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Accidental Playboy: Caught In The Ultimate Male Fantasy



Synopsis

Accidental Playboy is the hilarious, erotic, and provocative memoir of a sensitive post-modern man who stumbles into the dream job of a lifetime. When Playboy magazine tapped Leif Ueland to report on its nationwide search for the Playmate of the Millennium, he was the ultimate confused American male. A self-professed nice guy, raised in a family with strong feminist traditions, Ueland had retreated from even the idea of dating, opting instead to wrestle with his stalled first novel. In short, he thought himself the last man to be on Playboy's roving audition bus, never mind its official reporter. And yet, something deep within his psyche leapt at the opportunity. In this Hunter Thompsonesque chronicle, Ueland describes his six months in a high-tech mobile photo studio - an upside-down world where women can't wait to disrobe and get into the pages of Playboy. He tells of the seen-it-all photographers, the jaded female PR rep, and of course, the Playmate hopefuls themselves, a parade of young women looking for a better life - and simultaneously more and less innocent than we expect. Wading deeper and deeper into a sea of beauty, nudity, sex, and ambition, Ueland undergoes an intriguing transformation that discloses important truths about men and women and the gravitational forces that bind them. An extraordinary work of reportage and a powerful look at American sexual mores, Accidental Playboy is also hilarious, showing what happens when a "shy guy" breaks out of his shell, and the whole world starts spinning his way. Accidental Playboy is also available in print from Warner Books.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I know this is supposed to be a memoir/personal account but this guy is more self conscious than

Woody Allen at his worst. Everything is portrayed in terms of how he responded to it or how it responded to him. And he's not very interesting.

Everyone straight male in his 30s will get this book. And every woman will be so amazed (and happy) about what they learn. What a talented, hilarious, loveable guy (and writer). As clever as Dave Eggers or Woody Allen, but much more... more sweet, or honest, or real -- something.

I actually just finished listening to this book from Audible.com, and I jumped on to buy copies for people I know...which I am normally hesitant to do--push copies of something I have read onto others. But this book is surprising...an insight into a world that is not normally available to most of us...and funny...because this is not the "typical" male response you would expect in light of seeing scads of women naked and often available. As a woman, I thought that it was kind of liberating, and as an avid reader of Playboy, a fun "backstage" view of part of that mystical world. Leif is undoubtedly on the fringes of the Playboy world, but gives a unique perspective on the human condition, as it relates to gender and sexuality. An easy, must read for many!

I found this book in the political figures section of audible.com and downloaded it on a whim. It turns out to be the most entertaining piece of non-fiction that I have read/heard in a long time. Leif Ueland, fearless reporter, begins the 1999 search for the millenium playmate very tentatively and is hesitant to dive into the playboy culture. As the bus trip/search progresses, he becomes more bold and lives out a handful of his own "Hef-scapades". Leif Ueland offers an incredibly insightful and sensitive perspective of the millenium playmate search and the Playboy corporate culture. The book is reminiscent of Hunter S Thompson trips but with a 90's flair.

After a exhausting week at work, I picked this book up along with some Haagen Daz and bottle of champagne wanting a mindless, childish weekend at home. I started the book not expecting much, Ueland won me over after a few pages. I resisted, and much like being in the company of a new love affair, I slowly melted and was left begging for more. Although I am not claiming it to be the most well written book, nor a masterpiece, it is however brutally honest and says what most men would hesitate to say. His wit, his words, the sarcasm... We need more Ueland's around. I suggest anyone with any sort of interest in human nature to pick it up, and any gal ever confounded by the male sex needs a copy as well. Oh and did I mention, the general male population could stand to take a few tips.

The book chronicles nerve.com columnist Leif Ueland's experience after he was "accidentally" thrust by circumstance into the position of chronicling Playboy's search for their year 2000 "playmate of the millennium" for the Playboy Web site. So, early on, the book promises to be something of an expose of the shallowness involved in the whole liking-people-for-their-looks thing, by someone who thinks of himself as a deep thinker, who is working on the great American novel. But, the opposite turns out to be the case. It is, "accidentally" an expose of this so-called deep thinker who, as a friend of mine put it, "thinks he's a saint because he's one step removed from the devil himself." That is, because he's maybe 10% less shallow than the incredibly shallow people around him, he thinks he's incredibly un-shallow, which he isn't. Almost immediately, he's dropped his idea of making his playboy.com column classy, and is obsessed with making it popular. And he keeps telling himself that, because he'll never have another opportunity like this, it's important that he have sex with someone once during this year of working for Playboy. And like a made-for-playboy movie, the book's climax comes when he sleeps with a random stranger who he met on the road, as though that resolves everything.

I just finished this hilarious book, *Accidental Playboy*. I purchased the book to give to my boyfriend for X-Mas, knowing he would love it. Unfortunately, I randomly opened to page 5, my eyes focusing on a line that I don't think I can repeat here. I only put it down to sleep and eat. Ueland is so honest about his sexuality, or lack there of, and I adored that as well. I also loved how he revealed so much through the scenes with his therapist and really let women in on how the mind of at least one guy works. I could go on and on. All and all I loved it and now must buy my boyfriend his own copy.

I thought this book was interesting and funny. The author seems quite honest and tries to be such a "good guy" despite finding himself in the middle of the "ultimate" male fantasy. He is introspective on some levels, but doesn't seem to ever realize that little by little he becomes just another man perpetuating harmful stereotypes about women and supporting a corporation that thrives on objectifying them. If Mr. Ueland has foremothers who were writers, they would probably be proud of his skill as an author. But I'm guessing that his feminist foremothers, whom he mentions, would be disgusted.

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