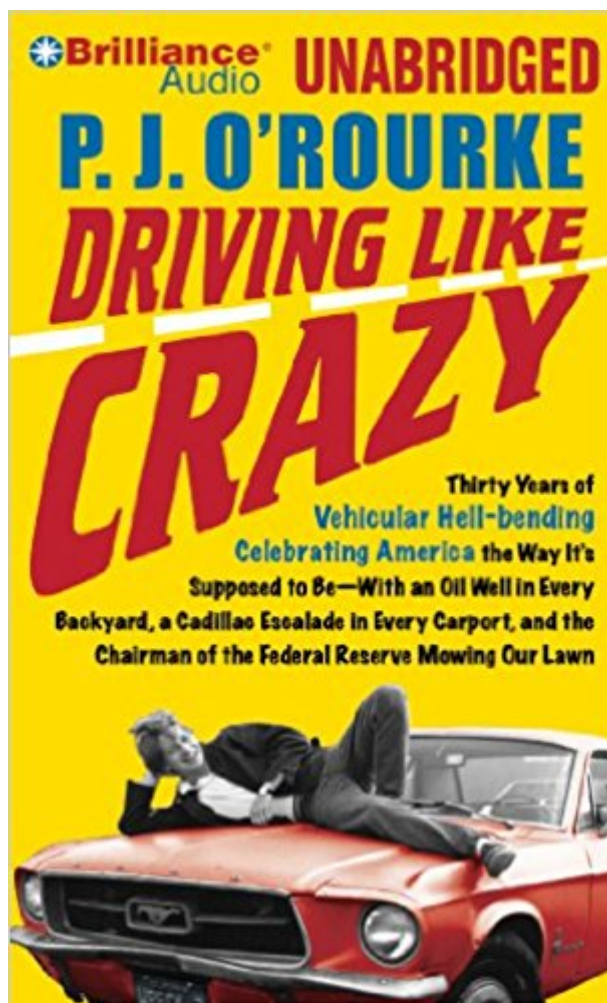


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Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years Of Vehicular Hell-bending Celebrating America The Way It's Supposed To Be—With An Oil Well In Every Backyard, A ... Of The Federal Reserve Mowing Our Lawn





Synopsis

A New York Times bestselling author and America's preeminent political satirist, P. J. O'Rourke also has another side to him—a gear-loose gearhead, automotive devotee, and terrifying driver. Son and grandson of car dealers in Ohio, P.J.'s family has been in the motor vehicle business since before there were motors in vehicles. And P.J. has been writing about cars—for Car and Driver, Automobile, Esquire, Forbes, and other publications—for what seems like almost as long. In this newly collected anthology of spiels-on-wheels, O'Rourke celebrates cars and berates car haters, and chronicles America's relationship with automobiles from love for a powerful chariot of freedom to tolerance of an oversized household appliance with an extra-long extension cord. *Driving Like Crazy* brings together thirty-some years of journalistic cornering on two wheels, including the classic "How to Drive Fast on Drugs While Getting Your Wing-Wang Squeezed and Not Spill Your Drink." And he's written an appendix to that piece of sage advice for those who, like himself, are thirty years older now: "How to Do Ditto While the Drugs Are Mostly Lipitor."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Humorist O'Rourke shifts gears, covering and combining past pieces on cars (for Automobile, Car and Driver, Esquire and Forbes) with new material to set this auto anthology in motion. Much has been reworked "because the writing "how to put this gently to myself "sucked." Starting with car journalism language ("Drop the bottle and grab the throttle"), he steers the reader

