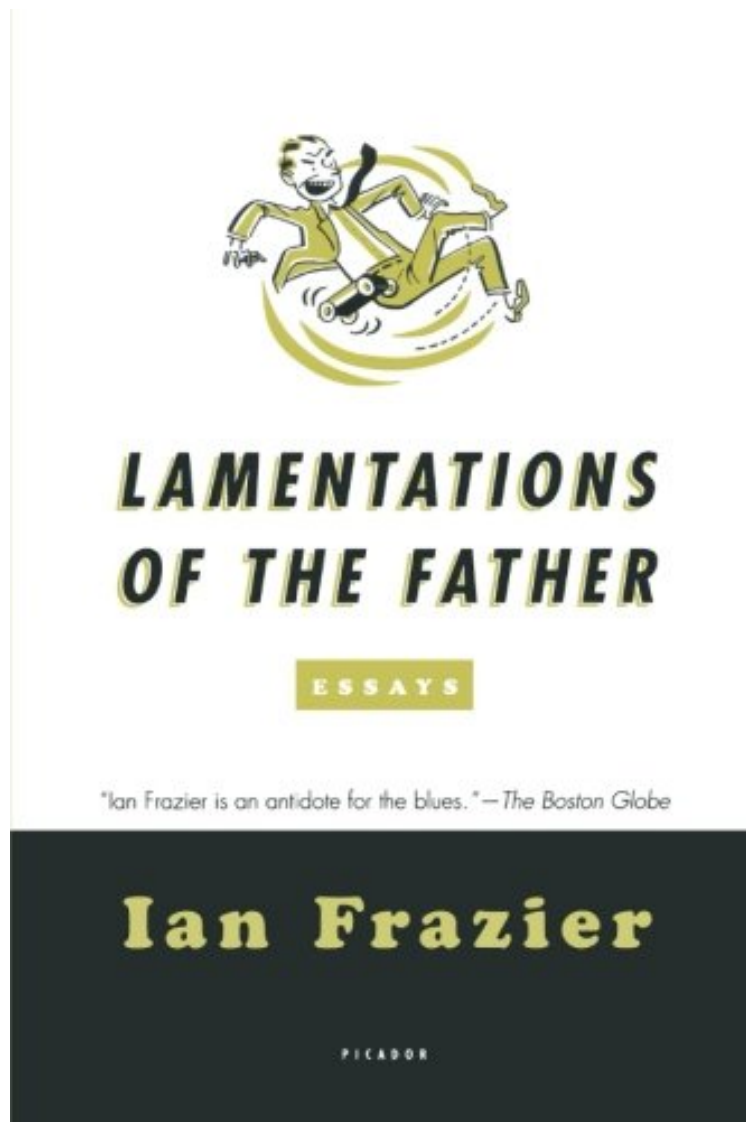


Lamentations of the Father: Essays

Ian Frazier

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Ian Frazier : Lamentations of the Father: Essays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lamentations of the Father: Essays:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A anodyne for our timesBy Thomas A. DonahueFrazier never disappoints. This work was a bit of whimsy that can be taken in long or short dosages. As a father and as a husband and as a dweller in the madhouse of our age, these short essays were a welcome break, as well as a kind of sharing of the burden with someone who has lived long enough to see the irony in it all, and who writes well enough to raise a smile and a knowing nod. Good stuff.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps better in original

formBy Bradley NelsonMost of these essays were originally published in magazines. I think perhaps they might be more enjoyable to read in that format than in a collection. Because while many of them are quite funny, a number of them are not. Only a couple really made me laugh. So while I appreciate the humor, having them all compiled in one book seems to raise my expectations a bit too much. I've always abhorred books that are "a collection of essays" for much this same reason. Reading them one at a time in a magazine seems to make them so much better. Reading them this way seems to take some wind out of the sails. While I will continue to read and enjoy Ian Frazier's essays whenever I find them, I won't be buying any more collections. The pleasure of reading them just isn't there. Like others, the title essay and a handful of others were found to be quite funny, but most others did not live up to the same standard. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Multiple, solitary laugh attacks!By Daniela Keillan Frazier turns the perfectly frustrating in every day life into comic relief. Where David Sedaris makes (often successful) use of self deprecation, Ian Frazier uses pure and delicious wit. If you don't find slapstick comedy funny, this might be a book for you. Otherwise, keep on laughing about people falling down stairs and making funny faces!

Ian Frazier is unquestionably one of America's greatest living humorists, a writer with a distinct, generous sensibility and a thousand different voices. His work is hilarious, elegant, and piercing, drawing on high and low culture to expose the warped line of thought running beneath our public selves. When The Atlantic Monthly published four humorists among the best writing ever to appear in the magazine, they chose essays by Mark Twain, James Thurber, Kurt Vonnegut, and Ian Frazier's "Lamentations of the Father." This collection, gathered from the past fourteen years of his career, once again proves him worthy of that great company.

From Publishers WeeklyAccomplished social satirist Frazier's latest collection reminds us why the novelist and essayist is one of America's funniest living writers. The much-quoted title piece, originally published in the Atlantic Monthly, gives voice to every parent's battle with table manners, bath time and various laws, statutes and ordinances concerning biting (don't), sand (not edible) and pets (not to be taped). Equally entertaining are Frazier's self-declared role as spokesman for crows, complete with slogan (Crows: We Want to Be Your Only Birdâ„) and his mock exposé on the truth behind history's most famous phrases. Caesar's I came, I saw, I conquered is, according to Frazier, simply an early example of mankind's obsession with the sound bite, a snappier version of: I came, I saw, I conquered, I had a snack, I took a bath, and I went to bed, because I was exhausted. A treat for Frazier fanatics and new readers alike, this compilation from the past 13 years has nary a misstep and begs to be read in one sitting. Researchers, Frazier says, have determined that life is too hard. But it's easier with Frazier at the helm. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Ian Frazier is an antidote for the blues." ?The Boston Globe"Being a funny guy doesn't always mesh with being a smart guy. In Frazier's case, however, the two seem one and the same." ?The Christian Science Monitor"Warning . . . reading [Frazier's essays] in the bathroom, on the subway, or in other heavy-traffic areas may force you to have to explain to others what's making you guffaw so loudly." ?Entertainment Weekly"America's greatest essayist." ?The Los Angeles Times"Frazier is a master of the trade and for those cursed with literacy, an absolute howl." ?The Buffalo News"Hilarious . . . [Frazier's] sense of humor is so uncanny and surprising it's nearly impossible not to be charmed. Highly entertaining." ?Kirkus sAbout the AuthorIAN FRAZIER is the author of nine books. A frequent contributor to The New Yorker, he lives in Montclair, New Jersey.