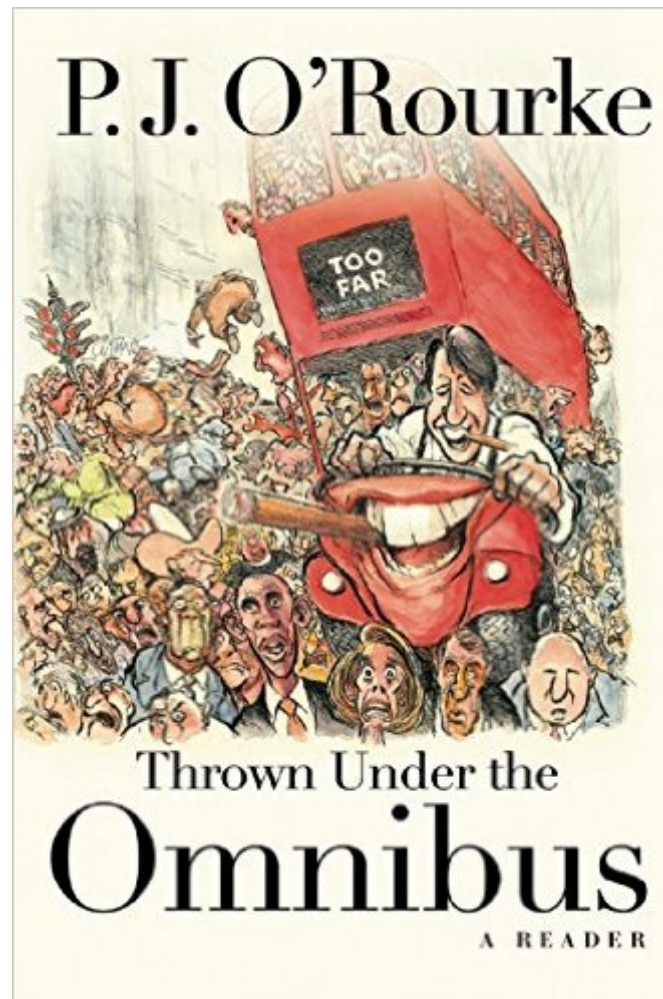


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Thrown Under The Omnibus: A Reader



Synopsis

P.J. O'Rourke has had a prolific career as one of America's most celebrated humorists. But that career almost didn't happen. As he tells it, "I began to write for pay in the spring of 1970. To tell the truth I didn't even mean to be a writer, I meant to be a race car driver, but I didn't have a race car." Fortunately for us, he had to settle for writing. From his early pieces for the National Lampoon, through his classic reporting as Rolling Stone's International Affairs editor in the 80s and 90s, and his brilliant, inimitable political journalism and analysis, P.J. has been entertaining and provoking readers with high octane prose, a gonzo Republican attitude and a rare ability to make you laugh out loud. Chris Buckley once described his work as "S.J. Perlman on acid" and when Penguin first published its Dictionary of Modern Humorous Quotations PJ had more entries than any living writer. For the first time *Thrown Under the Omnibus* brings together his funniest, most outrageous, most controversial and most loved pieces in the definitive P.J. reader. Handpicked and introduced by the humorist himself, *Thrown Under the Omnibus* is the essential P.J. O'Rourke anthology.

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of P J O'Rourke's for several decades. While I admire him and enjoy his writing I do no mistake him for a partisan Conservative or someone who is working for the GOP and against the Democrats. He is willing to skewer everyone; everyone who deserves skewering. And that is, well, everyone. I have always found his writing informative, enjoyable to read, his humor always seems like it should be more predictable and repetitive than it is. He is wittier than you

suppose and slips the knife in but you laugh before you understand exactly where it has been placed, maybe in you and yours. Some have referred to this as a greatest hits album. I guess it is. But I think of it as a way to peruse his best writing from his books over the decades and see how his views have changed and what has remained more or less constant. What he had hoped for (not much) and what disappointed him (nearly everything). If Oâ™Rourke has one flaw that makes me put down his books and give them time to rest before I pick them up again is that I find it too pat to just piss on everyone and everything. In his work that matters to me the most, he does find some hope, some positive energy and a real effort to make the benighted wake up. While I do not claim to have read every word that the author has written (and here we only get excerpts from his books, not samples of his columns), I do have more than a few of them at home and my favorites are: âœParliament of Whoresâœ, âœGive War a Chanceâœ, âœAll the Trouble in the Worldâœ, and my favorite of all is âœEat the Richâœ. I also enjoyed âœThe CEO of the Sofaâœ and âœOn The Wealth of Nationsâœ. Do I have to point out that it is perfectly fine if your views vary from mine?

I must confess, I am a big fan of P.J. Oâ™Rourke. And while I may not always agree with his politics or opinions, I almost always find his work entertaining. This book represents some of his work over the last 30 years or so.=== The Good Stuff ===* Oâ™Rourke is one of those writers whose work either you like or hate. Almost no one I have ever met is neutral on the subject. As always, his writing is sarcastic, humorous, tongue-in-cheek, serious, funny, sad, happy, offensive, sensitive and just about any other adjective you can think of.* Some of the works reprinted in this anthology are P.J. at his absolute best. His tale of tourism in war-torn Lebanon tells more about life in this part of the world than any serious story I have ever read on the subject. Likewise, I found myself laughing out loud at his descriptions of a âœPeace Tourâœ of the Soviet Union- and at the same time gaining an understanding of what life was like.* While Oâ™Rourke definitely skews toward the conservative or libertarian end of the political spectrum, he is not a zealot about preaching doctrine. He points out humor, silliness and ridiculousness wherever he sees it, including in his own experiences and past history.* The book is a nice sampling of Oâ™Rourkeâ™s work. My personal favorites of his stories are those relating his travels in various war-torn countries and underdeveloped hellholes. He has a remarkable talent for relating daily life, showing something of the good and bad in the residents and hanging out with the âœfunâœ people.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===* The book is long. It might be a bit much for someone not used to PJâ™s writing style, especially if you try to read the whole thing at once.

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