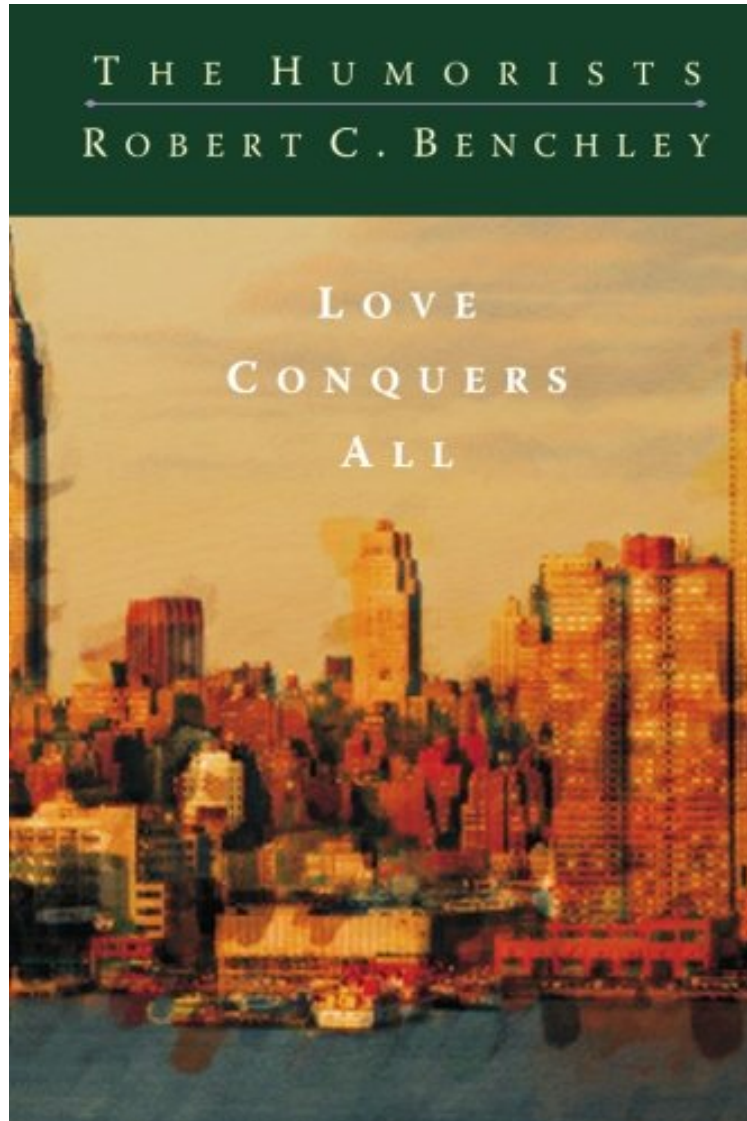


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## Love Conquers All

*Robert C. Benchley*

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**Robert C. Benchley : Love Conquers All** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Conquers All:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Benchley, conquering allBy Kelly M. LuckBenchley bless'm. He was an amazing writer before the booze took him, and this volume contains some of his best stuff. There are humorous articles here on the 20th century male as overgrown kid, the "fella" who suddenly finds himself a father and husband with a job and responsibilities and realizes, to his consternation, he is expected now to act like an adult. There's rants abut (then) modern-day travails of vacations and railway timetables and all the trials and tribulations of "fun" (in these

