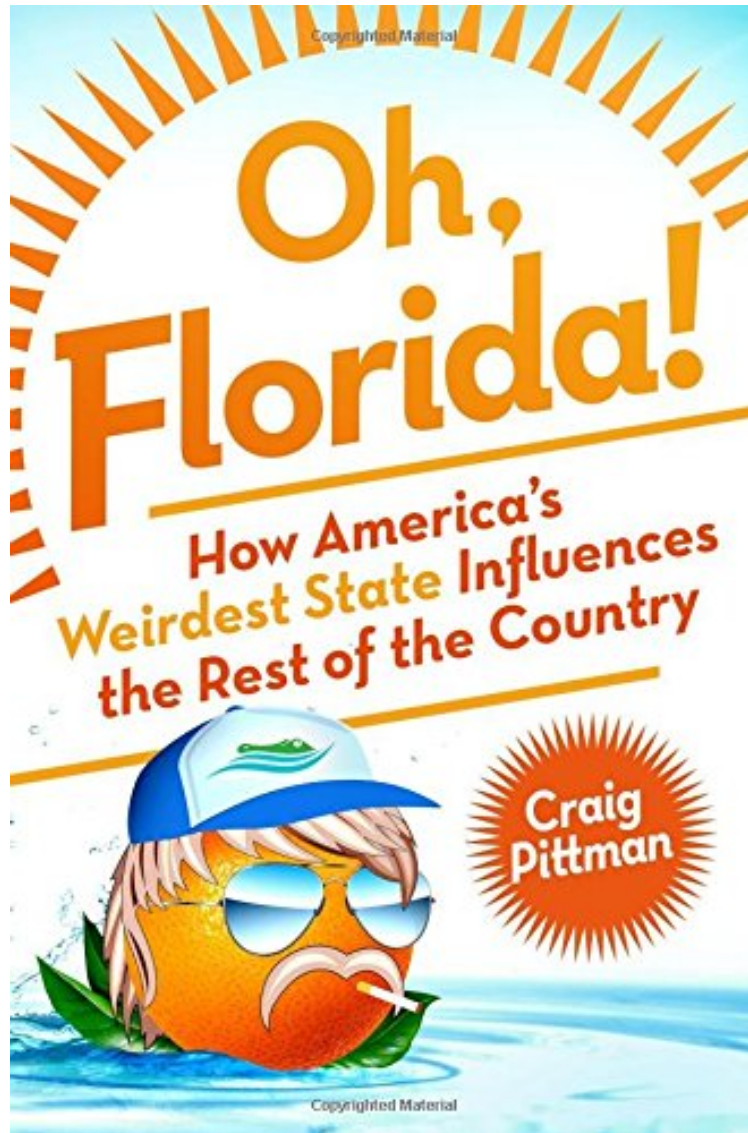


(Free) Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country

Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country

Craig Pittman

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Craig Pittman : Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Florida Like You'e Probably Never Experienced ItBy SeanI've lived

in Florida for almost 40 years and I've always known we were weird and yet wonderful at the same time. Reading Oh Florida reminded me of how much I love my home state. Craig is an excellent writer and storyteller and I found that I couldn't put the book down. If you live in Florida, are thinking of moving to Florida, or simply plan to visit us sometime soon, I highly recommend you read this book. It's part history, part tabloid, part travelogue, part memoir, part sociological study, and part comedy. You'll laugh out loud, you'll be shocked, you'll do several Google searches to check facts (they're all true by the way!) and ultimately, if you've never been here, you'll want to hop on the next plane to MCO and spend some time in our great state. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Floridians By Customer Florida is indeed a weird state, filled with idiosyncratic places and personalities. Oh, Florida presents the often confounding, perplexing, and sometimes shocking details of the adventure and misadventures of Florida Man and Florida Woman in a vivid and entertaining manner. Pittman helped me understand that the explosive population growth constitutes the basis for many of our problems. As a Maryland resident for much of my adult life, I now can see the differences between Maryland's "Smart Growth" approach and Florida's "Leave No Developer Behind" mantra. The Sunshine State has had "dumb growth" for decades and its consequences are beginning to become obvious to even the most insensate conservatives. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Should be required reading to live here. By James M. Lanahan I am a second generation Floridian with degrees from two of our state universities. I finished the book while on vacation in Islamorada. I still travel the state and am continually amazed at how diverse we are in background and experiences. Pittman touches on a wide variety of Florida fun and not so fun facts. A great historical reference book chock full of tidbits about Florida. I lived next door to one of the featured characters (he taught me how to sail) and roomed with the grandson of another character in the book while in college. The book is a must read for natives and wannabe natives to appreciate our special state.

A New York Times Bestseller "Painstakingly reported and researched...compulsively readable." The New York Times "An extraordinary catalog of 'weird Florida'...the definitive guide." The Los Angeles Times Florida. That name. That combination of sounds. Three simple syllables packing mixed messages. To some people, it's a paradise. To others, it's a punch line. As award-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author Craig Pittman shows, it's both of these and, more important, it's a Petri dish, producing trends that end up influencing the rest of the country. Oh, Florida!: How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country embraces those contradictions and shows how they fit together to make this the most interesting state. Without Florida there would be no NASCAR, no Bettie Page pinups, no Glenn Beck radio rants, no USA Today, no Stand Your Ground, . . . you get the idea. To outsiders, Florida seems baffling. It's a state where the voters went for Barack Obama twice, yet elected a Tea Party candidate as governor. Florida is touted as a carefree paradise, yet it's also known for its perils—alligators, sinkholes, pythons, hurricanes, and sharks, to name a few. It attracts 90 million visitors a year, some drawn by its impressive natural beauty, others bewitched by its manmade fantasies. Florida couldn't be Florida without that sense of the unpredictable, unexpected, and unusual lurking behind every palm tree. But there is far more to Florida than its sideshow freakiness. Oh, Florida! explains how Florida secretly, subtly influences all the other states in the Union, both for good and for ill. Florida is wild and weird and that's okay!

