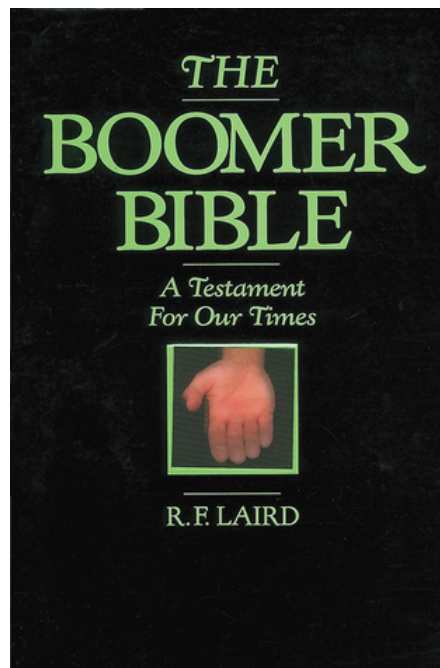




The Boomer Bible

R.F. Laird

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In the beginning there was the Holy Bible

2 Which was a very good book indeed, but so many things happened since the beginning,

3 That Maybe it was time for another bible,

4 So a punk from Philadelphia wrote a new one,

5 And so it is called *The Boomer Bible*,

6 So there.

7 And Its Past Testament tells the history of the world, including the Book of Greeks, Book of Brits, Book of Yanks, Book of Russkies, and all the other self-proclaimed Chosen Nations,

8 And people sticking each other with pointed sticks, and acting up, which is called civilization,

9 And also about religion and art and movies and literature, and TV, and so forth, which is why there are also the Books of Pnowlege,

10 Including Psongs, Psayings, and Psomethings,

11 Written just like the other Bible but without any big unpronounceable words,

12 So that you and I might truly understand it,

13 For a change.

14 And Its Present Testament tells about the coming of Harry, and The Way of Harry,

15 Who may be the messiah everybody has been waiting for,

16 Unless he really isn't,

17 Which is hard to say,

18 So there.

19 And there is also The Book of Harrier Brayer together with the Harrier Hymnal,

20 And another Testament too,

21 And Concordance, and a lenticular hand on the cover.

22 And It is not for the faint of heart,

23 Or the easily offended,

24 Or the priggish or the prudish,

25 But who cares,

26 Because neither was Candide, or Swift's A Modest Proposal, or Rabelais, or Lenny Bruce

28 Or all the other satires and satirists who felt the need to warn us when we have gone astray,

29 Which we have,

29 Which you'll know all about,

31 If you read your *Boomer Bible*,

32 Or there.

Over 87,000 copies in print.

The Boomer Bible Details

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Author : R.F. Laird

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From Reader Review The Boomer Bible for online ebook

Charles Boyer says

This book may seem sacrilegious on the cover, and in fact, it is written in the style of modern (non-Latin, non-Catholic) Bibles. It's not, particularly, however, instead, it is a collection of incredible observations about what many people of my generation *actually* believe. Mine, I suppose, and others too.

It has

The Past Testament contains a comprehensive view of science, history, philosophy, morality, and literature as understood by the Baby Boomers from pop culture and an ineffective educational system:

The Books of Apes (Kinesis, Apes, Names, Gods, and Lies) which describe prehistory.

The Books of peoples (Gypsies, Mesopotamians, Greeks, Romans, Barbarians, Christians, Bubonites, Giants, Explorers, Spics, Frogs, Brits, Krauts, Yanks, Beaks, Russkies, Chinks, Nips, and Others) which describe the history of various peoples of the Earth.

The "PS" books (Psongs, Psayings, Psomethings, Pnotes, and Pspeciasties) which contain everything from the prayers of a Gatsby-like character for money, to poorly remembered snippets of literature, to numerology worthy of Nostradamus

The Books of the VIPs (Adam, Chuck, Carl, Ziggy, Dave, Al, Paul, Frankie & Johnny, Ed, and Jeffrey) which describe various famous pioneers in the Western canon and what became of their efforts.

