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Just Can't Get Enough: Toys, Games, And Other Stuff From The 80s That Rocked



Synopsis

In this fond trip down memory lane, *Just Can't Get Enough* celebrates all the awesome products kids collected, begged their parents for, threw tantrums about, and obsessed over in the 1980s. From Hit Stix to Hungry, Hungry Hippos, My Little Pony to My Buddy, this book has all the toys and games that made the '80s one of the gnarliest decades of the century. Packed with colorful photographs and illustrations and written in an entertaining, irreverent style, *Just Can't Get Enough* is filled with personal anecdotes, funny facts, and random trivia, along with special features like the Redonkulous Meter, which measures how beyond ridiculous each product truly was. Hilarious and original, this book is a must-have for anyone who ever snuggled with their Care Bear, staged epic battles between He-Man and Skeletor, played with their Lite-Brite for hours, or all of the above.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Matthew Robinson was born and raised on a steady diet of action figures and Saturday morning cartoons. When he's not writing, he's a member of the popular comedic rap group the Trilambs. He lives in Los Angeles. Jensen Karp is a professional 1980s pop culture historian, talented rapper named Hot Karl, and owner of Gallery 1988, a pop art gallery named after his favorite year. He once met Anthony Michael Hall and lives in Los Angeles.

This book is definitely a trip down memory lane. If you're in the right age range, then while flipping

through it you're likely to have an "Aw man! I had one of those!" or "Aw man! I SO wanted one of those!" moment. Younger generations probably won't get the same warm-and-fuzzy results, but you could definitely hand it off to your kids as an example of "the stuff your mom and dad played with". At the time of this review, the book is starting to show its age a bit (considering it was written almost a decade before), but the references definitely won't be lost on those of us who grew up in the '80s. My only nitpicks against the book would be the lack of other iconic toys that one was likely to have seen/owned during the '80s (e.g. Teddy Ruxpin, the Atari 2600, etc.), and the design of the book itself. While making it look like a Trapper Keeper that is adorned with stickers is a stroke of nostalgia-driven genius, the Velcro-closure flap makes it a bit difficult to hold while reading through it, unless you want to bend the cover back. All in all, this book is a fun read. While it may have more impact on the children of the '80s than those of newer generations, I'd still recommend it to readers of all ages.

There's a certain innocence about the 80's that seems very transparent by today's standards. But in the 80's... we all thought that we were living a revolution of cutting edge pop culture. Little did we know that those years would pale in comparison to the childhood trends of the 90's & 2000's. I really believed that I had dismissed from my mind most of the decade and rightly so, it seemed so 20 something years ago. But honestly this book made me really appreciate what I had forgotten. Being a kid of the Reagan Era, I lived through the 90's thumbing my nose at most of these pop culture icons (and listening to grudge rock). I bought "Just Can't Get Enough" as a passing fancy (being a follower of vintage toys), not knowing that the personal stories and memories of the authors would be the gems within. The Book Itself - It's pretty neat really. The chapters are each a certain 80's icon, divided into small subsections with titles like, "The Story" or "The Products" or "What Does It All Mean?" All of this wrapped up in a suedo-Trapper Keeper style cover with a velcro clasp. When reading the chapters, you begin to appreciate how much time and effort was put into this book. With chapters devoted to Transformers, He-Man, Madballs, Scratch N' Sniff stickers, Garbage Pail Kids, etc., the book gives equal focus, regardless of obscurity. I particularly liked the toys that I remembered fondly from childhood, but also enjoyed the great details about toys I never knew - i.e. Pogo Ball or "Pogo Bal" as the writers note humorously. The authors treat us to most of the usual suspects of the decade, but there are a few rarely honored candidates such as Crossbows And Catapults, Choose Your Own Adventure books, and Hit-Stix among others. Also, there are some obvious misses such as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Ghostbusters, Gremlins, Get Along Gang, Shirt Tales, Smurfs, Pound Puppies, etc. Hopefully these oversights make way for a follow-up

volume. But what you do get makes up for anything not included. First thing you will notice is the great writing style. I particularly like the sarcastic overtone that seems to permeate from every page, pure "Gen X" humor at its best. These authors go to great lengths to make each chapter witty and nostalgic. In fact, if you are unable to feel an overwhelming sense of nostalgia after reading this book, then you most likely were born after Operation Desert Shield... or during the hay days of Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In. Whether you relive the 80's regularly or haven't looked back since 1990 - this book is going to trigger fond memories... or at least jar something loose from the painfully hidden recesses of the mind.