toward California cars: "Many automobiles were purchased to attract members of L.A.'s eight or ten opposite sexes." He writes about a variety of vehicles, from off-road racers to Philippine jeepneys ("a Willys cut in half and lengthened"). Accelerating the humor, he updates his 1979 account of a 700-mile weekend trip through Michigan and Indiana: "I can imagine what the farm girls and small town teen angels who looked so longingly at the Harley-Davidson FXE-80 Super Glide would have thought if I had been riding a Segway: 'dork.'" His early essay "How to Drive Fast on Drugs While Getting Your Wing-wang Squeezed and Not Spill Your Drink" is followed by wild road trips, NASCAR nights and selecting "a new grocery hauler, parent trap, Keds sled, family bus." Never in neutral, O'Rourke offers laughter on wheels. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Political satirist O'Rourke grew up in Ohio in a family that owned a car dealership. That's where and when he first learned to love American cars and appreciate their deep connection to the culture. In this tantalizing book, O'Rourke veers back and forth between essays he wrote for several magazines, including *Car and Driver* and *Esquire*, from his youth and more recently. The result is an insightful look not just at the American love affair with cars, but also at one man's changing outlook on life, all of it fast-paced and over the top. Looking back from the safety and soundness of middle age, O'Rourke takes his younger self to task for excessive skid-marking and sexual escapades. But the older version of O'Rourke is as fun-loving as the younger, with an unabashed appreciation of the bone-rattling fun of speed. His essays recall adventures at the Baja 1000 and NASCAR, with rich detail of assorted characters and their cars and motorcycles. Notwithstanding long-time praise of European and Japanese design, he offers full-throated defense of American car design for American sensibilities and living conditions. Even readers who know nothing about cars and motorcycles will appreciate the joy and hilarity of this book. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's not great, but it's very good. Of course, I'm such a fan of Mr. O'Rourke that I'd pay money to read his interpretation of how to make a cheese sandwich, so I find it nearly impossible to NOT enjoy his work. He's brilliant, honest, funny when he wants to be; and he's not just funny. In this case, he's insightful and unique in his relating of life experiences, the changes he's undergone, the people who've revolved around him, and the obvious love of just plain LIFE that he has inside. How he pulls off all the above while talking about cars and motorcycles, etc, is a true testament to his

talent. I respect a writer who not only entertains, but who lays wide open their own faults, their own humanity, and that still-kicking wild side that (hopefully) we all have. P J O'Rourke is at the top of that pyramid of modern social commentators and humorists.

PJ is one of the heroes of Gonzo style journalism. Having followed him from the zany days of National Lampoon and Rolling Stone editorship to his later days as a spokesman for Libertarian Americanism, and having read most of the original articles anthologized in this book, it was disappointing to find that he had done extensive re-writes of most of the articles. In this book he emphasizes his age, paunch and drinking, and his view of his former self as a misguided twit. These are things better left to the reader to judge. Faithful readers all know his history and appreciate his contributions to literature and current event journalism, as well as his evolving political stance as he matured. There is no need to bowdlerize his wonderful automotive articles and detract from the original excitement that they portrayed.

Priceless articles: he writes (as a young man) how he hates older drivers, then (now as an older man) how he hates young punks drivers (like he used to be). He is arguing with HIMSELF a generation later!!! Great pieces on the iconic L.A. Rent-a-Wreck dealer. Classic O'Rourke.

The best goofball writer, for sure. Funny stuff, as usual (b'cept for his Fiat 500 "test", which was a little bit less funny than usual). I really like PJ's style. I need more... What should I read, next? I'll look around. "So," you're thinking, "why didn't you give it 5 stars?" I dunno... It was a bit un-polished (as if it had been taken from other, un-related "articles").. not that I expect polish from PJ, 'cause I don't, but I'm getting old and grumpy, like an old woman with nothing to do but complain about everything, and my favorite, or second-favorite, or whatever-favorite author, Tom Clancy, just "up and died", at the age of 66. Omigawd! I'm 66! Like Tom! So is PJ! Read this. It is funny. Don't buy a Kindle... It "guesses" what you want to say, and screws it up, every time. Like, when I type PJ, it changes it to ON. WTF? It took me multiple tries to get the WTF on the page. PITA! Keep your old laptop. You probably have IT "figured out", by now.

I saved this book to read while on our travels. After a hard day of trekking about rural Turkey, both of us were exhausted. I, though, always need to "read myself to sleep". I started on "Driving Like Crazy" and within seconds was laughing and nudging my wife. "I've got to read this to you", I would exclaim over-and-over through tears and belly laughs. Needless to say, three things happened.

Firstly, I read the book straight through. Secondly, neither of us got any sleep. And thirdly, my wife was one pissed off lady. This is an hilarious book. Part of its fascination to me is (aside from the author's completely politically incorrect style) that so much of it rings true. I felt as if I were talking with a soul mate, and wished only that the book would go on forever. [I acknowledge that if it would have lasted longer my wife would have left me.] Anyone who has owned and loved cars will appreciate this. If you are one of those sensitive humanists, prepare to be mightily offended.

I have read almost all of P.J. O'Rourke's books and he always keeps me laughing, no matter what his subject matter is.

I always enjoy Mr. O's stuff, and this book is no exception. I hooted and cackled all the way through the book, with my Dad looking over his glasses at me and saying "Funny book?". Yeah, funny book, Dad. You'll laugh, too! P.J. is in his usual fine form on many chapters, extolling the virtues of offroad racing in Mexico, the joys of NASCAR, and just making sly comments about cars and driving. I loved it!

Good PJ O'Rourke tart, arch, fun writing -- though some of the older chapters are odd reading in this day and age of small cars in place of gas guzzlers.

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