The Present Testament concerns the life of Harry, a kind of cynical Jesus spreading "Consolation" in the form of cocaine, with Philadelphia substituting for the Holy Lands:

Four "gospels," (Willie, Vinnie, Ned, and Ira), the first three synoptic.

The Book of Exploits, roughly equivalent to Acts

The Letters to the peoples of Philadelphia (Hillites, Annenburghers, Jeffersonians, Kensingtonians, Swarthmorons, Hallites, Drexelites, Boulevardiers, Pennsylvanians, Forgers, Wharts, Mawrites, Centralian, Mallites, Mainliners, and Broadstreeters), each adopting the rhetorical style, tone, or vernacular of the corresponding constituencies

The Book of Rationalizations, roughly equivalent to Revelation, dictated by Harry's father, Dave

You can't go wrong with this one.

Cynthia says

I think this one is going to be an ongoing read between others books (it's definitely a lot more enjoyable to pick up than the New Penguin History of the World). There was a Boomer Bible movement in my family when I was growing up, and I remember much discussion and laughter about the testaments. Now I see why.

Leonard Pierce says

At the time this came out, it made a *huge* impression on me for its ambitious, wide-ranging, and usually understated humor. In later years, the conservative bias is a lot easier to see, and it goes on way, way too long. But the first third or so is still pretty great.

Mark says

Really funny in a few spots, but with little overall cohesion. The entire second half ("the gospels") were basically lost on me. However the first half ("the books") are quite irreverent and witty.

I only give it three stars, and that might be stretching it. My advice is read until it stops being funny, then hand it off. If you make it to the end, you are slightly warped and probably from Philadelphia (you'd have to read it to understand).

Nathan says

There's no review that could possibly do this book justice. Please, just look into it. I'm surprised this book hasn't started a war yet. I will say, though, that precious few books in my entire life have afforded me as many hours of side-splitting laughter and completely comical contempt.

NC

Nick Black says

Desire. Certainty. Blame.

Patrick Darnell says

The Wall Street Journal describes my next inseparable tote: "It's the kind of book that makes you laugh, makes you angry, makes you question, makes you cringe, makes you think and shout yes! in agreement. It's the kind of book that thoroughly defines its times."

Yes, it is certainly RF Laird's Boomer Bible, Workman Publishing New York. "He captures the conflict of the Boomer era -- growing up with the Ten Commandments, the Four Gospels, and the Golden Rule, and coming of age in the era of sex, drugs, and gimme gimme gimme."

From the opening Book of Kinesis to 649 pages later the end Book of Rationalizations, platitudes to live by a' plenty. My elegant paperback copy has appendices included the Brayers, Catechism, and Hymnal.

Marie says

I just finished this for the first time; I know there will be others.

The Facts: It's book which follows the stylistic format of a standard Christian bible in the form of books, chapters, verses, inter-column reference, standard prayers, functions of ministerial office and hymns. The subject is an examination of Baby Boomer ethos and pathos, with inevitable examination of what preceded and followed it. It's a long book, as many repeatedly state. I'm not sure why anyone thinks that's relevant, though.

REVIEW:

Yes, it's offensive. The intent of offensiveness, however, is always relevant. If the intent of being offensive is to persuade others to concur (i.e. racist speeches) of course the proper course of action is to take offense. On the other hand, if the sole purpose of offensive material is to make an audience think regardless of agreement, the first proper reaction is TO THINK CAREFULLY. Whining about being offended by intellectually challenging discourse is like whining about the exertion of a voluntary workout with a trainer.

This book is essential reading for every parent with a child still in school, still a member of the "I" generation who believes the mathematical proof of justice is RIGHT = FAIR = SATISFACTORY TO ME. Generation X can learn from this; we went a step further and produced a generation more insulated from conscientious and emotional discomfort and sacrifice than financial. This Punk generation won't save the world; they'll save themselves.

As for language, we have stripped penmanship from our schools so college graduates have the no-longer charming scrawl of a 3rd-grader...and the language to match. Why shouldn't they, when we teach them that the physical craftsmanship of words is insignificant?

