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## Who's in Charge Here?

*Gerald Gardner*

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**Gerald Gardner : Who's in Charge Here?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who's in Charge Here?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The original LOL-meister! By The Grey Piper Gerald -- who? Gerald Gardner, that's who. Decades before Ceiling Cat created teh Intertoobz (and did not eat it), Gerald Gardner was publishing books of what we, in our sophisticated, technological, modern era, know as "LOL"s. If he did not actually invent the original idea of attaching a witty caption to a photograph or painting, he certainly popularized it. With a series commencing with "Who's In Charge Here?", a LOLing look at the politics of the Kennedy era, he LOL'd through Kennedys, Johnsons, Nixons, and Reagans. The main difficulty for the modern reader is that this, as the other books, are so very topical. Many once-obvious references are now obscure, and identification of then-famous personalities is now a question of internet research rather than tonight's Huntley and Brinkley report. (Gotcha, huh?!?) This is the groundbreaking original. As with all the books of this series, a little historical understanding is necessary to fully appreciate much of the humor. A lot of the faces are not familiar any more. Even when the names are familiar, some of the contemporary pop-culture references connected to them might not be. Example: President Harry Truman. Most reasonably intelligent Americans should know who he was, and when. Most people today might not know, though, that he was known for playing the piano. It was just one of those things, like Obama and basketball, or Reagan and jelly beans. Or President Eisenhower. Like Obama, he was known for, and sometimes criticized for, his golf outings. Even in the case of some famous people who are still with us -- who will readily recognize a 30 year old Queen Elizabeth II? Example: President Eisenhower, evidently at a presidential press conference, rows of serious men

taking notes. Eisenhower says: "The \*greatest\* trouble spot? Well, on the ninth hole..." Or Kennedy and Eisenhower together, standing in front of some sort of shack or cabin, not much bigger than a garden shed. Eisenhower: "I'm not complaining, but after living in the White House..." Or Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, standing side by side in an open car. Phillip's hand is wrapped in bandages, and he is holding it tucked inside his jacket. Her Majesty: "And from now on, \*I'll\* pin the medals on the girls."OK. Like a lot of things in life, a little effort is required here. That's not the book's fault. Or Mr Gardner's. For the history buff, it may well be worth it.I do recommend this book, and all the series -- just not for everyone.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The original LOL-meister!By The Grey PiperGerald -- who? Gerald Gardner, that's who. Decades before Ceiling Cat created teh Intertoobz (and did not eat it), Gerald Gardner was publishing books of what we, in our sophisticated, technological, modern era, know as "LOL"s. If he did not actually invent the original idea of attaching a witty caption to a photograph or painting, he certainly popularized it. With a series commencing with "Who's In Charge Here?", a LOLing look at the politics of the Kennedy era, he LOL'd through Kennedys, Johnsons, Nixons, and Reagans.The main difficulty for the modern reader is that this, as the other books, are so very topical. Many once-obvious references are now obscure, and identification of then-famous personalities is now a question of internet research rather than tonight's Huntley and Brinkley report. (Gotcha, huh?!?)This particular book basically covers the election season of 1980, the end of the Carter years and the beginning of the Reagan era. All the players are there: Jimmy Carter of course, and his colorful family -- First Brother Billy most famously; Ted Kennedy; Jerry Brown; Walter Mondale; Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin. More so than with the others of this series, knowing who the people are is important to understanding the humor. Fortunately, that this is of a more recent era means that most faces are identifiable, and the sometimes sharp point of the gag is not dulled. Example: Remember Yassir Arafat? Notorious Palestinian leader? Picture him in full speech-making mode, impassioned face, gesturing defiantly, saying: "And we want Park Place and Boardwalk!" Or Billy Carter, saying to Jimmy, "He's gonna whip your a--." Rosalynn Carter, with a big grin on her face, addressing Pope John Paul II: "...and the Polish guy says..."OK. Like a lot of things in life, a little effort is required here. That's not the book's fault. Or Mr Gardner's. For the history buff, it may well be worth it.I do recommend this book, and all the series -- just not for everyone.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Weird tilt on the Kennedy daysBy mason scott osborneYou have to be old enough (or enough of a student of history) to recognize the characters, but given this, the book is a riot. It is the best of those books containing news pictures with funny speech balloons. Much better than its sequel, "I'm in charge here," mostly because the best ones had been taken. ("I'm in charge here" does have its moments, though.) I heard at the time that the book (or pages from it) were passed around at a Kennedy party, where it was liked by those appearing in some of the pictures. Consider it (in part) a rather nostalgic trip back to the Kennedy days. For the record, I was in high school when this book came out. For no understandable reason, I didn't keep my copy, and had to buy it again. It was as good as I remembered (often not the case with books read in high school!).

The buck never stops and neither do the laughs in the author's annual satire--in wacky photographs and captions--of the political process, just in time for the 1992 presidential election.