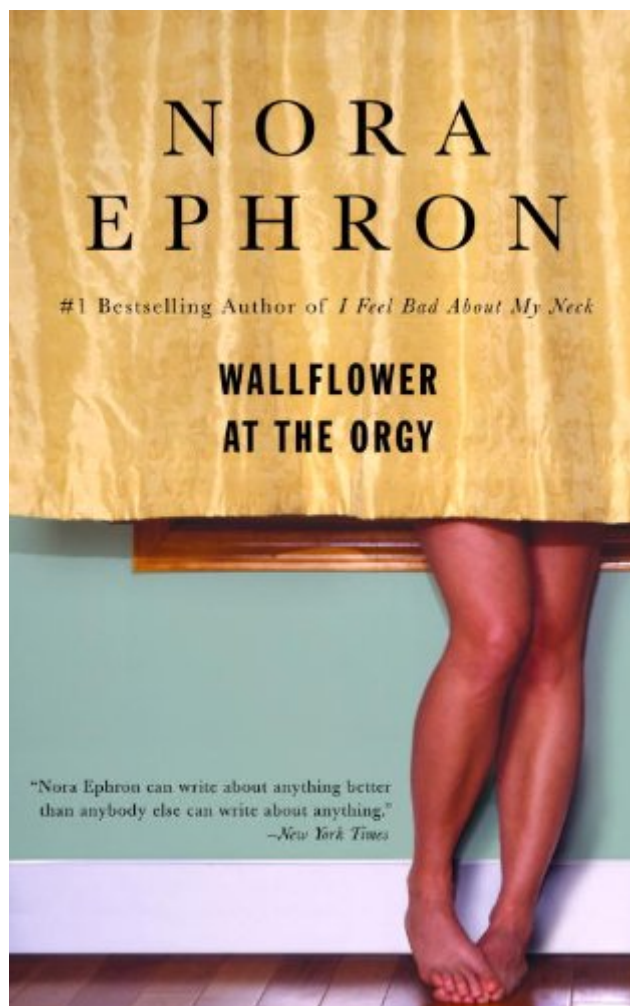


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Wallflower At The Orgy



Synopsis

From her Academy Award-nominated screenplays to her bestselling fiction and essays, Nora Ephron is one of America's most gifted, prolific, and versatile writers. In this classic collection of magazine articles, Ephron does what she does best: embrace American culture with love, cynicism, and unmatched wit. From tracking down the beginnings of the self-help movement to dressing down the fashion world's most powerful publication to capturing a glimpse of a legendary movie in the making, these timeless pieces tap into our enduring obsessions with celebrity, food, romance, clothes, entertainment, and sex. Whether casting her ingenious eye on renowned director Mike Nichols, Cosmopolitan magazine founder Helen Gurley Brown or herself, as she chronicles her own beauty makeover Ephron deftly weaves her journalistic skill with the intimate style of an essayist and the incomparable talent of a great storyteller.

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Customer Reviews

When Ephron speaks we all listen..., we get smarter..., and we chuckleAnd guffaw...,none like her....do not miss

Ephron is at her best, and it was fun to go back and read about the 70's. Life looked much simpler then--before email and social media. Who would have thought.... ? She's one of the few who still makes me laugh out loud.

Not a good read for me

Nora Ephron's first collection of columns, while not quite rising to the level of her brilliant *Scribble Scribble: Notes on the Media* or *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*, proves greatly entertaining. Her articles, all originally published in magazines in 1968 or 1969, remain hilarious and interesting, particularly the looks at *Women's Wear Daily* when it was still the bitchy record of the *Ladies Who Lunch*, before it atrophied into *WWD*, at the bloviating Ayn Rand, and at the rise of men's fashion with Bill Blass. In the case of "The Man in the Bill Blass Suit," that article gives the modern reader a disorienting view of a time when it was considered daring to hint that a magazine subject was gay. It saddens me to think that Ephron, who died last year, will never pen another astute and amusing observation on life, the media or popular culture. Unlike Ephron's *Crazy Salad: Some Things About Women* (Modern Library Humor and Wit), *Wallflower at the Orgy* has mostly aged pretty well -- although it's hard to imagine a time when Jacqueline Susann's breathy fiction was considered all that. Who could read dreck like that nowadays? Oh, wait a minute! There's that schlocky *Fifty Shades Darker*! A woman! Maybe times haven't changed all that much after all!

I love Nora Ephron movies and was very excited to try one of her books. But I think I should have started with something else. I am sixty-something so I was familiar with some of the people she profiles in the articles here (Mike Nichols, Bill Blass, Helen Gurley Brown, others). But I didn't think she got to the heart of any of them. What made men want Bill Blass suits instead of gray flannel? Nora doesn't say. I couldn't help but contrast with another book of collected magazine articles I read recently: Rick Bragg's *Southern Journal*. I can't help but think that his book is timeless because it shows not just what people were doing, but why. He shows a way of life fast disappearing or already gone, but so intimately so that we feel connected to these people. He loves his people. Whereas Nora Ephron's articles here are not about the times, but about people who were outwardly successful in those times. We don't really connect with them. We're reduced to wallflowers, too. Ultimately dated and superficial.

This is a book of essays from the early 1970s. It is a good example of the fleeting nature of current style, news and culture. I had to constantly remind myself that these were written 40 years ago and remember my mind-set at that time(I'm going on 60). Ironically, I'd just read the essay about Helen Gurley Brown shortly before she died. It was an interesting dip into the past but I'm not sure it was worth the price.

Great fun to read. She helps make it okay to laugh at getting old.

What a gas to remember the era these essays were written in - and about! And a great reminder of just how far back evidence of Ephron's singular voice and talent goes. These essays are for me lovely little cocktails - tasty, mood-altering and occasionally capable of facilitating a-ha's. A fun, satisfying read for the Nora fan.

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