



Pranks

V. Vale , Andrea Juno

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A prank is a trick, a mischievous act, and a ludicrous act. Although not regarded as poetic or artistic acts, pranks constitute an art form and genre. Here, pranksters such as Mark Pauline, Monte Cazazza, Jello Biafra, Joe Coleman, Karen Finley, Henry Rollins, John Waters and Henry Rollins challenge the sovereign authority of words, images and behavioral convention. Some tales are bizarre, as when Boyd Rice presented the First Lady with a skinned sheep's head on a platter. This iconoclastic compendium will dazzle and delight all lovers of humor, satire and irony. A great quotations section is also included.

Pranks Details

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From Reader Review Pranks for online ebook

Scott Fisher says

One of the best books of all time. I read it regularly.

Xavier Graye says

Read this years ago, was delighted & inspired, as with many of the first runs of ReSearch, they were splendid provocative magazines for a teen get hold of, lead to further exploration into many topics, writers, performers.

Ryan Mishap says

Jesse had this back when we lived in Ashland. It's a collection of underground artists recalling various pranks they've done or had done to themselves. Entertaining, yes, but don't stop there, it could also be highly instructive for the aspiring prankster. Just don't play one on me, because I won't laugh with you at the joke--I will beat you to death.

So think about that before you plan.

wixlet says

Among other things, I learned that one should not dress a portly child in yellow.

Gayla says

Loved this book when I was a teenager. It was the inspiration for all kinds of ridiculous art projects. The Jeffery Vallance stuff is my favourite.

HeavyReader says

This book is exquisite!

I didn't know what category to put it in, but decided on art because many of the folks in this book are artists, and favorites because (duh!) it is one of my favorite books.

It's a series of interviews with folks who have pulled colossal pranks. Some of these folks have been pulling pranks their whole lives. The pranks are really clever (not slapstick) and often make people question their

assumptions and the things they take for granted about the world that we live in. I think this book is all about making people think and question and feel.

My one critique of this book is that hardly any women are represented. Do women not pull pranks, are they difficult to find, or did the author of this book just not try hard enough?

Salem says

The RE/Search series of interviews, amazing quotations, and marginalized information influenced much of my editing approach; i.e., find the people that you have the most fascinating conversations with (preferably those who other people are afraid to talk to) and publish the results. Pranks is surprisingly informative about more than just tomfoolery - situationism, the conditions of war, and the power of radio can be explored in this volume.

Djll says

This book would be essential just for the contributions of Joey Skaggs, Abbie Hoffman, Jeffrey Vallance, and Alan Abel. But you get Joe Coleman, Karen Finley, Paul Krassner, Bob Zoell, Mark Pauline, Paul Mavrides... when I was younger I thought Boyd Rice's ideas were funny as hell but now much of that stuff seems cruel and pointless.

Aaron says

One of my all-time favorites. I laughed until I cried for twenty minutes straight. Several times. If you're suicidal, I recommend this. Now watch, you'll probably hate it...

Tosh says

Pranks as an artform to provoke 'culture, state of mind, and family.' Another Re-Search masterpiece.

Andrew says

Chock full of crazy stories, and crazier people. Maybe the best one is the sicko who dosed his parents with acid, replaced all their white light bulbs with colored ones, shaved their poodle in punk patterns, and tossed the pup into the middle of the living room. Like pretty much the entire RE-Search output, it ain't for the squeamish.

David Raffin says

If you learn nothing else from this book you will at least learn this important lesson:
If you look like you belong somewhere -- people will generally ask no questions.

This is one of the most important things for an urban prankster to know.

This book is a series of interviews with people about pranks. One of the highlights is the interview with noise musician Boyd Rice. Rice also often appears as one of the interviewers.

Had this book come out more recently it would probably be called "culture jamming."

Dian says

Great photo/story book to possess, read aloud, be inspired by. I'm still telling stories I read in this. One about a cathouse for dogs was a priceless prank illuminating concern trolls long before we called them concern trolls. When I first saw it I knew "my people will be in here". It's about pranksters, folks I'd call interactive cultural anthropologists.

Kati Giblin says

Worth it mostly for Boyd Rice. That guy has a great attitude. After that, each interviewee has at least one funny or interesting story. The story of the Earth First "Smokey the Bear" guy fighting with the park ranger in front of little kids made me laugh out loud.

There's a lot of crazy art stuff in this book.

Thomas says

A crazy collection of interviews, instructionals and stories that will inspire and scare you. One side band I was in - Chicken in a Casket (with a song "For the Love of Blinky") - we owe it all to one of the stories recounted in this book. Classic (but perhaps a bit dated now).
