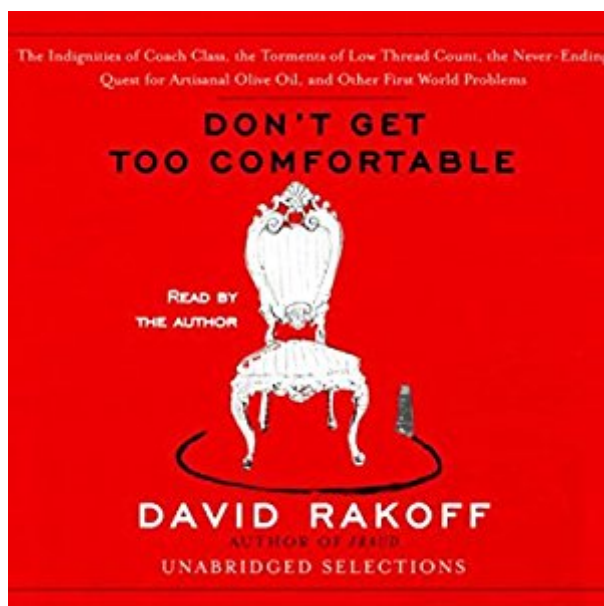


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Don't Get Too Comfortable (Unabridged Selections)



Synopsis

The Indignities of Coach Class, the Torments of Low Thread Count, the Never-Ending Quest for Artisanal Olive Oil, and Other First World Problems David Rakoff's collection of autobiographical essays, *Fraud*, established him as one of our funniest, most insightful writers. In *Don't Get Too Comfortable*, Rakoff journeys into the land of plenty that is contemporary North America. Rarely have greed, vanity, selfishness, and vapidness been so mercilessly and wittily portrayed. Whether contrasting the elegance of one of the last flights of the supersonic Concorde with the good times and chicken wings of Hooters Air, portraying the rarified universe of Paris fashion shows where an evening dress can cost as much as four years of college, or traveling to a private island off the coast of Belize to watch a soft-core Playboy TV shoot, where he is provided with his very own personal manservant, David Rakoff takes us on a biting and funny grand tour of our culture of excess, delving into the manic getting and spending that defines the North American way of life. Somewhere along the line, our healthy self-regard has exploded into obliterating narcissism, and Rakoff is there to map that frontier. He sits through the grotesqueries of "avant garde" vaudeville in Times Square immediately following 9/11. Twenty days without food allows him to experience firsthand the wonders of "detoxification" and the frozen world of cryonics, whose promise of eternal life is the ultimate status symbol, leaves him very cold indeed (much to our good fortune). At once a Wildean satire of our ridiculous culture of overconsumption and a plea for a little human decency, *Don't Get Too Comfortable* is a biting and funny grand tour of our special circle of gilded-age hell. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I always enjoyed Rakoff on NPR, but took my time getting to his writing. That was a mistake, as he is an essayist with a distinctive style and voice. I have bought three collections now, and am only disappointed there cannot be more. An interesting, thoughtful voice stilled too early, he stands with David Sedaris and Sarah Vowell. I would urge everyone to try at least one of his collections.

David Rakoff follows his bestselling FRAUD with this compilation of fifteen autobiographical essays. My favorite stories in this book are LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT, Rakoff's less than jingoistic, albeit apropos, account of his attainment of U.S. Citizenship; BEAT ME DADDY, a compelling reportage on the trials and tribulations of Gay Righters; and FASTER, a tale of self renewal by starvation. These essays are delivered with Rakoff's customary grandiloquence. The man is unrelenting in his bunker-busting esoterica. Get a load of this salvo on page 26: "...one of those Capraesque anecdotes full of lachrymose inanities..." The tales are much about and indeed imbued with Rakoff's own psycho-analytico-ruminations, and maybe that's OK, because his creatively Johnsonian prose is just so enthralling. The man can handle the Queen's English, and then some. Rakoff serves up a wickedly abstruse brand of satire to be relished only by those endowed with a more than adequate lexicon. It also helps to be well versed in current affairs and in the pop culture. Consider the following: Rakoff is attending a Fashion Show in Paris. He spies actor George Hamilton in the audience, and describes him as being "...tandooried to a fare-thee-well..." This mischievously metaphorical broadside of Hamilton's legendary tan sent me into a burst of laughter. But you wouldn't be in on the humor, unless you've seen George Hamilton, and feasted on Tandoori Chicken at your local Indian eatery. And so it goes. You either get it, or you don't. There are good stories in this book, but some not as moving as to be retold. Four stars because one has to appreciate such gift in writing as the one possessed by David Rakoff. I'm looking forward to the next installment.

That man could write, some very good turns of phrase and humor.

Brilliant. Perfect. A sublime wordsmith. I don't even feel worthy to comment.

This book really dates itself and while I love David Rakoff, I struggled to get through this book. It

became a toilet read: 5 minutes at a time over the course of several months to finish. There were maybe 3 chapters that I really liked and read all the way through; which gave me a pretty sore butt.

This is wonderful to have on the bedside table to read in between heavier fare. Hilarious enough to make me laugh out loud.

Another brilliant piece by the unforgettable David Rakoff.

These wonderful stories will draw you in, make you laugh, and often make you think. The author has a keen sense of observation along with clever commentary that is very entertaining. Along with being an excellent author, he has a wonderful speaking voice that brings you into the moment in the most soothing way possible.

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