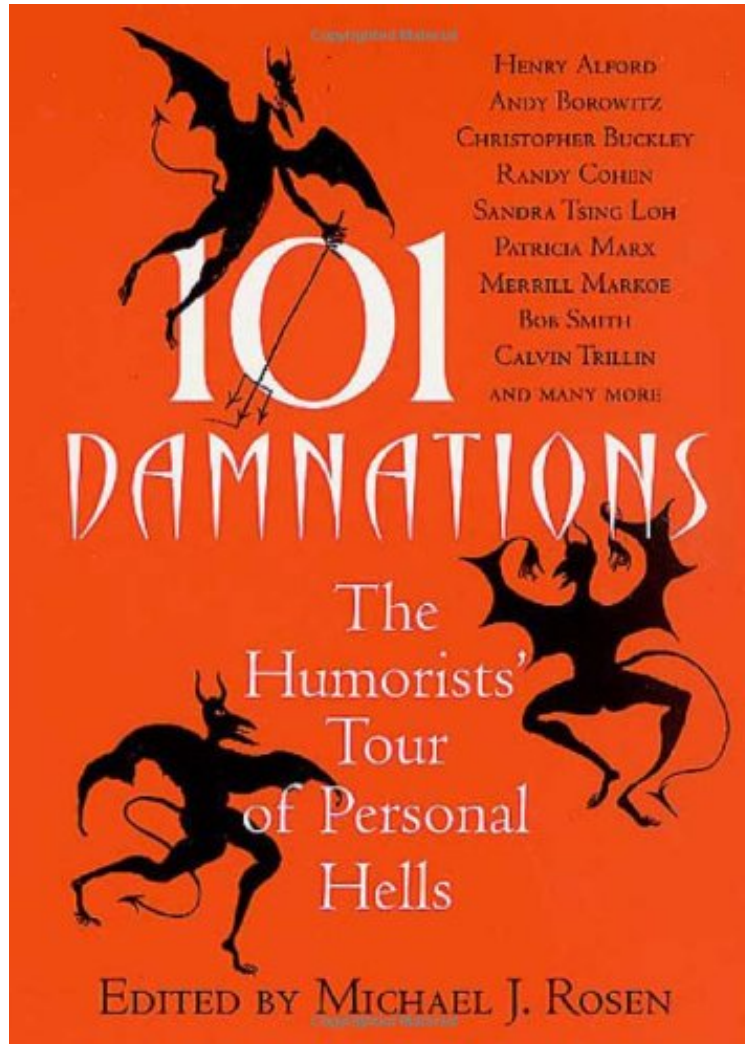


(Free) 101 Damnations: The Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells

101 Damnations: The Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells

From Thomas Dunne Books

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From Thomas Dunne Books : 101 Damnations: The Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 101 Damnations: The Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Tailgaters, Telemarketers, Limp Handshakes, More!By Roy E. PerryAlexander Pope once wrote, "Wit is that which has oft been thought, but never so well expressed." The present volume, 101 DAMNATIONS, well illustrates Pope's observation.The "damnations" in this quirky compendikum refer to pet peeves, people, and things that irritate and annoy. Although we could make our own list of such vexations, chances are we would not have the wit to express them so humorously.For example, Louise Rafkin writes: "Women's handshakes . . . Some are limp as old celery, others flaccid as dead fish." And Merrill Markoe says about cell-phone

