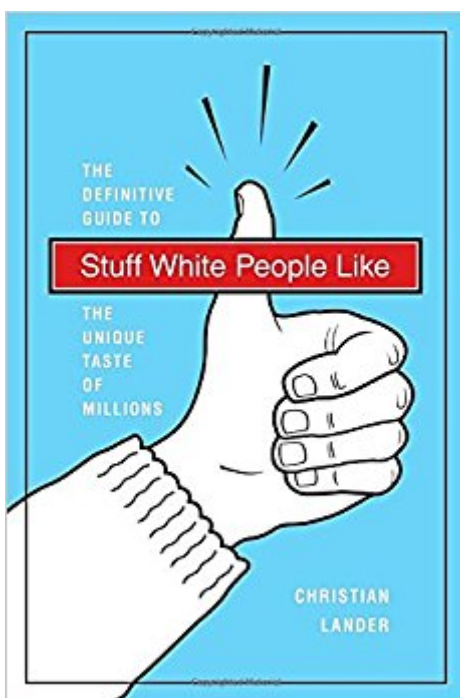


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# Stuff White People Like: A Definitive Guide To The Unique Taste Of Millions



## Synopsis

They love nothing better than sipping free-trade gourmet coffee, leafing through the Sunday New York Times, and listening to David Sedaris on NPR (ideally all at the same time). Apple products, indie music, food co-ops, and vintage T-shirts make them weak in the knees. They believe they're unique, yet somehow they're all exactly the same, talking about how they "get" Sarah Silverman's "subversive" comedy and Wes Anderson's "droll" films. They're also down with diversity and up on all the best microbrews, breakfast spots, foreign cinema, and authentic sushi. They're organic, ironic, and do not own TVs. You know who they are: They're white people. And they're here, and you're gonna have to deal. Fortunately, here's a book that investigates, explains, and offers advice for finding social success with the Caucasian persuasion. So kick back on your IKEA couch and lose yourself in the ultimate guide to the unbearable whiteness of being. **Praise for STUFF WHITE PEOPLE LIKE:** "The best of a hilarious Web site: an uncannily accurate catalog of dead-on predilections. The Criterion Collection of classic films? Haircuts with bangs? Expensive fruit juice? *Blonde on Blonde* on the iPod? The author knows who reads The New Yorker and who wears plaid." —Janet Maslin's summer picks, CBS.com "The author of "Stuff White People Like" skewers the sacred cows of lefty Caucasian culture, from the Prius to David Sedaris. . . . It gently mocks the habits and pretensions of urbane, educated, left-leaning whites, skewering their passion for Barack Obama and public transportation (as long as it's not a bus), their idle threats to move to Canada, and joy in playing children's games as adults. Kickball, anyone?" —Salon.com "A handy reference guide with which you can check just how white you are. Hint: If you like only documentaries and think your child is gifted, you glow in the dark, buddy." —NY Daily News

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christian Lander is the creator of the website Stuff White People Like. He is a Ph.D. dropout who was the 2006 public speaking instructor of the year at Indiana University. He has lived in Toronto, Montreal, Copenhagen, Tucson, Indiana, and now Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife, Jess, a photographer who contributed many of the photos in the book.

1. COFFEE There is no doubt that white people love coffee. Yes, it's true that Asians like iced coffee and people of all races enjoy a cup. But it is a certainty that the first person at your school to drink coffee was a white person. It was obvious that they didn't enjoy it, but they did it anyway, until they liked it like cigarettes. As white people begin to age, a genuine taste for coffee will emerge. During this time white people will also develop a self-proclaimed "addiction." This leads to them saying things like "You do not want to see me before I get my morning coffee." White guys will also call it anything but coffee: "rocket fuel," "java," "joe," "black gold," and so forth. It's pretty much garbage all around. It's worth noting that where white people buy coffee is almost as important as the drink itself. For the most part, white people love Starbucks, although they will profess to hate how the chain is now a multinational corporation. This hatred is often sublimated by their relief at seeing one in an airport. The best place for white people to drink coffee is at a locally owned coffeeshop that offers many types of drinks, free Wi-Fi, and some sort of message board that is peppered with notices about rooms for rent and bands looking for bass players. White people are given extra points for buying Fair Trade coffee, because paying the extra \$2 means they are making a difference while their peers are drinking liquid oppression.

2. RELIGIONS THEIR PARENTS DON'T BELONG TO White people will often say they are "spiritual" but not religious. This usually means that they will believe in any religion that doesn't involve Jesus. The most popular choices include Buddhism, Hinduism, Kabbalah, and, to a lesser extent, Scientology. A few even dip into Islam, but that's much rarer, since you have to make real sacrifices and actually go to a mosque. For the most part, white people prefer religions that produce artifacts and furniture that fit into their home or wardrobe. They

are also particularly drawn to religions that do not require a lot of commitment or donations. When a white person tells you “I’m a Buddhist/Hindu/Kabbalahist,” the best thing to do is ask how they arrived at their religious decision. The story will likely involve a trip to Thailand or a college class on religion.

