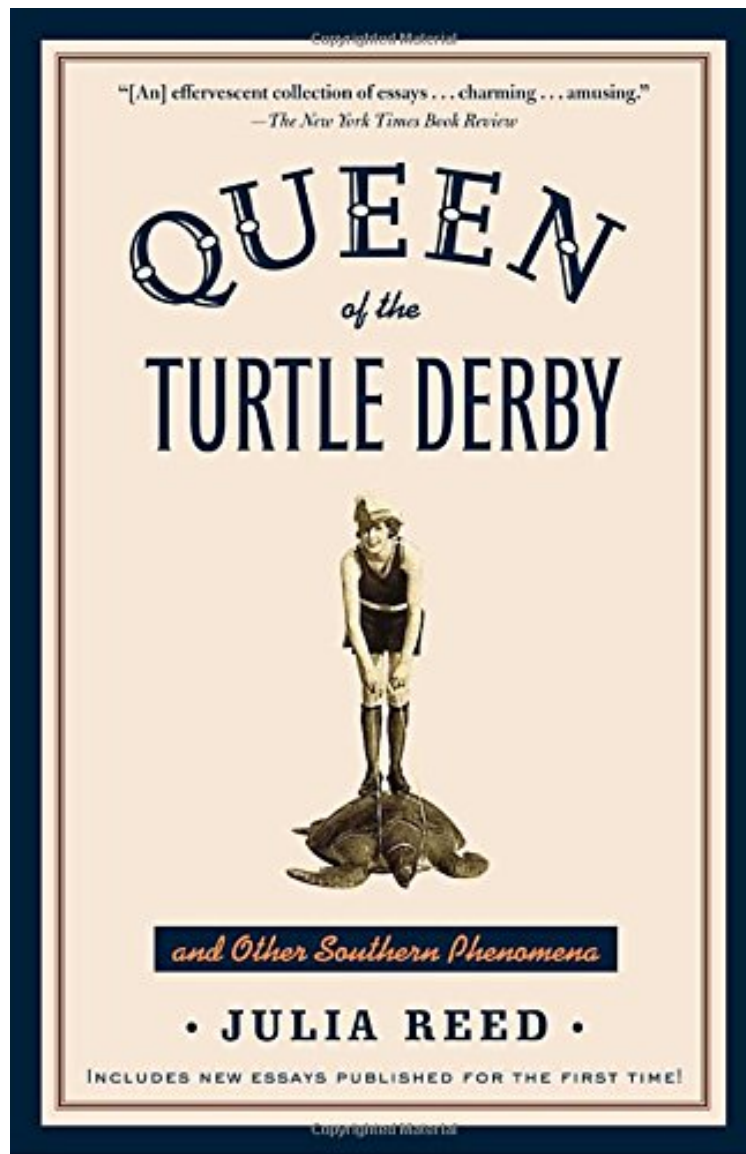


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Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena: Includes New Essays Published for the First Time

Julia Reed

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Julia Reed : Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena: Includes New Essays Published for the First Time before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena: Includes New Essays Published for the First Time:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. So real I kept thinking I was reading about my own lifeBy Jana EggersWow, where do I start? I read this book in one sitting and laughed and cried while I was at it. Being from Arkansas myself, I cannot tell you how many times I have heard, "What would people think?" It was a mantra in my household, particularly when I was trying to do something as outrageous as leaving the house without lipstick. I turned about every other page over to show my husband later, so he would understand me better!I felt Ms. Reed presented both sides of the South well... the backward (and oft times embarrassing) ways, and the strong traditions and attitudes that make a real (positive) difference in a person's life. I bought it for my mom and her three sisters, as I knew they would laugh as hard as I did at how she nailed so many aspects of Southerners. I've also given this book to several young women, as I think it portrays the strength of Southern women. Ms. Reed finally gave me a way of explaining to blue-state Northerners (where I live now) why I'm so proud of being Southern.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous bookBy A. TaylorThis was such a funny and nostalgic book. I saw so many of the "characters" I've grown up with or known in this book. The used copy I received was in terrible condition, I may have to find another copy that's in better condition to keep. This is a Southern classic.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I laughed out loud multiple times reading this collection of ...By MandelyI laughed out loud multiple times reading this collection of essays. The stories about her family and friends are so familiar to anyone raised in the South.

In classic Dixie storytelling fashion, with a rare blend of literary elegance and plainspoken humor, the inimitably charming, staunchly Southern Julia Reed wends her way below the Mason-Dixon line and observes many phenomena from politics, religion, and women to weather, guns, and what she calls drinking and other Southern pursuits. To hear Reed tell it, the South is another country. She builds an entertaining and persuasive case, using as examples everything from its unfathomable codes of conduct to its disciplined fashion sense. And then there is Southern food, which is an entire world apart: Gumbo, grits, greens, and, of course, fried chicken make memorable appearances in Reeds essays, which will amuse, delight, and even explain a thing or two to baffled Yankees everywhere.

