



Canadianity: Tales from the True North Strong and Freezing

Jeremy Taggart , Jonathan Torrens

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Canadianity: Tales from the True North Strong and Freezing Jeremy Taggart , Jonathan Torrens Sprung from their hugely successful podcast Canadianity, Taggart (that guy from that band) and Torrens (that guy from that show) share a collection of showbiz tales from the road and relatable everyday anecdotes, all wrapped up in a nostalgic fondness for this great country. *Canadianity* takes readers on a cross-country journey, shining the spotlight on notable local heroes (or *bahds*), the best places to crush food and the greasiest watering holes, coast to coast to coast.

Replete with lists of Canada's top bands, television shows and athletes, as well as random observations about everything this country has to offer, *Canadianity* is often provocative and always hilarious. Drawing on their combined experiences as a legendary drummer (Our Lady Peace) and a veteran talk-show host (*Jonovision*) respectively, Taggart and Torrens have infused their first book with equal parts beer and pop culture and added a heaping helping of irreverence.

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From Reader Review Canadianity: Tales from the True North Strong and Freezing for online ebook

Paul Demetre says

Started off as a three star book but built itself into a five star book by two great bahds!

Taggart (former Our Lady Peace drummer) and Torrens (Streetsense, Jonovision, Trailer Park Boys (knowwhatI'msayin') and Mr. D actor) are two high energy friends who host a podcast which can be a bit childish but is full of love for Canada and its interesting people.

This book explores the Canadian people and places that they love so much, as do I.

Contains many different chapters, including one about each province, along with a few other subjects. Their chapter about Newfoundland and Labrador made me laugh out loud when Torrens compared and contrasted his experience of working on The Shipping News with Kevin Spacey and Gordon Pinsent, then broke my heart writing about the native kids sniffing gas, then gave me hope for them and all of us on the next page.

Taggart also wrote one page on Terry Fox they may sum up my thoughts on him as concisely as I've ever seen.

If you love Canada read this book, if you only like Canada read this book and you'll love Canada too.

Kendra says

It's funny. I was most interested in the Torrens tales because I know his work much better. Very aw-shucks Canadian book.

Laura Frey (Reading in Bed) says

good for what it is, which is essentially a handy gift/ bathroom book for nostalgic Canadians of a certain age. Some truly great anecdotes. marred by some very tone-deaf musings on indigenous identity and spirituality, and defensiveness about sexism in comedy. I should add to "a certain age", also a certain background - white, working class, "bahds", basically.

I should add, all the interesting biographical stuff (why JROC left Trailer Park Boys, how he tried to "make it" in LA, and how Taggart lived in a beach house with Sean Avery in the early 00s and descended into alcoholism) was shoved in at the end, and I was like - I will read a whole book about this! This is the juicy stuff!

Vido says

Here's a true bahd story: Back in the 90s there were a few Canadian bands that I would check out regularly as they toured throughout southwestern Ontario. While waiting to meet members of IME after a show, I notice a guy at the back of the room who looks a lot like the drummer of OLP so I go up to him to confirm this and tell him how much I like his band. Keep in mind I was super nervous and it was totally unlike me to do this but Jeremy was super nice and friendly and didn't make me feel like I was bothering him at all. Flash forward a couple months later and I'm in the audience for an OLP interview with Jon Stewart (access courtesy of a friend's boyfriend who had promised us both tickets to a special OLP show the next night). I find out during this taping that the boyfriend only received two tickets and understandably he was going to use it for him and his girlfriend and so I was out of luck and super disappointed. My friends then suggest to me that I should just go up to Jeremy because of my encounter with him from months ago and ask him for a ticket and I was like, "who does that?" because it's definitely not me. Then I remembered that you only live once and just went for it. I re-introduce myself to Jeremy I think he may have "remembered" our previous encounter, start explaining the situation and before I could even get to the asking part (probably because he was sensing my anxiety) he opens up his jacket pulls out a ticket from the inside of his coat and hands it over. It was such a cool and kind moment that I have never forgotten and a story I always share when I'm hanging out with people and we start swapping concert stories and celebrity encounters, always ending with: "that Jeremy Taggart from Our Lady Peace, he's cool". As a proud regular patron of the library, this moment sealed my decision to buy this book instead of borrowing it and I've already bought one for an old bahd out west who I know will enjoy it. This book had me laughing out loud several times, reinforced my desire to visit Newfoundland and reminded me how much I love this country...thanks bahds!

Emily says

Taggart and Torrens have a podcast called Canadianity and this book is essentially a companion piece to the podcast. They dedicate a chapter per province and go all across Canada with personal anecdotes, bar and restaurant recommendations, and other highlights. They also cover a lot of nostalgia that Canadians of a certain age (probably 30s and over) will appreciate - from Heritage Moments to the Friendly Giant and Mr Dressup. It's amusing but seemed aimed at fans of the podcast or the authors and not so much for a broader audience. Maybe as a bathroom book to flip through the anecdotes, but it's really more a set of sketches and lists than a coherent book. Will Ferguson probably did the "who are Canadians" type humour book better with "Why I Hate Canadians".

Mina says

Full disclosure - I picked up this book purely for its Canadian content. I've never listened to a TnT podcast to date, but I respect both Taggart and Torrens as artists. From that perspective, this book was just alright. I did enjoy reading some of the stories, and if I was travelling the entire country tomorrow I would definitely appreciate the things to do, eat, see, etc. in each province and territory (however, I found the verb format of that section a bit repetitive and juvenile: CRUSH, SMASH, DESTROY!). But like a few of the other reviewers have pointed out, this seems to be a book written by bahds for bahds. It's probably a good compliment to the podcast if you're a fan.

