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The Fran Lebowitz Reader brings together in one volume, with a new preface, two bestsellers, **Metropolitan Life** and **Social Studies**, by an "important humorist in the classic tradition" (*The New York Times Book Review*) who is "the natural successor to Dorothy Parker" (*British Vogue*). In "elegant, finely honed prose" (*The Washington Post Book World*), Lebowitz limns the vicissitudes of contemporary urban life—its fads, trends, crazes, morals, and fashions. By turns ironic, facetious, deadpan, sarcastic, wry, wisecracking, and waggish, she is always wickedly entertaining.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

They say that age brings wisdom--or resignedness, at least--but every time you see Fran Lebowitz, she's just as hangdog as ever. Hey, Fran, how about writing a few more humor columns? That'll cheer you up! Or maybe not, but until she writes more columns, we'll have to make do with *The Fran Lebowitz Reader*. This paperback collects her two bestsellers of the 1970s into one volume, *Metropolitan Life* and *Social Studies*. Back then, her books defined knowing, urban cool. Guess what? They still do. If you were a mite too young to appreciate Lebowitz's take on that libertine decade the first time around ("Notes on Trick," anyone?), now is an excellent time to make her acquaintance. The pieces still hold up as good writing and deliver plenty of sharp laughs. Would that we had her jaundiced take on the '90s, which could use some Lebowitz-style deflating. Come back, Fran! Come back!

Review

On METROPOLITAN LIFE

"Hilarious...an unlikely and perhaps alarming combination of Mary Hartman and Mary McCarthy.... To a dose of Huck Finn add some Lenny Bruce, Oscar Wilde and Alexis de Tocqueville, a dash of cabdriver, an assortment of puns, minced jargon, and top it off with smarty pants." —*The New York Times*

"Her humor made me laugh aloud and call friends to read passages to them." —*Newsweek*

On SOCIAL STUDIES

"Right on the mark.... Among the things she hates this time...baggage-claim areas, high tech, after-shave lotion, adults who roller skate, children who speak French, or anyone who is unduly tan." —*Newsweek*

"Unique.... Lebowitz offers vocational guides for aspiring heiresses, popes, empresses; manuals for landlords; guidance to the rich who wish to meet the poor." —*Vogue*

About the Author

Fran Lebowitz still lives in New York City, as she does not believe that she would be allowed to live anywhere else.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alejandra Dunlap:

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