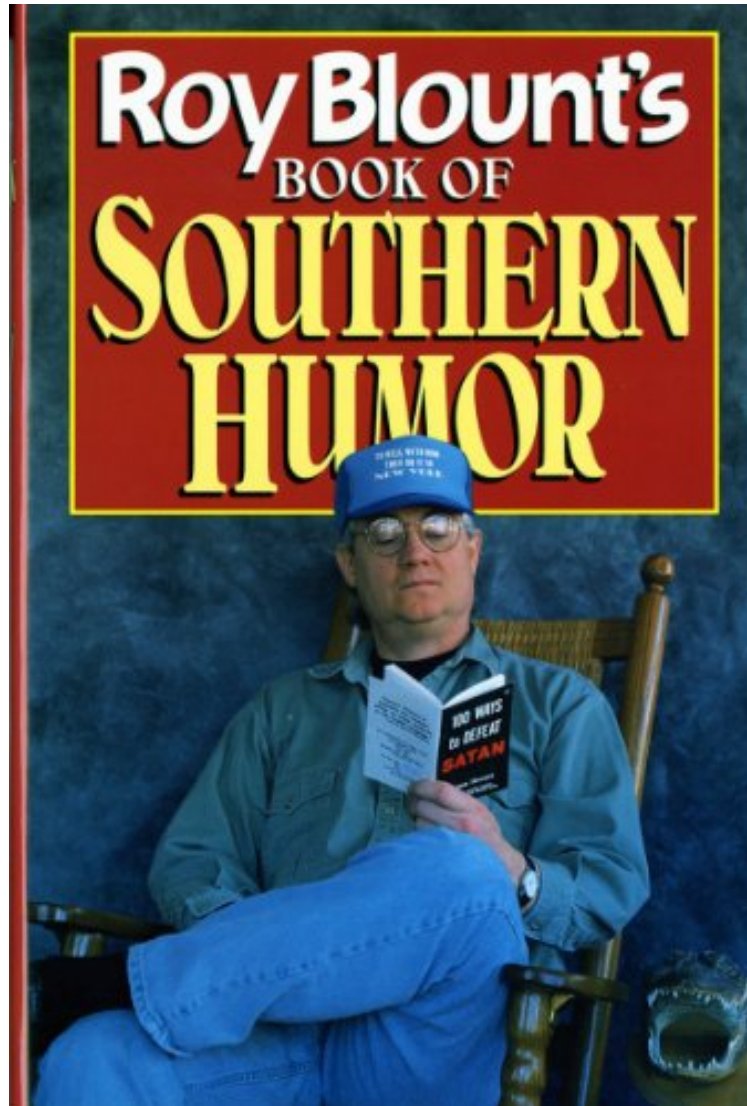


(Free) Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor

Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor

Roy Blount Jr.

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Roy Blount Jr. : Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor:

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There may be no funnier species in the literary universe than a Southern writer on a roll. The richest vein of American humor—the broadest, the earthiest, the most outrageously inventive—can be found below the Mason-Dixon line, where the comic impulse just naturally seems allied to the native storytelling genius, and the sacred and the profane are on the closest of terms. Roy Blount, Jr., himself a native Southerner and on paper and in person one of the funniest men in America, has dug deep and foraged far and wide to produce the definitive treasury of Southern humor for our time. It comprises more than 150 selections, including stories, sketches, essays, poems, memoirs, and blues and CW lyrics, arranged under such headings as "My People, My People (How's Your Mama 'n Them?)," "Here Be Dragons, or, How Come These Butterbeans Have an Alligator Taste?" and "Lying and Other Forms of Communication." The wildly heterogeneous roster of contributors range from such classics as William Faulkner, Mark Twain, Flannery O'Connor, Zora Neale Hurston, and Eudora Welty to such brilliantly funny contemporaries as Molly Ivins, Dave Barry, Harry Crews, Ishmael Reed, Barry Hannah, Bailey White, and Roy Blount, Jr., his very own self. If you could stop laughing long enough you'd probably call Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor a classic. And you'd be right.

From Publishers Weekly With contributions from 114 authors—including three pieces by editor Blount (First Hubby) himself—this notable anthology offers a cornucopia of humor that, however loosely, can be associated with things "Southern." Old masters represented here include Mark Twain, William Faulkner, O. Henry, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Joel Chandler Harris, Tennessee Williams and Edgar Allan Poe (whose contribution, the short story "X-ing a Paragrab," may surprise many). Luminaries among their heirs apparent are Tom Wolfe, Dave Barry, Harry Crews, Molly Ivins, Russell Baker and many more, while numbering among the less well-known contributors are Ferrol Sams, Bailey White, William Price Fox and Sarah Gilbert. The special treat here is the unexpected material collected from some rather offbeat sources: Julian Bond, Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Brother Dave Gardner. Inexplicably, however, Blount passes over Lewis Grizzard, while giving six slots to Jerry Clower, and dismisses Carl Hiaasen by claiming that his novels "resist excerpting." Also snubbed are the likes of T.R. Pearson, Fanny Flagg and Olive Ann Burns. Even with these glaring lapses, though, this generous volume deserves serious consideration as a holiday gift for the eclectic-or Dixie-minded-reader. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Southern humorist Blount brings together here a collection of mirthful writings from his native region. Close to 150 selections from 114 writers run the gamut of genres from essays to country/western lyrics. Authors, many of whom are not generally considered humorists, range from Edgar Allan Poe to Dave Barry. Some readers might quibble with Blount's choices (Garrison Keillor in a book of Southern humor, Lewis Grizzard left out?), but that is always a compiler's cross to bear. Others who find reading stories highly laced with dialect about as easygoing as studying the Upanishads in the original Vedic might have problems with several of these works. Still, there is something here for everyone. Recommended for regional and large humor collections. Jim Burns, Otumwa, Iowa Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Any anthology angles for readers with its own bait, but some durn feller's gotta figger out what branch to throw the line in. Native Indianan but acculturated good ole boy Blount done himself good with this catch, which just may exceed the allowable limit on rib-bending ruckusing. Yup, everthing cackles and groans with laughin' to keep from cryin' here, all 160 pieces, each prefaced by he of the tall tale-tellin', Blount. Now Southerners beat Nawthawners in many things, including golf (there are two duffers' delights here, put right where they belong, the section called "Lying, and Other Arts of Communication"), and in sheer loquacity, intricacy of locution, toe-to-toe vituperation, excoriation, and incredulation, it's a leapin' travesty of a contest. What raconteur upside the Mason-Dixon line can top Flannery O'Connor, Twain, Zora Neale Hurston, and the dozens of humorists Blount pulled outta that branch? Well, last year them citified progeny of the boys in blue made a sportin' effort with Russell Baker's Book of American Humor, which Blount's treasury matches perfectly, tho' it jes' might be a better tastin' fish: that's all, ya'll. Gilbert Taylor