



Balsamic Dreams: A Short But Self-Important History of the Baby Boomer Generation

Joe Queenan

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The author of the bestselling *Red Lobster*, *White Trash*, and *the Blue Lagoon* takes aim at the boomer generation in a hilarious work of social commentary.

It's become fashionable to vilify baby boomers. Professional iconoclast and baby boomer Joe Queenan, however, takes a somewhat more benign position: Yes, the baby boomers are venal, self-obsessed egomaniacs blighted by an insalubrious interest in things like the provenance of their neighbors' balsamic vinegar. But this does not make them the "worst generation" -- it just makes them the most annoying.

In *Balsamic Dreams*, Queenan chronicles the evolution of his generation and critiques its current condition in chapters such as:

--J'Accuse: a bold indictment of the boomers' greatest transgressions, past and present

--Ten Days That Rocked the World: in which Queenan identifies the precise moments things went awry (#1: the release of Carole King's *Tapestry*)

--Careful, the Staff Might Hear You: an examination of the unspoken, nefarious alliance between baby boomers and Generation X

--American History: The B-Sides: an alternative version of the Republic as played out with baby boomers in the starring roles

A measured (if a tad cranky) assessment of a generation whose greatest sin lies in confusing lifestyle for life and pop culture for culture, *Balsamic Dreams* is fresh, funny, and irresistible.

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