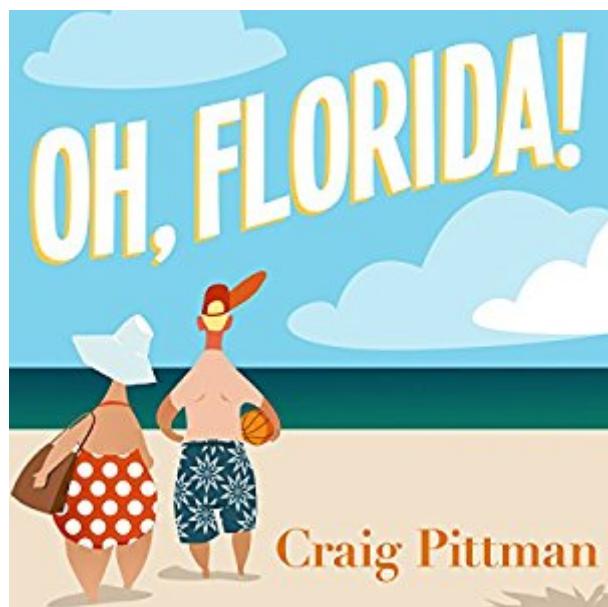


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Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences The Rest Of The Country



Synopsis

Oh, Florida! To some people it's a paradise. To others it's a punch line. As *Oh, Florida!* shows, it's both of these, and, more important, it's a Petri dish, producing trends that end up influencing the rest of the country. Without Florida there would be no NASCAR, no Bettie Page pinups, no Glenn Beck radio rants, no USA Today, no "Stand Your Ground" - you get the idea. To outsiders Florida seems baffling. It's a state where the voters went for Barack Obama twice yet elected a Tea Party candidate as governor. Florida is touted as a carefree paradise, yet it's also known for its perils - alligators, sinkholes, pythons, hurricanes, and sharks, to name a few. It attracts 90 million visitors a year, some drawn by its impressive natural beauty, others bewitched by its man-made fantasies. *Oh, Florida!* explores those contradictions and shows how they fit together to make this the most interesting state. It is the first book to explore the reasons why Florida is so wild and weird - and why that's okay. Florida couldn't be Florida without that sense of the unpredictable, unexpected, and unusual lurking behind every palm tree. But there is far more to Florida than its sideshow freakiness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a native Floridian and bought this book as soon as it was published. It is a wonderfully written, hilarious, truthful narrative of Florida and its people. I was laughing out loud over and over and read the entire book this weekend. Craig Pittman captures the irony, diversity, and bizarre stories of America's bellweather state. Great reading for anyone !

When I reached the last page, I wanted more. This is not a book full of goofy Florida stories, although there are plenty of those. It tells these stories from the Bad Old Days and links them with others of more recent times drawing themes and lessons from them. It is shocking to see how Senator Cruz or Governor Bush, two names n the news now, continue long traditions of folly that began in the Civil War era. Many of Florida's problems come from a frontier mentality and the fact most Floridians are from someplace else. The population lacks an 'institutional memory' so to speak. Folks who are not really from Florida see little reason to demand and pay for government services like health care, decent prisons or schools. Still there is wisdom in Florida too. Lots of smart cookies are from the Sunshine State, and good ideas like Sunshine Laws come from there. So it lets us see how Florida reflects the best and the worst of the US. Educational and amusing.

I've lived in Florida for almost 40 years and I've always known we were weird and yet wonderful at the same time. Reading Oh Florida reminded me of how much I love my home state. Craig is an excellent writer and storyteller and I found that I couldn't put the book down. If you live in Florida, are thinking of moving to Florida, or simply plan to visit us sometime soon, I highly recommend you read this book. It's part history, part tabloid, part travelogue, part memoir, part sociological study, and part comedy. You'll laugh out loud, you'll be shocked, you'll do several Google searches to check facts (they're all true by the way!) and ultimately, if you've never been here, you'll want to hop on the next plane to MCO and spend some time in our great state.

Florida is indeed a weird state, filled with idiosyncratic places and personalities. Oh, Florida presents the often confounding, perplexing, and sometimes shocking details of the adventure and misadventures of Florida Man and Florida Woman in a vivid and entertaining manner. Pittman helped me understand that the explosive population growth constitutes the basis for many of our problems. As a Maryland resident for much of my adult life, I now can see the differences between Maryland's "Smart Growth" approach and Florida's "Leave No Developer Behind" mantra. The Sunshine State has had "dumb growth" for decades and its consequences are beginning to become obvious to even the most insensate conservatives.

I am a second generation Floridian with degrees from two of our state universities. I finished the book while on vacation in Islamorada. I still travel the state and am continually amazed at how diverse we are in background and experiences. Pittman touches on a wide variety of Florida fun and not so fun facts. A great historical reference book chock full of tidbits about Florida. I lived next door

to one of the featured characters (he taught me how to sail) and roomed with the grandson of another character in the book while in college. The book is a must read for natives and wannabe natives to appreciate our special state.

When I was a park ranger at Everglades National Park I thought i had read every book about florida ever written. The topic of Florida as reading material had grown stale and I promised myself to never read another book about Florida again. For about four years I had no interest to read any book about Florida until I learned Craig Pittman wrote this book. While I never bought into Florida being any weirder than anywhere else, I do enjoy Mr. Pittman's writing and for that I read this book. He is an excellent story teller who points out the oddities that take place his beloved state (he clearly loves his subject). The book is able to discuss different irregularities unique to Florida, worts and all, without disparaging it or coming off as preachy. The author does a good job of telling the stories from the point of view of the moral everyman. This book is great for what it taught me about my adoptive state however, is more than a book Florida being weird. Mr Pittman is a story teller and his stories can entertain no matter where you are from.

Pittman is a fantastic writer. He draws in his reader and hold him hostage with anecdotal material that will make you shake your head in wonderment. A laugh-out-loud delight. The praise is from one who is a commercially published author, extremely fussy in what I choose to read. I wanna know this guy.

I haven't finished this yet, but I LOVE IT! I opened somewhat randomly and started scanning, and had a very hard time putting it down! I expect to read everything this guys has ever written and anything he writes in the future. Great sense of humor and he definitely knows the dirt on Florida.

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