etiquette: "These people seem to think they cannot really go anywhere unaccompanied by a phone. And along with this obsessive-compulsive need for continuous phoning, any respect for the privacy of others has melted away like the snows of yesteryear." Tailgaters. Telemarketers. Operating manuals written in arcane, esoteric language. People who play rap music at jet-plane decibel levels. "Reality TV" programs. The list goes on and on. Here are excerpts from three of the best: David Ives: "last year a record 16,238 people had near-death experiences in this country--some 200 of them without financial gain and some 50 without appearing on afternoon talk shows. . . . Many people know Kubler-Ross's five steps to death: anger, denial, blame, grief, and acceptance. Thanatologists now recognize the five steps of near-death: surprise, delight, shock, mild boredom, and a book contract." David Martin: "For years, I assumed that the frustration visited on me by bureaucrats was just the inevitable result of dealing with large, inefficient organizations. But now I suspect that there's a secret school somewhere that rains these cruel creatures. A school with a catalog like this: Welcome to the Bureaucrats' Institute, and congratulations on choosing a career as an obfuscation and complication specialist. Start out learning the basics, from paper shuffling to the telephone runaround. Then move on to the specialty skills you'll need to add red tape to any organization." Michael Gerber and Jonathan Schwarz, from *Thirty Things I HATE about Hell*: "1. It's really cliquey. 2. You get this weird vibe from Satan if you joke about him being in that *SOUTH PARK* movie. 3. The biting black flies out by the Lake of Everlasting Fire. 5. No ESPN. C'mon! That's part of basic cable! 6. The snotty e-mails you get from your friends in heaven. . . . 25. Hitler. You're not funny, so stop trying." There are at least a dozen selections that will have you laughing out loud. As you read this book, keep in mind the wisdom of George Bernard Shaw: "When anything is funny, search it for a hidden truth." And, as the writer of the *Book of Proverbs* puts it, "A cheerful heart is like a good medicine." Tickle your funny bone, wipe that frown off your face, and indulge yourself with laughter with *101 DAMNATIONS*. Michael J. Fosen is the author, illustrator, or editor of some fifty books for both adults and children, including the biennial humor series, *MIRTH OF A NATION*. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. If you hate it, it's in here. By A Customer. With an all-star lineup of funny folk, you'd expect something hilarious, and that's often what you get with *101 Damnations*. Grouped into 9 circles of hell, everyone from Calvin Trillin to writers for the *Letterman Show* take off on golf, Tuscany, customer service, going bald -- you hate it, they cover it. The essays are all very short - some hardly worthy of "essay" status - and most are thought provoking, and will definitely get a rise out of you. Some of the pieces, however, are truly hilarious, such as Kevin Shay's take on people who mime being on the phone by using their thumb and pinky, Camuso and Seely's movie trailers, and Andrew Marlatt's "My Left Hair," which describes the true feelings of the haired vs. the un-haired. Overall, you will absolutely not be disappointed with this book, and at times you will laugh out loud. Ideal for any bathroom reading library. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. YOUR gripes and grouches...but elevated by humor. By A Customer. In the hands of humorists, all those things that really get under your skin suddenly take on a new life--an amusing one, that doesn't sound like whining! I found most of my personal pet peeves: the cashier that puts the receipt in your palm, then the bills, and then the change, so that there's no way you can put any of that in your pocket or purse before the groceries or the change spills. The dreary terror of little league baseball. Children's choirs. Leaf blowers. You name it, it's here. ... Is this an important book? Well, it's important to laugh at these little things so the really big things you can't do anything about don't get the best of you! It's 101 examples of smart thinking about our dumbest things.

Dear flappable reader: Do you bristle at a handshake that resembles a limp fish? Do oblivious pedestrians bring you to the brink? What about museum gift shops, superfluous courtesy (do we need a gas pump to show us gratitude?), behemoth SUVs, or inexplicable operating manuals? Have you had it with screeching leaf blowers, beseeching telemarketers, escalating movie-ticket prices, or proliferating celebrity magazines? Is it children's choirs or karaoke singers, waiters bearing pepper grinders or dinner guests blathering on about salt, that drives you to distraction? For anyone who has recognized that this peaceful kingdom of ours has more than a few potholes, *101 Damnations* is the perfect companion. It's your ticket to the nine circles of personal hell. Armed with wit, bewilderment, and words to the wise ass, today's leading humorists conduct a brief tour of the trivial and often universal exasperations we all must endure. Among the damning, Henry Alford reveals our wanton desire to affect Britishisms. Sandra Tsing Loh has it in for people who forward "funny" e-mails. Once and for all, Merrill Markoe sets forth cell phone etiquette. And there are many, many others. Ninety-eight to be exact. Make yourself comfortable. Misery loves company.

From Publishers Weekly. Mass e-mails. Telemarketers. People who call the Hamptons "the country." Muggers, allergies, teenagers and things that stick to the soles of your shoes. In *101 Damnations: The Humorists' Tour of Personal Hells*, edited by Michael J. Rosen (*Mirth of a Nation*), writers and humorists take quick, hilarious swipes at the things that drive them crazy. From Kurt Andersen's one-paragraph consideration of "the weird remarks between silence and praise," to Andy Borowitz's dismissal of the phrase "and all that good stuff," to Onion writer Tim Harrod's list of things he simply hates ("Reality TV, Tailgaters, Hangnails... Cartoons that Look Distinctive but not Expressive... Cheap Wristwatches"), this collection is sure to please curmudgeons, cynics, Luddites and average fed-up Americans everywhere. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. We've all got pet

peeves that drive us crazy, and this volume covers them all: cell phones in public places, porn e-mails, joke e-mails, SUVs, David Blaine, and one of my personal favorites, Amish friendship bread. Editor Rosen, the literary director of Thurber House and author of *Mirth of a Nation*, has compiled an entertaining collection of essays by various humorists that covers the things they (and often the readers) love to hate. Contributors include Calvin Trillin, Merrill Markoe, and Jon Scieszka, among others. On Amish friendship bread, Celia Rivenbark observes: "Amish friendship bread is a woman thing. Sure, we pretend to be friends, but when it comes right down to it, women only make new women friends so that, one day, they'll be able to pawn off a bag of friendship bread 'starter' on them. The starter looks like baby spit-up and is usually accompanied by a recipe only slightly shorter than the Constitution." Been there, done that! Recommended for most humor collections. Kathy Ingels Helmond, Indianapolis-Marion Cty. P.L. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "It's a great mood booster to know that we're not alone." - *Dayton Daily News*"We could make our own list of...vexations...chances are we would not have the wit to express them so humorously." - *Nashville Tennessean*"Rosen gives neglected humor writers pages for fresh rants." - *Playboy*"Laugh-out-loud gems." - *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*