"Painstakingly reported and researched...compulsively readable. As much as his book is a celebration of Florida, it is also a celebration of journalism." The New York Times "An extraordinary catalog of 'weird Florida'...the definitive guide. [T]his fast-roving narrative has a rollicking pace that readers will enjoy." The Los Angeles Times "Craig Pittman delivers a convincing case that Florida's reputation for off-the-chain zaniness is not only historically accurate but an evolving carnival of delight. Pittman has deep roots in the state, and his joyous deconstruction is offered with the humor, zest and storytelling skill of a roomful of uncles telling tall tales at a family funeral. The stories [are] packed with all manner of hilarious factoids and unlikely anecdotes." The Washington Post "Hilarious." The Financial Times "At points, the book is funny, thought-provoking, and infuriating, sometimes all at once, and it's a credit to Pittman and his encyclopedic knowledge of the state and its history that readers accept the shockingly disturbing and frustrating alongside the shockingly silly. Oh, Florida! reminds us to always look beneath the surface; there could be crocs or treasure to be found." San Francisco Book "Oh, Florida! is hilarious, creepy, and sobering. Craig Pittman makes the compelling argument that all of America is being warped by Florida's off-the-chart weirdness, which we eagerly export. This book should be required reading for anyone who's ever thought about moving down here, with or without a concealed weapons permit." Carl Hiaasen, New York Times bestselling author of Bad Monkey and Skinny Dip "Craig Pittman is not only a brilliant humorist, he's a terrific historian and arbiter of all things Florida, past and present. Oh, Florida! is everything you hope it will be, yet so much more!" Gilbert King, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Devil in the Grove "Craig Pittman's Oh, Florida is the definitive compendium of Sunshine State weirdness, properly placing everything from the method of Ponce de Leon's demise through Linda Lovelace's contribution to film and the National Enquirer's journalistic acumen along the continuum of significant world affairs. What the Periodic Table of Elements is to science and the Junior Woodchuck Manual is to scoutcraft, Pittman's collection is to understanding the hotbed of the goony, the astoundingly tasteless, and the impossibly strange." Les Standiford, author

of Last Train to Paradise and the John Deal mysteries "Pittman's bone-deep knowledge of Florida helps make the airtight case that weirdness has officially passed citrus as our states major export crop -- and why the rest of the country should stop laughing and be very afraid." Tim Dorsey, author of Coconut Cowboy and Florida Roadkill "Craig Pittman digs for stories in the shifting sands and shifty characters of Florida and unearths gems and surprises on every page. Oh, Florida! is at once hilarious and full of heart. Masterful storytelling and research, layered with a strong sense of justice and a native Floridians born irony, make Oh, Florida! much more than a hashtag. Whether you're dreaming of a sunny vacation, looking down at us in horror, or lucky enough to live here, Pittman brings perfect clarity to this flawed paradise." Cynthia Barnett, author of Rain: A Natural and Cultural History. "Florida, that sandy, sunny, coda hanging off the gothic Deep South, is the strangest of American states, half-land, half-water, all fantasy. Nobody knows the dubious history, fractious present and overall oddity of the place better than Craig Pittman. He writes like a trippy combination of Carl Hiaasen and Gail Collins, sharp as a stingray's tail, deep as a first magnitude spring and seriously funny. Oh, Florida! is a smart, sly wild ride of a book." Diane Roberts, author of Dream State "Whether or not you've seen albino scorpions big as lobsters drop from a loft in your mom's garage or waited out a hurricane in the Lightning Capital of the World, you need Craig Pittman's brilliant tribute to the Sunshine State. Rich in detail, from historic and political to criminal, from comic to bizarre, Oh, Florida! is swift, absorbing - and funny. Its perfect for Floridians, snowbirds, tourists, in fact, for everybody out there. You'll see." Kit Reed's novels include THINNER THAN THOU and WHERE. Her next, MORMAMA, ends with a sinkhole in Jacksonville "Oh, Florida! brings readers in for laughs, but then gets them to stick around for the tale of a maddening, fascinating and wonderful place." The Tampa Bay Times "Part travelogue, history, and memoir, its altogether best understood as the authors quest to establish a Unified Theory of Floridas Weirdness, and to make the argument that none of this is new. Its an impressively difficult task, but its also one that Pittman, a veteran reporter and a Floridian by birth, is supremely qualified to undertake." The Millions "[A] unique and charming book that is part history, part travelogue, and part memoir, An inviting tour through Florida's personality and the colorful characters that make it up." Kirkus s "This book is a fun romp through Florida's weirdness, wackiness, and wonder. This is must-read fare for readers of SCENE who can appreciate more than most what author Roxane Gay once claimed: "Florida is a strange place. I love it here, and I love how nothing makes sense." Scene magazine "This entertaining book will amuse and astonish Floridians and anybody interested in the absurdity of the Sunshine State or human nature in general." Library Journal "Truth may or may not be stranger than fiction, but at least in Florida, it's often funnier. Craig Pittman captures this with the skill of a serious reporter who recognizes a good story when he sees one - which is all he needed for a wonderfully entertaining look at our state." The Tallahassee Democrat About the Author CRAIG PITTMAN is the New York Times bestselling author of Oh, Florida! and three other books as well as an award-winning journalist. He is a native Floridian and in 2013 wrote a popular blog for Slate called "Oh, Florida! " which became the genesis for this book, and which led to his appearance on TV and radio discussing why Florida is so odd and entertaining. He lives in St. Petersburg with his wife and two children.