



The Redneck Manifesto: How Hillbillies, Hicks, and White Trash Became America's Scapegoats

By Jim Goad

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Culture maverick Jim Goad presents a thoroughly reasoned, darkly funny, and rampagingly angry defense of America's most maligned social group - the cultural clan variously referred to as rednecks, hillbillies, white trash, crackers, and trailer trash. As The Redneck Manifesto boldly points out and brilliantly demonstrates, America's dirty little secret isn't racism but classism. While pouncing incessantly on racial themes, most major media are silent about America's widening class rifts, a problem that negatively affects more people of all colors than does racism. With an unmatched ability for rubbing salt in cultural wounds, Jim Goad deftly dismantles most popular American notions about race and culture and takes a sledgehammer to our delicate glass-blown popular conceptions of government, religion, media, and history.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Angry white male or astute social critic? Whichever, Goad (he's not using a pseudonym, is he?) bellows a primal scream in defense of white working-class wage serfs. There is not a meek, mealy-mouthed word in this tract, so readers had better strap themselves in if they recoil from cussing, epithets for every blankety-blank group under the sun, or chapter titles such as "Several Compelling Arguments for the Enslavement of All White Liberals." This tract is so hyperbolic, so vitriolic, so viciously funny, so unrestrained, that its sheer outlandishness might indicate that Goad is just venting a sustained satire. But his harangue is in earnest, a high-decibel diatribe agin' big gummint, high taxes, big business, and the media reiteration of (white) racism as the metaexplainer of what's wrong with America. Moreover, Goad's book will not go quietly, as it is a politically unclassifiable polemic sure to humor, or offend, or enrage library patrons, in equal measure.

Gilbert Taylor

From Kirkus Reviews

An often reactionary diatribe on reverse discrimination by the editor of the 'zine *Answer Me!*, redeemed in large part by its author's phenomenal sense of humor. Goad disavows both the political right and left, but he's most likely to be tagged as a conservative. He's most lucid when characterizing the centuries-old race struggle in our country as a smokescreen for what should really be a class struggle. The poor have been enslaved, persecuted, and exploited by the upper class regardless of skin color, Goad maintains. That words like ``redneck'' and ``white trash'' are deemed acceptable while the ``N-word'' is not is proof that as Americans, by and large, we have been duped by rich folks into playing the race card. The author is at his best when using humor to elucidate a point, as when he argues that both black slaves and some disenfranchised whites were cheated and lied to by society in the same manner. Ex-slaves were offered 40 acres and a mule (which they never saw); whites in 18th- century America who had been bonded servants (in effect, white slaves) were promised ``two suits, an ax, and two hoes.'' The hoes, ``we are to presume, were gardening tools instead of prostitutes, unless 'weeding' and 'grubbing' were sexual euphemisms in colonial America.'' Goad's astute command of history and his sharp wit make for a volatile combination, and one that could be misread. A truly bigoted reader may take Goad's remarks about Lincoln not really intending to free the slaves, or about there being other Holocausts besides the Jewish one, out of context and use them to buttress their racism or anti-Semitism--views that Goad clearly does not sympathize with. But, of course, ideas that have value are also often dangerous. While Goad's defense (and overview) of redneck culture past and present is sure to infuriate the liberal reader, he is also likely to make that same reader laugh ruefully, and often. -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

Rod Dreher *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* A furious, profane, smart and hilariously smart-aleck defense of working-class white culture.

Crib Magazine In another life, this book was a U-Haul packed to the gills with manure and TNT, left idling near a major government building, or a Smokecraft beef jerky-sponsored monster truck revved and ready to roll over the stuccoed suburban palace where Jeff Foxworthy sleeps.

PDXS A funny, engagingly written polemic....Goad should be congratulated and thanked for cutting through the numerous taboos that prevent an honest discussion of race in this country.

Ethan G. Machado Our Town Dares to rewrite American history, take on government greed and lambaste white liberals....Goad's eight-cylinder prose intentionally rattles the reader, driving home a message that challenges the conventional wisdom of many a Honda Accord owner.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Allison Price:

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Steven Murray:

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