he rather reminds me of Thurber, who could launch into a thing or two on the subject himself). But for my money, the best part is his "Literary Department", the book reviews he wrote for various publications. Here he is superb: gently poking fun at egomaniacal autobiographies, diving head first into the minutiae of a dead-dry bricklaying tome, even gleefully spoofing the latest Zane Gray as a silent melodrama. But it is review of W.E.B. Du Bois' "Dark Water" that really shines: he breaks out the claws on this one, using his gift of words to tear away mercilessly at the odious racial complacency of his day. Much like Du Bois himself, he is a truth-teller, and pulls no punches in his assault on the national racial hypocrisy. This is a side of Benchley you don't often see, from amusingly befuddled everyman to bomb-heaving satirist one one fell swoop. Amazing. The point is, there's a lot to love in this collection. It's a great example of one of the shining stars of the Algonquin roundtable at his best. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Finally. A writer who really is timeless. By JZS Timeless is a word that is used a lot these days. It seems that everything is a "timeless" novel/ film/ car/ beauty. And in most cases- um, not so much. Even classic pulp science fiction, of which I'm a huge fan, can be distractingly dated. So I was delighted to come across this book of Robert Benchley's writing and find it just as amusing and relevant today as it was almost 100 years ago. Benchley was a Harvard educated critic and humor writer from the first half of the twentieth century. He is best known for his columns in Vanity Fair, Life and New Yorker magazines and as a member of the Algonquin Roundtable along with Dorothy Parker, James Thurber and other famous wits of their day. He also had a career as an actor in comedies from the 1930s and if you are a fan of those old black and whites you have probably seen him even if you didn't realize who he was. "Love Conquers All" is a collection of columns from his early career, the book originally published in 1922. I stumbled across this free kindle version when I looking for a contemporary of Ring Lardner (just to compare styles). The only negative thing I have to say about this kindle version is that there is one small problem in an otherwise extremely well formatted book- the original book page numbers weren't deleted and show up randomly throughout the text. I didn't have a problem overlooking that. For the past few days I have been reading different selections whenever I had a spare moment. And laughing- a lot. Most people feel some trepidation when looking at books this old, flashing back to struggling through "classic" novels in school. But Benchley's writing still feels fresh and accessible. Yes, his columns and reviews reflect the times but are very relatable today. Truly an example of "some things never change." Student struggling through those dreary southern writers in American Lit? You will really enjoy "Family Life in America". Have kids in college? Check out "Home for the Holidays". Wife driving you crazy over some magazine article she read about "togetherness"? You will REALLY appreciate "Happy The Home Where Books Are Found". Experienced the misery of being an "entertained" houseguest? Benchley's article on a weekend with H.G. Wells will resonate. And I think anyone who has struggled through some over the top romance novel, will giggle through Benchley's review of Florence L. Barclay's "Return Empty". As I read the book, I was constantly looking for someone to read quotes to. Since disapproves of excessive quoting, I'll just include one here. From "A Weekend with Wells" "This, of course, is silly, as any of Mr. Wells critics will tell you. It is the effect he has on irresponsible, visionary minds. But if all the irresponsible, visionary minds in the world become sufficiently belligerent through a continued reading of Mr. Wells, or even of the New Testament, who knows but what they may become just practical enough to take a hand at running things? They couldn't do much worse than the responsible, practical minds have done, could they?" There are over sixty gems in this book. Oddly enough, one of the best isn't funny at all. In his review of W.E.B. Du Bois' book "Darkwater", Benchley comes down firmly and scathingly on the side of civil rights. In 1922. Good on you, Mr. Benchley! When I occasionally review a book, I rate it based on how I feel about it within its sub-genre. So while I might love a "cozy" mystery, I'm not likely to recommend it to a hard core sci-fi dude. So would I recommend "Love Conquers All" to fans of early twentieth century New York writers? Absolutely. But I also recommend it to the silicon valley IT guy who makes sure to watch the Daily Show every night. Because Benchley really is "timeless". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What? By jd Didn't like the beginning where pain is intentionally inflicted on a helpless baby and the inflicter gets satisfaction from actions. Not interested in reading any further.

A collection of superb - and superbly funny - essays by that incomparable master of urbane nuttiness, Robert Benchley! An Algonquin Roundtable stalwart, Benchley has been the inspiration for countless modern humorists and comics, and his evergreen essays still make readers laugh out loud. From advice to the man left to his own devices: "...go in and set the table according to the instructions in the cook-book for a Washington's Birthday party, light the candles, and with one of them set fire to the house." to the home study of opera: "The basis of "Die Meister-Genossenschaft" is an old legend of Germany which tells how the Whale got his Stomach." to Benchley's famous take on dentistry: "There is probably no moment more appalling than that in which the tongue, running idly over the teeth in a moment of care-free play, comes suddenly upon the ragged edge of a space from which the old familiar filling has disappeared." these delightful offerings will provide the reader with hours of unmatched entertainment. With marvelous illustrations by Gluyas Williams.

From Library Journal Published in 1922 and 1921, respectively, these collections of Benchley's humorous essays feature his observations on daily life, ranging from marriage, business, and gardening to newspapers, opera, trout

fishing, and even toothaches. The jokes no doubt are a bit dated, but human nature doesn't change that much. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "[These] pieces stand up today as very little else of the humor of the '20s and '30s does." -- Babette Rosmond, author of "Robert Benchley: His Life and Good Times" From the Publisher A brightly appealing collection of inimitable comic essays by a whimsical master of American humor. Originally published in 1922, *Love Conquers All* and a companion volume, *Of All Things!*, published in 1921 and also available now in a Common Reader Edition, were the first books by a true American original, one whose wry, befuddled, and gently exasperated outlook on life can never go out of date.