Any book which so magnificently resurrects the life and purpose of language will have a permanent place on my shelf. Read it.

Mike says

I wish I could split this book up into parts and rate them separately. I found the pre-Harry stuff to be an awesome epic-poem/bible-formatted history of the world. The P* sections were kind of a waste of time. The Harry stuff was fun at first, and then it just started to disturb me. By the end of the gospels and stories and communications from the ultra-Harriers, I was completely against the Harry message and feeling pretty down about the state of the world. Then there's a bunch of crap about vestments and brayers and litanies and such. And then, there was the book of Punks. The book of Punks surprisingly redeemed the entire book for me, and I finished feeling hopeful, and surprised that I was hopeful.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who won't fly off the handle when reading offensively accurate if a bit generalized descriptions of their culture/history/religion/belief system.

Gr8grendel says

If at first you do not laugh, cross reference.

Shanta Stevens says

This is one of the most hilarious satires ever written!

Kathleen Dixon says

In other reviews of this book, most of the reviewers found this book hilarious. I thought it very clever, but didn't read more than a tenth of it as I found that cleverness to be a sticking point. Perhaps the satire didn't please me because it's about the U.S. socio/political situation, and despite the old saying, "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet," I have to say that there are many different forms of Western culture, and so the American West isn't necessarily how Western society sees itself (and laughs at itself) in New Zealand.

Karen-Leigh says

The first half of this book was wonderful, a touchstone for knowledge of history, pop culture, countries and people's idiosyncracies. Then it lost me. The second half was repetitive. Harry and his creed soon grew tiresome and I kept waiting for the writer to move on and was disappointed. Harry, frankly, bored me. There were nuggets of interest here and there but wading through the verbiage of message of drink, drugs, don't think was a hard slog to the end.

Larry Wright says

Somehow the author of a long, snooze-inducing list of military and political histories creates one of the greatest satires of American culture. 1 Part Jonathan Swift, 1 part Nathaniel West, 2 parts Douglas Adams and a dash of Stephen Jay Gould.

Adrian Rush says

This book is a cautionary tale, a stinging indictment of a culture that's lost its way. But believe it or not, it's absolutely hilarious, as long as you aren't afraid to have your cherished beliefs held up to scorn and ridicule, and as long as you're open to learning a lesson from it. In short, if you can laugh at yourself and at what we've become as a society, you'll have a fantastic time reading this imposing book.

In chapter-and-verse form (complete with an intercolumn reference), Laird lays out the history of the world from the perspective of an intellectually lazy modern mind that's been educated by TV and has been

conditioned to think in terms of short-term gain and instant gratification. If you've ever seen Mike Judge's excellent movie "Idiocracy," you'll have some idea of the perspective from which this book is written.

Laird seems to think this sorry state of affairs began with the baby boomer generation. The messiah of the "New Testament" equivalent of the book is Harry, a con man who came of age during the era of the hippies and preaches a narcissistic message of "Desire, Certainty, and Blame." Get what you can, jump to conclusions, and if something goes wrong, it's somebody else's fault.

When the rot set in is open for debate, of course, but when you read this book and then look around you at a postmodern world where the most important thing in people's lives is who wins a reality show, and the hottest debate is which presidential candidate doesn't wear a flag pin on his lapel, you can easily get yourself depressed and say that Laird got it right. In fact, as you cringe at the toxic mixture of ignorance and indifference in the narrative, it is not a huge stretch to imagine having just such a conversation with some halfwits whom classical education failed miserably. You know the type -- they couldn't tell you the first thing about American history if their lives depended on it. They probably couldn't find America on a map of the world, for that matter. Hell, they probably couldn't even spell "America" if you spotted them the vowels.

In Laird's story, these people are the punks, and in a cruel twist, the only hope for saving humanity is in their hands. Of all people, these violent, semi-literate thugs have taken it upon themselves to set the world right again. You get the sense that the task is too big for them, but at least Laird offers us some glimmer of hope, however faint it may be.

Laird saw all of this coming back in 1991. Heaven only knows what kind of book he would have written post-9/11.
