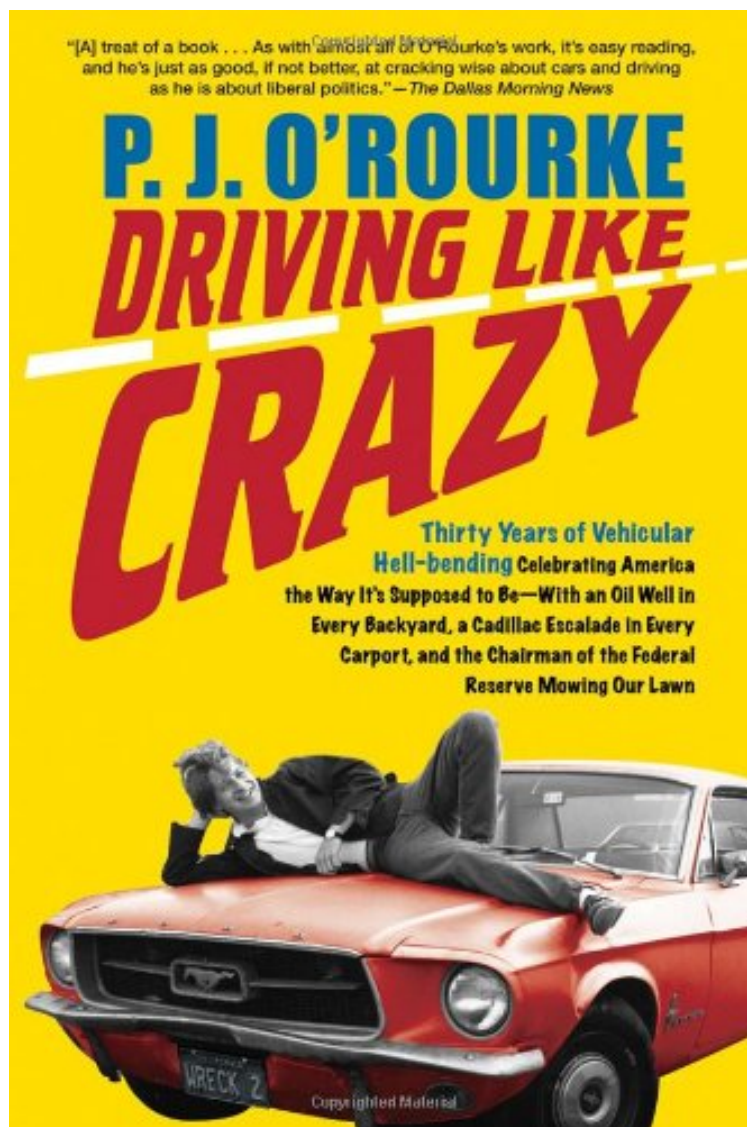


[Library ebook] Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending, Celebrating America the Way It's Supposed To Be -- With an Oil Well in Every Backyard, a ... of the Federal Reserve Mowing Our Lawn

Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending, Celebrating America the Way It's Supposed To Be -- With an Oil Well in Every Backyard, a ... of the Federal Reserve Mowing Our Lawn

P. J. O'Rourke

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P. J. O'Rourke : Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending, Celebrating America the Way It's Supposed To Be -- With an Oil Well in Every Backyard, a ... of the Federal Reserve Mowing Our Lawn

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending, Celebrating America the Way It's Supposed To Be -- With an Oil Well in Every Backyard*, a ... of the Federal Reserve *Mowing Our Lawn*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's not great, but it's very good
By R. L. Whitehead
It's not great, but it's very good. Of course, I'm such a fan of Mr. O'Rourke that I'd pay money to read his interpretation of how to make a cheese sandwich, so I find it nearly impossible to NOT enjoy his work. He's brilliant, honest, funny when he wants to be; and he's not just funny. In this case, he's insightful and unique in his relating of life experiences, the changes he's undergone, the people who've revolved around him, and the obvious love of just plain LIFE that he has inside. How he pulls off all the above while talking about cars and motorcycles, etc, is a true testament to his talent. I respect a writer who not only entertains, but who lays wide open their own faults, their own humanity, and that still-kicking wild side that (hopefully) we all have. P J O'Rourke is at the top of that pyramid of modern social commentators and humorists.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Re-writes detract from impact of original articles.
By Jeff NPJ
is one of the heroes of Gonzo style journalism. Having followed him from the zany days of National Lampoon and Rolling Stone editorship to his later days as a spokesman for Libertarian Americanism, and having read most of the original articles anthologized in this book, it was disappointing to find that he had done extensive re-writes of most of the articles. In this book he emphasizes his age, paunch and drinking, and his view of his former self as a misguided twit. These are thing better left to the reader to judge. Faithful readers all know his history and appreciate his contributions to literature and current event journalism, as well as his evolving political stance as he matured. There is no need to bowdlerize his wonderful automotive articles and detract from the original excitement that they portrayed.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great pieces on the iconic L
By Dr. Les
Priceless articles: he writes (as a young man) how he hates older drivers, then (now as an older man) how he hates young punks drivers (like he used to be). He is arguing with HIMSELF a generation later!!! Great pieces on the iconic L.A. Rent-a-Wreck dealer. Classic O'Rourke.

