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Me The People: One Man's Selfless Quest To Rewrite The Constitution Of The United States Of America

"I would rather read a Constitution written by Kevin Bleyer than by the sharpest minds in the country." —JON STEWART

ME WE THE PEOPLE



ONE MAN'S SELFLESS QUEST *to*
REWRITE *the* CONSTITUTION
of the UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA

KEVIN BLEYER

READ BY THE AUTHOR • AN UNABRIDGED PRODUCTION



Synopsis

Audie Award Nominee, Humor, 2013

The United States Constitution promised a "More Perfect Union". It's a shame no one bothered to write a more perfect Constitution - one that didn't trigger more than two centuries of arguments about what the darn thing actually says. Until now. Perfection is at hand. A new, improved Constitution is here. And you are about to listen to it. But first, some historical context: In the 18th century, a lawyer named James Madison gathered his friends in Philadelphia and over four long months, wrote four short pages: the Constitution of the United States of America. Not bad. In the 19th century, a president named Abraham Lincoln freed an entire people from the flaws in that Constitution by signing the Emancipation Proclamation. Pretty impressive. And in the 20th century, a doctor at the Bethesda Naval Hospital delivered a baby - but not just any baby. Because in the 21st century, that baby would become a man, that man would become a patriot, and that patriot would rescue a country... by single-handedly rewriting that Constitution. Why? We think of our Constitution as the painstakingly designed blueprint drawn up by, in Thomas Jefferson's words, an "assembly of demigods" who laid the foundation for the sturdiest republic ever created. The truth is, it was no blueprint at all but an Etch-A-Sketch, a haphazard series of blunders, shaken clean and redrawn countless times during a summer of petty debates, drunken ramblings, and desperate compromise - as much the product of an "assembly of demigods" as a confederacy of dunces. No wonder George Washington wished it "had been made more perfect." No wonder Benjamin Franklin stomached it only "with all its faults." The Constitution they wrote is a hot mess. For starters, it doesn't mention slavery, or democracy, or even Facebook; it plays favorites among the states; it has typos, smudges, and misspellings; and its Preamble, its most famous passage, was written by a man with a peg leg. Which, if you think about it, gives our Constitution hardly a leg to stand on. [Pause for laughter.] Now stop laughing. Because you are about to listen to no mere audiobook, but the most important document of our time. Its creator, Daily Show writer Kevin Bleyer, paid every price, bore every burden, and saved every receipt in his quest to assure the salvation of our nation's founding charter. He flew to Greece, the birthplace of democracy. He bused to Philly, the home of independence. He went toe-to-toe (face-to-face) with Scalia. He added nightly confabs with James Madison to his daily consultations with Jon Stewart. He tracked down not one but two John Hancocks - to make his version twice as official. He even read the Constitution of the United States. So prepare yourselves, fellow patriots, for the most significant literary event of the 21st, 20th, 19th, and latter part of the 18th centuries. Me the People won't just form a "More Perfect Union". It will save America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Whether you'll like the book or not can be pretty much summed up in one sentence review. "If you like the Daily Show, then you're going to like this book." I'll get into a little more detail, but in reality the sentence will be true for probably 95% or more readers. I enjoyed the pre-release copy I received. I'm a big fan of incongruous comedy. I like things that look to be going in a certain direction, but then suddenly go off in a completely arbitrary and unusual other one; it's sleight-of-hand like a magic trick. The author does a very good job of being the humble/pompous self-proclaimed savior of the country out to produce a better constitution for new age. He starts off with the excellent history of the founding fathers and the actual birth of the Constitution, which if you filter out the jokes is probably better than most of us learned in our schooling; he points out quite well that the founding fathers were not the supermen that they've been made out to be, they had human faults, even if they did craft some extraordinary documents. The only minor annoyance was since it was learning/comedy it was sometimes hard to figure out when I was learning something or if he was just making a joke. It runs over 300 pages, but I could easily picture most of the book being done in several segments on The Daily Show by one of their correspondents. The book reads almost like a script from the show, which is understandable as the author has written for it. You can almost picture some of the videos that go along with the text as the author is voicing over the segment. There are also a couple of interesting interviews including one with Antonin Scalia (apparently real) that's quite fascinating.

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