My Personal Reaction - I found myself on several occasions laughing out loud. My girlfriend seemed frustrated with me continually interrupting her TV watching by loudly exclaiming, "listen to this" as I read aloud large passages time and time again. Finally she picked up the book, which was a big mistake for me... since it took me quite a while to get it back. She appreciated different sections (the My Little Pony, Strawberry Shortcake, Rainbow Brite). It was like going to Toys 'R Us from your childhood; you either were in the boys section or over in the pink section if you were a girl - no matter which, it was fun. So I can say, there is something for everyone, boys and girls alike. Personally, I was pleasantly surprised by my fascination with chapters like the game Guess Who?, which I actually hated as a child. The more ridiculous the idea the funnier the commentary became as the authors put it all in perspective. And when I say perspective, I mean being a 20 something or 30 something adult. There is some crude humor in here that is not at all pointed to the young kids we once were. But honestly, do we expect any children today to even bother reading this? I can plainly put that to rest - kids today would never "get" what this book is about. Once you start reading, remember this isn't just a book about the items; it's a book about how they all relate to us - the children of the 80's. So don't get caught up expecting a long treatise on the history of everything 1980's, that's not what it's about.

Final Thoughts - I read this only wanting more. The only fix for your "jonesing" would be to share this with others. If you buy this book, then don't forget to invite your other Gen X friends or siblings or whoever to a fun filled day in the way-back machine. I highly recommend this book as a fan of humor and 80's pop culture. But, if you only want to see details of 80's toys - minus the nifty sarcasm, then check out *Action Figures of the 1980s (Schiffer Book for Collectors)* - it's loaded with great pictures. But be warned, that book doesn't have a one-tenth the laughs of "Just Can't Get Enough." If the authors do nothing else, then this book is still a masterpiece in its own right and worthy of a notable writing career. I hope this isn't the end though; there are plenty of unvisited pop culture products still lurking in our memories for "Just Can't Get Enough"... Volume 2.

I thought the book would be the size of an actual TRAPPER KEEPER...its a little smaller...but other than that.. the book is great...very sturdy...not cheap material. It dedicates a page or two on every toy such as He man...Gi Joe....its fun to read and look at the toys. I am pretty happy with the book..oh...it has the velcro just like the TRAPPER KEEPER which I thought was cool. It also has scratch and sniff stickers on the front which is cool except they don't smell. You will enjoy this book

We loved the book. However, it shipped to the US from the UK and took almost a month! Are there no planes? It was almost a week over the estimated delivery window. But the book is great.

What a fantastic random find on !! I grew up in the 80s and now grown with kids of my own. Being a parent has brought me back to my childhood and reminiscing about the greatest toys we used to have. In the last few yrs I've been collecting many of those same toys for my kids today. This book is amazing, from cover (LOVE the trapper keeper cover that really opens & velcros shut) to every page inside. Very entertaining & funny, written wonderfully, great toy pics and facts. Some of these toys, etc I hadn't seen in years so it was quite the trip down memory lane. I loved it so much, I'm ordering one for my brother as well for Christmas -- he's going to love it!!! Worth every penny! Highly recommended, essential for the 80s archives.

"Forget the yellow folder with the drawings of those different sports guy on it. Forget the fancy pencil holder with secret compartments. Forget your two-dollar eraser in the shape of a hamburger. The Trapper Keeper was the only must-have school supply. The Trapper Keeper you had said a lot about who you were. The kids with the Hawaiian sunset were the deep, moody kids. The girls with the kitties were the good girls. The girls with the unicorns were the artsy girls. The boys with the sports cars were the jerks. The boys with planets and stars were smart. The boys with "Rad Dog" written on theirs were burnouts. And the kid with the panda bear was having trouble at home. It was all very simple and obvious." So says the entry on the Trapper Keeper. Yeah, it's that good.

Just Can't Get Enough: Toys, Games, and Other Stuff from the 80s that Rocked Such great memories surfaced as I read the book. Remembering the fun of taking my child shopping to buy these products. Remembering each toy and laughing out loud. I've given the book to all my friends who have kids that grew up with these toys. The comments back after their kid reads the book "wow, that was so fantastic", truly an opportunity to relive your kid's childhood and give one to your kid. Trust me, they will LOVE it. The book has so much information and the layout and photos are

appealing and fun.

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