someone I know would at least love the title. Obviously, I still have it because I’m just finishing it on the last day of December. I read it before I was supposed to have it in the mail for delivery before Christmas, decided on another gift instead, and re-read it these past couple days just to see if I was right in pretty much dismissing this as a piece of crap.

“is it just me or is [THIS BOOK] ca-ca? It is not you. The book is excrement. With a couple chuckles here and there.

I am all in favor of rants. There is very little in the 21st century that is rant-proof. But McArthur & Lowe (sounds like they should be writing Broadway musicals) haven’t picked worthy targets (handball? Dubai? Romantic comedies? Well, okay, I’ll give them that one). It’s hit and miss because there are a few that make you go ‘ah-hah’ like “various things to do before you die” lists and “Funky,” the word, as applied to anything except the musical genre.’

The writing is terse and to the point. Punctuation is used occasionally. Wit is used less than punctuation. While the riff on the opening of a new Ikea store in Orlando is comical and obviously points out our greedy over-commercialized nature, ‘Soundtrack Albums from Shit Films with Shit Soundtracks’ does not explain why I curl up with wine in front of the fireplace with my loved one on a winter’s night listening to the soundtrack from Hitchcock’s “The Birds.”*

*please tell me you get the joke.

-- there was no music in that movie.

-- the soundtrack would consist of an occasional rabid bird caw.

-- maybe I should have said “.... curled up listening to the soundtrack of “Doom, The Movie” (as opposed to “Doom, The Game”—oh, you knew that already. Sorry.)

Ika says

got this book at a bookstore in the airport while i was waiting for take off a few months ago. just one word: absolutely hilarious!!! (that was two words ya? hahaha). the jokes were somewhat very british, but still knocked my socks off. there was one really funny remark about the british band keane (i love them, by the way), about how the lead vocalist (tom chaplin) face looks like a melted butter hahaha. anyway, some of the humor was kinda rude, but i'd recommend you buy this just for a good laugh.

Laura says

Remember that last book I said had the best title ever? Well, I was wrong, because this book actually has the best title ever.

UPDATE: Just threw this book across the room. Here's why: in an entry purporting to demonstrate why people who use audio books are philistines, the authors refer to Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* (sic).

Now, here's a rule I consider elementary: if you're going to write a book that's essentially a long, sneering diatribe that purports to demonstrate your intellectual superiority over everything and everyone, you'd better not also demonstrate to your readers that you don't know what you're talking about. There's nothing wrong with a good sneering diatribe that purports to show why everyone but you (and perhaps your reader) is stupid and benighted -- it has a long and distinguished history in American letters. But if you're going to write one, you'd better be smart and you'd better be knowledgeable. That means that you don't get to make mistakes like writing *Finnegan's Wake*, especially when you're looking down your nose at people who use audio books. Once you do that (and they did it three times in one paragraph, so I know it's not a typo), you've told the reader that, in fact, not only are you *not* intellectually superior to people who use audio books, but you're also an arrogant, witless, self-satisfied fuck who shouldn't be allowed to try and read a book, much less write one.

So you know, shut the fucking fuck up, don't expect me to read your book, and actually, don't be writing it in the first place.

Scott Doty says

I was optimistic about this book, since it produced a few laughs while skimming through it at the bookstore. Once I sat down to read it, however, it became horribly mundane and monotonous. It tries to be what made me love George Carlin; snarky, witty and unforgiving. Instead I found it pathetic and almost tragic. It's fine for a few laughs, but don't be surprised if you give up twenty pages in.

Tony says

Took me longer than it should have done. This is more of a dip-in book but some chapters really did make me laugh out loud!

Some parts do ramble on however, and there is more than a hint of bitterness here.

Romysh says

At times funny, at times boring, at times I didn't agree but mostly I had no fucking clue what they are talking about. Maybe I am just too young to know half of the names in this book (the other half would be Tony Blair who is mentioned like 20 times). I started skipping the parts where I saw something I did not recognize. That way it would make it into 'alright' book to be honest. But I still expected more (given that great title which was the reason I bought this). Yes, there were funny bits and that's why I give a 2-star review, but reading it makes me want to publish my own edition and show them how it's done. Maybe one day I will.