From Publishers WeeklyIn this engaging collection of essays, Mississippi native Reeda writer for Vogue and the New York Times Magazine who now splits her time between New Orleans and New York Citypresents a fresh and eclectic portrait of the South. Reeds vision is both celebratory and critical, and it underscores her assertion that the South is "much more complicated and more interesting" than standard perceptions and caricatures of the region suggest. She tackles amusing topics like Southern hairdos and fashion, and the unrivaled pride Southern women take in their appearance ("I once saw three Chi Omegas jogging on the Ole Miss campus at seven-thirty in the morning in pale pink sweatsuits, full makeup and perky ponytails ties with matching pink bows"). She also addresses more serious issues, such as the areas high rates of violence and lack of gun control. And as she renders an honest portrayal of the quirks, foibles and wonders of the region, she even pays homage to (and provides a recipe for) that Southern food staple: fried chicken. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistFor a region that lives and dies by its time-honored, if tawdry, traditions and is known for its colorful, if not controversial, characters, the South has some explaining to do for its excessive eccentricities. And there is no one more capable than Reed, a Mississippi native and part-time resident of New Orleans and New York whose foot in both Dixie and Yankee camps gives her a unique, biregional vantage point from which to observe her homeland. Taking on such sacrosanct southern staples as cuisine, couture, and crime, Reed blends the factual with the fanciful to examine the ways in which southerners differ from their neighbors to the north. Going beyond the biscuits-versus-bagels bread brouhaha, Reed explores southern standards of beauty and exposes southern double standards of justice. She recounts the South's penchant for pageants and fondness for football, shares its secret recipes, and skewers its salacious stereotypes in a playful collection of essays that humorously and humbly celebrates the quirkiness that lies deep in the heart of Dixie. Carol HaggasCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved [A] rambunctiously charming essay collection . . . as refreshing and bracing as a mint julep . . . Even the most hopeless Yankee will have no trouble getting in touch with her inner Poultry Princess.Vogue[An] effervescent collection of essays . . . charming . . . amusing.The New York Times Book "Julia Reed is right on target about the South-its food, its hair, its guns, its pests, even the tendency of southern women to kill their husbands and get away with it. She's clear-eyed, raucously funny, and a natural story teller, which makes her something of a southern phenomenon herself." -John Berendt, author of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil Julia Reeds affectionate and hilarious observations of the Deep South and Southerners past and present are a delight to read. Fannie Flagg, author of Standing in the Rainbow Julia Reed is a Southern original. Her writing is funny and addictive, blending the street smarts of Greenville, Mississippi, where 'girls are taught to drink Scotch and smoke cigarettes and drive a car by the time they are twelve,' with the sophistication of a globe-trotting journalist. Julia's favorite subjects are Southern--fashion, politics, and above all food, which she describes with irresistible affection, knowledge and delight. If you've ever doubted that Southern food is our greatest gastronomic treasure, be prepared to learn the truth." -Jeffrey Steingarten, author of It Must Have Been Something I Ate"Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena will be a delight for all Southern readers (all about our

favorite subjectus) and an educational tome for Unfortunate Others. It helps explain that We are, after all, just like Them only funnier and better-looking." -Jill Conner Browne, *The Sweet Potato Queens' Big-Ass Cookbook (and Financial Planner)* "I had some crab dip that Julia Reed made once that I would have eaten all of in one sitting, if I had been sitting, and if the other party guests hadn't dragged me off of it. This book is that good." -Roy Blount Jr., author of *Crackers* and *If Only You Knew How Much I Smell You* Not since Eudora Welty has anybody captured in such sophisticated, often mordant prose the brave, gracious, perverse, reckless, God-fearing Southern soul like Julia Reed. Whether she's holding forth on fried chicken and catfish, guns, booze, cockfights, pestilence, or Southern womanhood, Reed loads both barrels and never misses the target. As a Carolina Tarheel, I rejoiced, cringed, marveled, and laughed myself sick at Reed's outrageous tales and savvy insights, and I defy anybody Southerner and Yankee alike to come up for air after reading the first chapter. -James Villas, author of *Between Bites* and *My Mother's Southern Kitchen* This is a wise and tender book. Julia Reed is a loving defender of the South. Long may she live and write. She understands the deep seriousness that underlies our Scotch-Irish, English, and African roots." -Ellen Gilchrist, author of *I, Rhoda Manning*, *Go Hunting With My Daddy: And Other Stories*