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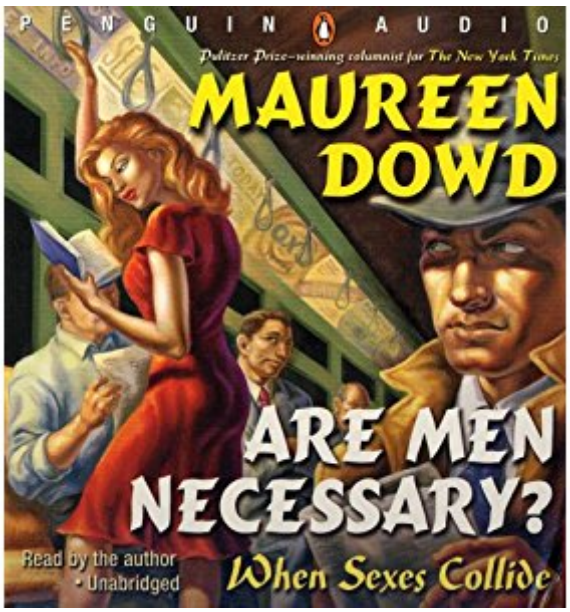
Are Men Necessary?: When Sexes Collide



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Synopsis

Read by the author Fresh from her success with the bestselling Bushworld, Maureen Dowd turns her lapidary prose and wicked wit to a topic even more incendiary than presidential politics: sexual politics. Unabridged CDs - 8 hours, 7 CDs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maureen is brilliant and I flew threw the book. I would have enjoyed reading more about what the other brilliant women in D.C. say and do instead of so much about Bill, Hillary and Monica...who cares?

Maureen Dowd is well known for this book. I used it for research for a short story I was writing and it was helpful.

Maureen Dowd is at her best with this book. enjoyable reading

clever, humorous

I am a great admirer of Maureen Dowd. Her column in the New York Times is the first thing I turn to after scanning the top stories. Her choice of language is always entertaining, and her insights into the psychological motives of public officials always add new dimensions to my understanding of the

news. I was therefore rather distressed when her column disappeared for several months while she was on "book leave".For anyone else who loves her column - rest assured that this book will not disappoint. Dowd is best when glib and entertaining, and most irritating when she affronts our closest held biases. Her critique of Bill Clinton’s womanizing rankled my liberal prejudice, but eventually helped me realize how deeply it offended large segments of the public. This volume has large measures of that which will both amuse and challenge your sensibilities.What has most perplexed me is how Dowd seems to fixate on the sexual aspects of our society, and in a way this book is her own exploration of that obsession. She admits in the very first line that she does not understand men - and even that she does not understand what she does not understand about them. While many might confess to this failing from either side of the sexual abyss, most would be content to live with their doubts and use ambiguity to cover up moments of uncertainty. Instead, Maureen Dowd attacks the eternal dance of equivocation head-on.It is difficult to know exactly what playbook she is reading from when it comes to personal relationships. Her several accounts of misanthropic affairs and flirtations suggest that she sees courtship and romance less as the ritualized surrender to necessary emotions, and more as stylized machinations to seize the high ground, and while she might disparage "How to Catch and Hold a Man", one suspects that she read it attentively.Dowd’s basic thesis is that feminism’s road, which she once believed to be a six-lane freeway, appears now to be a gated cul-de-sac. While it is hard to separate the serious criticism from the satire, it is clear that she thinks women have succumbed to playing out bimbo fantasies from popular culture. She ridicules the Harvard MBA’s who trade their textbooks for miniskirts and cover up their academic successes to score a date.Dowd is most relentless in her sarcastic attacks on men. While she clearly feels that they are congenitally unfit for public office, she also thinks that things might work out because the Y chromosome is disappearing and in a few hundred thousand years men will be history anyway. One hopes that there is some irony here, but it is apparent that she harbors a rather deep-seated resentment of males.Despite its caustic witticism and public outrage, this struck me as a deeply personal book that Maureen Dowd wrote in an attempt to answer a question that haunts her even more than sexuality: "If I am so successful, why am I dissatisfied?"

I found the book an entertaining introduction to the American politics from a feminist perspective, and thoghts about feminist-like figures, e.g. Hillary Clinton. Why Hillary Clinton betrayed the feminist ideals? It is very simple: feminism by definition is anti-elitist. But Hillary wanted to be the elite.Gender is often about style and tone. Style of Maureen Dowd reminds me style of Sarah Palin -

her otherwise ideological opponent. Dowd knows that male, "phallic" authority is a posture. Dowd, like Palin, has a "castrating" effect on male opponents not by way of being more manly than them (like Hillary), but by using the ultimate feminine weapon, the sarcastic put-down of male authority. But the primary mover in both cases is a heightened self-righteousness. I am fine if this spawns a sarcastic but funny book like this. I am less OK when this self-righteousness spawns global Politics.Madelaine Albright once told a reporter that "U.S. is indispensable nation and we stand taller and see farther"! Condi Rice told Putin in 2008 (on TV!) that "while Russia is misbehaving, but the US would not punish it this time"? Susan Rice, the former US Ambassador to the U.N. was abrasive with male staffers -- I heard this myself from a Yale-based former diplomat. Perhaps it was different 30 years ago, but today most women are as tough as men and are often more confident. Outside the Y chromosome, in my opinion, there is no difference.

The best. A real knee slapper. Makes you want to read every last word of what she writes.

I wish I hadn’t wasted the few hours I spent reading this.... Dowd’s tone is acerbic (and not in an entertaining way) and I feel that i have gained nothing from reading this.

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