



Kinky Friedman's Guide to Texas Etiquette: Or How to Get to Heaven or Hell Without Going Through Dallas-Fort Worth

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Well, butter my butt and call me a biscuit! Delivering belly laughs, hee-haws, and downright slackjaw amazement, this hilarious guide to the homeland of George W. and Willie Nelson is the essential how-to for surviving in the Lone Star State. From strange Texas laws and the history of Dr. Pepper to "Texas Talk" (in which a "turd floater" is a heavy downpour) and final-meal requests by death row inmates, Kinky Friedman, "the oldest living Jew in Texas who doesn't own any real estate," provides an insider's guide that will be loved by native Texans and the rest of us poor devils alike.

Even if you don't know the difference between an Aggie and an armadillo -- or what's really in the back on Willie Nelson's tour bus -- you can pass for a Texan with the Kinkster's expert coaching. So grab your hairspray and the keys to the Cadillac and get reading!

Kinky Friedman's Guide to Texas Etiquette: Or How to Get to Heaven or Hell Without Going Through Dallas-Fort Worth Details

Date : Published April 1st 2003 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780060935351

Author : Kinky Friedman

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Travel

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Lori says

I picked up this one on a whim. While it has some redeeming sections, like the excerpts on the Texas bluebonnet legend and big Texas hair, the rest was just too "kinky" and crude for my personal Texas Etiquette, to even finish reading the book. Is Kinky Friedman seriously running for Governor?!

Shannon Martinson says

This is a short book, full of essays, trivia, Ace Reid cartoons, and other short pieces. I've been reading a bit here and there for a couple of months now. Friedman's sense of humor can be a bit raunchy, not for the easily offended, and his essays tend to wander a bit, which can be annoying. A lot of the legends and stories mentioned I'd heard before, but others were new to me and interesting, and every time I've read from it, I've ended up laughing, so it is funny. Overall, I enjoyed it, but I was already a fan, and I've grown up in Texas, so I have some interest in Texas stories.

Marcie says

Great title. He should run a Store Locator in the back of the book, so I can get me a pair of those brontosaurus foreskin boots. At some point, though, I just began to think, "huh?"..."and that's funny...how?"

Maybe I've become a prude since moving out of Texas five years ago. My childlike illusions have been shattered -- the idea of Sam Houston sitting around smoking opium and doing the secret Mason handshake with Santa Ana really bothers me. And there's an entire chapter on some guy's testicle hanging out of his bathing suit, unbeknownst to him.

The chapter in which Kinky follows around famous Houston criminal defense lawyers also basically stinks on ice, because it feels like Kinky actually admires these dickhead low-lives. I can understand a certain pride in their colorful characters and skills, and while living in Houston, I did understand that this was the WILD, WILD WEST where anything goes and justice is only for those who are bold enough to take it or rich enough to pay for it, but it doesn't make it okay.

The chapter opining about how firmly embedded the roots of rock and roll are in Texas is somewhat interesting and comprehensive. Then he reminds us of how and why Hank Sr. died in the backseat of his car, and how even Judy Garland and her little bluebirds died on a toilet, and on and on...this was just a damn unfunny book to me.

Even toward the end, when Kinky tries to don the mantle of Hunter Thompson and turn the book into a sort of weird "journey viewed through a drug-induced haze," it doesn't work for me.

Gack, I've already spent too much time thinking about this waste of time book...what really hacks me off is that I was hoping he would tell me how to get to heaven or hell without going through Dallas-Fort Worth.

Monica says

Oh Kinky, Kinky, hate to give you two stars especially after all the anticipation and excitement felt when I found out that there not one, but two of your non-fiction books out there dealing with all things Austin and Texas and you know how much I love those but you just re-hashed the Armadillo 'book' all over again! Pure filler, certainly not a book with any type of structure or content. I will however happily return to the first offering of the detective novels.

PS. And pssttt between you and I, this 'book' is deserving of the one Lone Texas star but the title alone and the cover art elevated it to two. That and the fact that you helped me passing the 20 mark so darn easily!