BookMavenInTheMaking says

Ha!

I so totally feel equipped now to handle any poutine party that I'm ever invited to in the future!

Just kidding.

There's no such thing!

But Holy boats that would be an epic kind of party I bet?!

As a Canadian, these few hundred pages have reminded me how very lucky I am to live here. Being a Canadian is a privilege and a responsibility, as is being a decent and kind bahd(bud)to one and all.

Lots of humour. Lots of laughs.

Super easy and quick to read and understand. I liked it! ???

Gord says

OK collection of miscellaneous stories and musings regarding Canada and its diverse regions and culture.

Smiled often and chuckled occasionally but not much more. I was very unfamiliar with the many CBC shows they referenced, have never watched Trailer Park Boys and couldn't name more than a song or two of OLP so maybe a lot of references didn't mean as much to me as others?

I also admit to having never heard of their expression "bahd" that was used endlessly throughout the book to the point of irritation. I guess it must be a regional or a specific age-demographic thing???

Katie says

Super cute part-memoir, part-travelogue, part-travel guide, part-anthology of celebrity musings about Canada. If you were a fan of Our Lady Peace, Street Cents, Jonovision, Trailer Park Boys, Mr. D, the 1990s, 2000s, or Canadians, you'll find it amusing (if you're a fan of multiple things in this list, you'll find it absolutely terrific).

You can hear the voices of these two Canadian icons, and tell which chapter belongs to which person, even without the helpful title. These guys have humour by the (metric) bucketload and their two styles complement each other very well. While Jonathan Torrens' humour is a bit more calculated and witty, Jeremy Taggart's is a bit more self-deprecating and straightfaced. However, they both have elements of the other's in their chapters. It is so cohesive that it almost seems as if they co-wrote every piece of this book. I loved the seamless blend and transition between each author/superstar, as it encapsulates the common Canadian humour. Ironically, the word I would choose to describe it is "Canadianity".

Ingrid says

I had never listened to the Canadianity podcast so this was my first intro to Taggart and Torrens. The book grew on me as it went along. There's a chapter for each province which was interesting. There were all sorts of quizzes which were cute but didn't really work in an audiobook setting. Overall, I just enjoyed the Canadian culture coming from the book. Parts were funny, but mostly it was interesting. Loved the chapter at

the end about nostalgic things like TV shows we watched as a kid. (Littlest Hobo, anyone?) The guys often sounded like they were just reading their book, but Torrens would slip in to character here and there, thankfully. Glad I read it.

Sarah G-Law says

3.5

really fun listen while driving through the East Coast of Canada. Loved listening to funny, random stories about being Canadian and what each province/territory adds to the quilt that is Canada.

The pair describe each region so well and have inspired me to want to take a trip up north!

Darcy McLaughlin says

The definition of a bathroom book, it's a pretty scattered combination of short anecdotes, lists and games. If you regularly listen to the podcast then you won't really get a lot of new stuff here, as a lot of stories and games are repeated. It's written very much like a podcast, direct conversational style that's easy to read through. A lot of the material is quite short. The section where Taggart talks about leaving OLP he basically glosses over it in about two sentences, so if that's the kinda biographical stuff you're looking for then it's not the book for you.

H says

My lunchables has a first name

It's F-A-T-T-Y

My lunchables has a second name

It's O-V-E-R-P-A-C-K-A-G-I-N-G

It costs too much if you ask me

It's bad for the environment and nutritionally.....

Oscar Meyer Lunchables are F-I-T for the P-I-T

Teena in Toronto says

I didn't know that Taggart and Torrens had podcasts. To be honest, I didn't know who Taggart was (he was the drummer in Canadian rock band, Our Lady Peace from 1993 to 2014). Why I picked up this book is because it was Canadian and I knew who Torrens is (I know him as J-Roc from The Trailer Park Boys).

Taggart and Torrens have known each other since 2004. Taggart had become a regular on The Jay & Dan Podcast and Torrens went on the show. They decided to do a podcast together. It was so much fun doing it

so they continued to make them. And then they decided to write this book.

The chapters each cover a province starting with Torren's home province of Prince Edward Island followed by Taggart's home province of Ontario. Each chapter starts with bahd (short for buddy) bands from the province followed by five notable bahds. Then Taggart and Torrens bounce back and forth, each sharing their memories and stories of that particular province. Also in the chapters are tidbits of information and quizzes. The chapters end with "Gotta Do's" in that province. One of the last chapters is called "Canadianity for Dummies" and discusses Canadian shows like The Beachcombers, Wok with Yan, Speakers' Corner, Kids in the Hall, Test Pattern, Codco and more.

I liked the writing style of this book. Taggart and Torrens have different styles and though their stories and ramblings are labeled, you can tell whose voice it is (Taggart swears a lot more). The stories and experiences were interesting ... I like this kind of behind the scenes stuff. Canadian readers will relate to this book and it's a good explanation of who we are to non-Canadians.

Nick says

The book starts out entertaining but quickly becomes repetitive as torrens and taggart tell stories of their work and travels through canada. The life they've lived screams canadiana stereotype. The stories and writing get thinner the further west they travel in the country with a small blurb on Edmonton and nothing about calgary in Alberta and never getting anywhere in BC besides Vancouver and small parts of Vancouver island. The book eventually becomes little better than a tourism guide.
