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Don't Get Me Started



Synopsis

Let's get one thing straight. I'm not. And yes, my brother is Bill Clinton. But not the Bill Clinton. These two guys are very different. For one, whenever I hear President Bill speak--on gays in the military, healthcare reform--I hear that sound trucks make when they're backing up. I was born on the cusp of Title IX, at a time when the sports pages claimed only men played sports. When people ask where I got my comedy training, I tell them teaching high school English. I began performing stand-up in 1981, the same year Ronald Reagan began his comedy. I never got used to saying President Ronald Reagan. It was like saying President Merv Griffin. Reagan wasn't so much a president as the host. He was having such a good time playing president and going on vacation that he decided to run again. I'm out and proud. When I'm out and it's raining I carry an umbrella. I used to be in but I hate the smell of moth balls. My closet was huge, complete with a foyer, turnstile, a few locks, dead bolts, and a burglar alarm that had to be deactivated before I could even touch the door handle. And then there was the storm door. It wasn't until I had lived and slept with a woman for a year that it occurred to me to ask, "Do you think we're lesbians?" By the way, never come out to your father in a moving vehicle. Now I've written a book. It's not as easy as it looks. One night, I was working late on my computer when a little message came up on the screen, "You are almost out of memory." Here are my thoughts and observations on everything from gay marriage (Mad Cow Disease) to my morbid fear of mascots (with the exception of the San Diego Chicken). That's all I'm going to say because I don't want to spoil it for you. That's a job for Jesse Helms. I'll leave you with one last anecdote: Once when my Dad was visiting, he sat through an evening of gay politics, gay theory, gay gossip, and toward the end of the discussion, my partner turned to him and asked, "Well, Mr. Clinton, what do you think we as gay people can do to make more bridges to straight people?" My Dad did one of his patented, exquisitely timed pauses and replied, "Keep talking."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The product of an upstate New York Catholic girlhood, Clinton spent eight years teaching English before she took a leave, developed her feminist and lesbian consciousness and began writing. That writing turned into stand-up comedy. Since 1981, Clinton has been performing at festivals, universities and other sites outside the comedy club circuit. This book collects her routines and anecdotes, many of which work as prose, though they clearly would be elevated by performance. In contrast to the mainstream themes of many other comedian's books, Clinton's pointed politics and lesbian frame of reference are showcased here. She chronicles the emergence of gays: "We aren't so much a movement anymore as a niche market waiting to be scratched." Lamenting the programmed world of Disney, she dishes, "Old Walt must have been some kind of control queen." The Gulf War campaign she calls "Operation Just 'Cause George Bush Felt Like It." Clinton's comedy aims for more than the laughs, however. She recalls giving a great show in one small church basement in the South, with an audience "in desperate need of some news about their lives." And even though Clinton claims to feel "shame and guilt" about doing talk shows, she recalls how one young lesbian said that seeing her on the Maury Povich Show was a consciousness-raising moment and a relief from depression. Author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Girls with mascara--watch out! Kate will have it running down your cheeks in no time flat. Thank heaven Kate did get started. She makes the world a funnier place."--ROSIE O'DONNELL "Kate Clinton is a hero to women, to feminists, to lesbians, and to anyone who loves a good laugh. Don't Get Me Started is laugh-out-loud funny. Do yourself a favor. Buy this book--and get ready to laugh."--Bay Area Reporter "SASSY . . . WICKED . . . HILARIOUS . . . BOTH HUGELY ENTERTAINING AND PROUDLY LIBERATING."--Q San Francisco "Kate Clinton manages the neat trick of being deliciously sane. Her book is a joy, filled with tasty, politically dangerous thoughts; Kate is the person you want to sit next to in the back row."--PAUL RUDNICK From the Trade Paperback edition.

Kate Clinton is brilliant, witty, and intelligent. Much of her comedy is actually target shooting at

people named Bush, but there are a number of "fÆ n" references that you might not get if you're unfamiliar with the lesbian community.

If you like lesbian and gay humor you are in for a treat. Kate will keep you laughing from the first word until the last word of this book. Laughter is the best medicine.

Fans of Kate Clinton will get a kick out this book. It is funny and insightful, just like her stand up.

This book is a sharp, witty, all too true, account of what the world looks like today. Kate goes right to the root of the problem, no matter who it is and holds them up to all of us for inspection. She has an excellent, quick wit that goes right to your funny bone but I found myself identifying with her frustrations with politicians and I experienced déjà vue when she recounted parts of her catholic upbringing. I always want her on my side. We should all be so eloquent in exposing the real issues. Of course, lots of the book gives us a glimpse of what makes Kate "kate" and that's even more fun. Miss "Hillarity Clinton" does it again! The book will make you laugh till your sides hurt, but, then you will start to THINK , too.

Kate Clinton's debut book is nothing less than hysterical. She has such an easy style of writing and a wide appeal (well, if you are lesbian)! I saw her read from the book in Seattle and her reading was just like her writing....natural, witty and smart! Be careful where you read this book...I read it in the lunchroom at work and everyone had to know what I was reading....I couldn't help but laugh out laugh every few minutes. Good thing I am out at work! You may enjoy this book if you are straight...but you may not "get" all of it! This is one of the best books I have read this year. I highly recommend it!

On June Allyson's Depends undergarments commercial: "She might as well say, 'Hi. I'm June Allyson, and I'm peeing right now.'"And so was I when I read that line.And just to answer the question posed by our Maine reader, "Why was the 'L' word not mentioned" (when Clinton was on the Rosie O'Donnell show): It's rumored that Rosie storms into the green room before the show starts and bellows, "NOTHIN' ABOUT DYKES!"Maggie B.

I found myself laughing throughout this wonderfully funny book, however it would have been considerably funnier preformed. Clinton is among my favorite Comediennes, and proves again to

have an intelligent wit. The book drags in places, however, when tone and motion are simply necessary additions. So I recommend having someone read this to you while adding tone to their voice and motion to their bodies! Or simply watch her live or listen to one of her CDs.

Besides being very cute, Ms. Fumerist can hold anyone's attention, with a great writing style, she's funny, punny, and along with intelligence, intuition, and wit, she's able to evaluate the political scene with uncanny accuracy. It is our good fortune that she at last has put on paper what she has so capably done on stage. It is a great loss to our children, however, that the schools have lost a great mind, and a thought provoker. Move over Molly Ivins!!!!

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