A collection spanning thirty years, chronicling famed humorist and gearhead P. J. O'Rourke's love affair with the automobile from mid-twentieth century to now#8212from heyday to sickbay.

From Publishers Weekly
Humorist O'Rourke shifts gears, covering and combining past pieces on cars (for *Automobile*, *Car and Driver*, *Esquire* and *Forbes*) with new material to set this auto anthology in motion. Much has been reworked æbecause the writing—how to put this gently to myself—sucked.
• Starting with car journalism language (æDrop the bottle and grab the throttle•), he steers the reader toward California cars: æMany automobiles were purchased to attract members of L.A.'s eight or ten opposite sexes.
• He writes about a variety of vehicles, from off-road racers to Philippine jeepneys (æa Willys cut in half and lengthened•). Accelerating the humor, he updates his 1979 account of a 700-mile weekend trip through Michigan and Indiana: æI can imagine what the farm girls and small town teen angels who looked so longingly at the Harley-Davidson FXE-80 Super Glide would have thought if I had been riding a Segway: 'dork.'
• His early essay æHow to Drive Fast on Drugs While Getting Your Wing-wang Squeezed and Not Spill Your Drink• is followed by wild road trips, NASCAR nights and selecting æa new grocery hauler, parent trap, Keds sled, family bus.
• Never in neutral, O'Rourke offers laughter on wheels. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
Political satirist O'Rourke grew up in Ohio in a family that owned a car dealership. That's where and when he first learned to love American cars and appreciate their deep connection to the culture. In this tantalizing book, O'Rourke veers back and forth between essays he wrote for several magazines, including *Car and Driver* and *Esquire*, from his youth and more recently. The result is an insightful look not just at the American love affair with cars, but also at one man's changing outlook on life, all of it fast-paced and over the top. Looking back from the safety and soundness of middle age, O'Rourke takes his younger self to task for excessive skid-marking and sexual escapades. But the older version of O'Rourke is as fun-loving as the younger, with an unabashed appreciation of the bone-rattling fun of speed. His essays recall adventures at the Baja 1000 and NASCAR, with rich detail of assorted characters and their cars and motorcycles. Notwithstanding long-time praise of European and Japanese design, he offers full-throated defense of American car design for American sensibilities and living conditions. Even readers who know nothing about cars and motorcycles will appreciate the joy and hilarity of this book. --Vanessa Bush "With the car industry under attack, both socially and economically, it is pleasing to read O'Rourke's trenchant analysis of all the good things the automobile has brought to American society, even as his tongue is firmly planted in cheek . . . A great book for summer reading; thumbing through it elicits a laugh at almost any point." —Library Journal
"Libertarian satirist P.J. O'Rourke has built a bestselling career by celebrating his own politically incorrect intemperance. So it's only fitting that he's devoted some of his best writing to that gaudy metaphor for excess, the gas-guzzling muscle car . . . The collapse of the auto industry makes the book poignantly timely." —SmartMoney
"Car buff or not, all dads can enjoy satirist P.J. O'Rourke's ode to the American automobile." —The Daily Beast
"[A] treat of a book . . . As with almost all of O'Rourke's work, it's easy reading, and he's just as

good, if not better, at cracking wise about cars and driving as he is about liberal politics.” —Dallas Morning News“Readers looking for insights and laughs will not be disappointed by *Driving Like Crazy* . . . [it] is a ride worth taking, even for readers who don’t know an oil pan from a frying pan.” —Washington Times“*Driving Like Crazy* isn’t just a bound collection of greatest hits. P.J. has written new lead-ins to each story that offer fresh meat even for those who think they’ve read it all before . . . This book is a must-read.” —Automobile Magazine“Reading O’Rourke can be like being dragged over a rocky field by a runaway ox on crystal meth—a wild and bumpy ride. His is a cartoonish vision of life, unapologetically if not joyously puerile, with enough hyperbolic volatility pumped into every paragraph to explode the Hindenburg all over again . . . For the automotive Walter Mittys of the world, who dream of an outlaw life on the road and identify more with the peace-disturbers than the peacemakers, it’s definitely something worth keeping under the pillow.” —Bruce McCall, *Globe and Mail*“An insightful look not just at the American love affair with cars, but also at one man’s changing outlook on life, all of it fast-paced and over the top . . . Even readers who know nothing about cars and motorcycles will appreciate the joy and hilarity of this book.” —Booklist“Never in neutral, O’Rourke offers laughter on wheels.” —Publishers Weekly“Fasten your seatbelt, O’Rourke is about to provide us with some rocket-reading essays about life in the fast lane, the slow lane, and most of the time, no lane at all . . . This is not your parent’s armchair travel book, but be sure to make it yours.” —Ohioana Quarterly“*This book is a monument to slash-and-burn living, glorifying old cars whose miles-per-gallon ratings read like shoes sizes and indulgent off-road races conducted in fragile terrain. The thing is, you’ll hardly hear the cries of the rare lizards and cactuses being ground to extinction under O’Rourke’s tires because you’ll be laughing too hard.*” —New York Times

Book