### 3. FILM FESTIVALS

White people can get enough of film festivals, especially Sundance, Toronto, and Cannes. This love can be due to a number of factors.

Fact #1: 90 percent of white people have taken a film class at some point in their life.

Fact #2: White people like feeling smart without doing work • two hours in a theater is easier than ten hours with a book.

Fact #3: If white people aren’t going backpacking, they generally like to travel with a specific purpose.

Fact #4: 75 percent of white people believe they either have the potential to or will become filmmakers/screenwriters/directors at some point.

Fact #5: White people hate stuff that is “mainstream” • so they go to film festivals, where they see movies that every other person in their demographic wants to see. It’s a pretty sweet way to rebel.

Fact #6: It is required by white-person law that you publicly declare foreign cinema to be better than Hollywood movies, and on par with indie film.

Fact #7: White people earn credibility by being into films from strange countries: “Oh, you liked *Sideways*? Yeah, I didn’t see it, I’m really into Serbian film now. They had a great retrospective at the Vancouver Festival.”

This book should be titled *Stuff White Elitists Like* because I know plenty of white people from small town America and from the suburbs who do not fit into these categories. This is really a look at those west and east coast Caucasians who live very hipster lives. White elitists in this book go to good liberal schools, cannot pass a Starbucks, and have incredibly gifted children (or at least think so), love skiing and snowboarding and kayaking, talk about their study abroad and their year off to explore Europe backpacking. Oh, and they adore microbreweries and long for their house by the water and their fond memories of grad school and how wonderful New York City and Portland are. They wear New Balance shoes, expensive yoga pants and vintage t-shirts too. They cannot get enough of indie music and obscure foreign films and documentaries. They don’t own a TV but they do so love to binge on Netflix important shows like *Madmen*, *Six Feet Under* and *Arrested Development*. That is white elitist culture in a nutshell. Are there some truths, yeah for the hipster millennials you can find some of these pretensions, although there is nothing wrong with 80’s music (which the author claims, the white culture loves and brunch too). There is humor in these observations but also a heck of a lot of stereotyping too. The people he stereotypes though are city dwellers who live in uber chic lofts and are liberal thinkers and voters.

Still this is just a small snapshot of a very distinct subculture (one the author makes fun of with some funny writing) but still not in any way like the vast majority of Caucasians in this country.

This book is down right funny. It does get a bit repetitive and predictable at times, but, that doesn't stop it from being one of the funniest and most accurate books. The book is more geared specifically towards a type of white person, but everybody that's white can find an entry or two about themselves or a friend/family member and have a good laugh. When you read the poor reviews, it's pretty obvious why they don't find it funny - the book is talking about exactly those type of people. You'll see what I mean when you read the book and then read the negative reviews. This is not a sit and read at once type of book - it's much better and much more comical if you read an entry or two per day

Saw this book at a store, didn't buy it and came home to order it! I read other negative reviews that seemed to be from those that can't laugh at themselves. Ignore those, and enjoy the truth that exists in all aspects of society. It is really OK to be white, black, or any other color you might want to claim. There is much tongue in cheek humor. Sit back, enjoy it and take pride in which ever ethnic group you come from! Life is too short to be upset at whatever ethnic group God chose for you. Take pride in your humanness and forget the color of your skin or where you came from (and had not a bit of control!)

Gave this book as a white elephant gift at a work party. Gave a lot of good laughs to everyone. Had a chance to skim through and it appeared to have some pretty humorous yet accurate claims.

I loved this book. It is a very tongue-in-cheek and insightful study of young college graduates in the USA. My only quibble: The term "White People" is misleading, because this book is about only a sector of whites (college-educated liberals under the age of about 35), not all of them. But the book does a terrific job at describing that sector.

This book was incredibly helpful. Before reading it, I was never really sure if I was doing my duty as a white American by acting like it. Thanks to this book, I now have a helpful checklist to avoid becoming, as Christian Lander puts it, "the wrong type of white person." If you want to learn more about white people, or if you're curious if you qualify as a white person, pick this one up.

Every page of this book is hilarious. The author is a gifted writer and every page is laugh out loud funny. I've given this book as a gift several times and every recipient keeps telling me how much they love it. The author is a gifted writer - every page is laugh out loud funny. I recommend this for people of all ages. I've given this book as a gift to people of various ages (twens to senior citizens) and they keep telling me how much they love it. You'll keep rereading it - it's that good. Buy the sequel, too, because it's just as good as this book.

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