Therese says

\$1.99

I became a Kinky Friedman fan thanks to my best friend's husband. He has written a number of mystery novels, but anybody who has ever heard of Kinky knows he is much more than that.

This book tells all sorts of anecdotes about Texas, or what you think you know about Texas that mean absolutely nothing in the long scheme of things. It is good for a laugh but only a few have a great sense of humor and are not offended if someone (said author) not politically correct!

Serena says

A quick, entertaining read, especially as I started this in Texas. But I doubt this book holds much appeal beyond role of coffee table book, flipping through for quotable Texas quotes ("Old blues cats never sang the same song the same way twice." -Huey P. Meaux) and facts (did you know that DFW is larger than Manhattan?), of which there are many.

There isn't a running narrative as much as a collection of fun factoids of the state, from an author who humbly prides himself in his ability to equal-opportunity offend, but in a tongue-in-cheek manner. Some personal favorites:

"What do you call a smart person on the A&M campus? Answer: A visitor."

"...my Yom Kippur Clipper. That's a Jewish Cadillac - it stops on a dime and it picks it up."

Handan says

This book had highs and lows and I think it'll stay on my shelf. Finishing it while under the influence of Mucinex and NyQuil may not have been the smoothest move, but reading it kept me calm, quiet, and entertained. So, ta da!

Melanie says

I should have known better, but I figured if it was good enough to be published there would be something interesting about it. A few neat lists, but mostly boring and unfunny with idiotic phrases frequently thrown into the mix.

Brent says

Fun book. Quick read. Typical Kinky attitude. Clearly he loves his home state. Not a novel. Short chapters of jokes and lists, with some stories of cowboys, growing up, lawyers, and Willie Nelson. He should run for governor if the state doesn't secede. If he doesn't get elected, we should force the state to secede!

Chad says

This book started as a side-splitting laugh-out-loud collection on anecdotes but turned into a meditation on the state of mind that is Texas, from cowboys and a criminal lawyer to a departed friend.

I was not expecting the turn to more serious matters, but that turn added a human dimension and something that made this book more than an expanded piece of fluff that would have otherwise been quickly forgotten.

Kelsey says

Truly, if you are a Texan born and bred, you might enjoy this book more than any other group. It's chock-full of examples of how and why Texas is different and has a unique social environment which must be navigated particularly to avoid making any social foibles.

Mike says

A very light read.

Jan C says

I got this from a girl from Texas. Don't think she knew she'd be moving back there quite so soon.

Whoops! White Sox fan he may be but a little behind the times. Book came out in 2001 and Nellie Fox went to the Hall of Fame in 1997. Get with the program, Kinky.

Couple of nice essays on Ace Reid (never heard of him), Willie Nelson and some magic pony from 1953 that made a deep impression on young Kinky's life just as he was getting over the deaths of Hank Williams and the Rosenbergs.

Cheryl Massey says

I have lived in Texas for 34 years, but still don't consider myself a Texan. I do consider myself a fan of Kinky Friedman. I enjoy his music and his writings.

Kinky's guide to Texas Etiquette is full of interesting Texas tidbits, heartfelt tributes, and laughs. A great quick read.

Favorite quote: "Looking at the stars in the Texas sky you couldn't tell the difference between now and then. But it's there, all right. It's the difference between a picture you carry in your wallet and a picture you carry in your heart. But hearts can be broken and wallets can be stolen and you know you've grown up when you realize how far you are away from the stars."

Dan Jones says

I really wanted to give this book a higher rating. I really enjoyed it, but it was, at times, hard to follow, and lacked cohesion. And the organization of the book left a lot to be desired.

The book is basically a bunch of anecdotes and facts about Texas and country music.

It actually annoyed me that, despite the fact that it was supposed to be about Texas, a few rather large segments were about country music and had nothing at all to do with Texas. He spent a significant amount of space talking about his time in Nashville, for example.

The stories, however, were very entertaining. And as a former adopted Texan, I enjoyed every bit of them.

The book is a very quick read, only 150 pages (I would've finished more quickly, but got distracted by Christmas).
