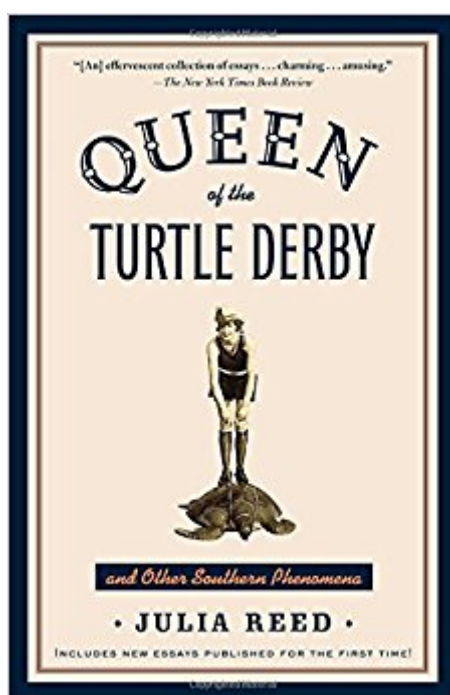


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# Queen Of The Turtle Derby And Other Southern Phenomena: Includes New Essays Published For The First Time



## Synopsis

In classic Dixie storytelling fashion, with a rare blend of literary elegance and plainspoken humor, the inimitably charming, staunchly Southern Julia Reed wends her way below the Mason-Dixon line and observes many phenomena— from politics, religion, and women to weather, guns, and what she calls “drinking and other Southern pursuits.” To hear Reed tell it, the South is another country. She builds an entertaining and persuasive case, using as examples everything from its unfathomable codes of conduct to its disciplined fashion sense. And then there is Southern food, which is an entire world apart: Gumbo, grits, greens, and, of course, fried chicken make memorable appearances in Reed’s essays, which will amuse, delight, and even explain a thing or two to baffled Yankees everywhere.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (April 12, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812973615

ISBN-13: 978-0812973617

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #292,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Cooking](#) #124 in [Books > Travel > United States > South > General](#) #384 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > U.S. Regional > South](#)

## Customer Reviews

In this engaging collection of essays, Mississippi native Reed—a writer for *Vogue* and the *New York Times Magazine* who now splits her time between New Orleans and New York City—presents a fresh and eclectic portrait of the South. Reed’s vision is both celebratory and critical, and it underscores her assertion that the South is “much more complicated and more interesting” than standard perceptions and caricatures of the region suggest. She tackles amusing topics like Southern hairdos and fashion, and the unrivaled pride Southern women take in their appearance (“I once saw three Chi Omegas jogging on the Ole Miss campus at seven-thirty in the morning in pale pink sweatsuits, full makeup and perky ponytails ties with matching pink bows”). She also addresses more serious issues, such as the area’s high rates of violence and lack

of gun control. And as she renders an honest portrayal of the quirks, foibles and wonders of the region, she even pays homage to (and provides a recipe for) that Southern food staple: fried chicken. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

For a region that lives and dies by its time-honored, if tawdry, traditions and is known for its colorful, if not controversial, characters, the South has some explaining to do for its excessive eccentricities. And there is no one more capable than Reed, a Mississippi native and part-time resident of New Orleans and New York whose foot in both Dixie and Yankee camps gives her a unique, biregional vantage point from which to observe her homeland. Taking on such sacrosanct southern staples as cuisine, couture, and crime, Reed blends the factual with the fanciful to examine the ways in which southerners differ from their neighbors to the north. Going beyond the biscuits-versus-bagels bread brouhaha, Reed explores southern standards of beauty and exposes southern double standards of justice. She recounts the South's penchant for pageants and fondness for football, shares its secret recipes, and skewers its salacious stereotypes in a playful collection of essays that humorously and humbly celebrates the quirkiness that lies deep in the heart of Dixie. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Wow, where do I start? I read this book in one sitting and laughed and cried while I was at it. Being from Arkansas myself, I cannot tell you how many times I have heard, "What would people think?" It was a mantra in my household, particularly when I was trying to do something as outrageous as leaving the house without lipstick. I turned about every other page over to show my husband later, so he would understand me better! I felt Ms. Reed presented both sides of the South well... the backward (and oft times embarrassing) ways, and the strong traditions and attitudes that make a real (positive) difference in a person's life. I bought it for my mom and her three sisters, as I knew they would laugh as hard as I did at how she nailed so many aspects of Southerners. I've also given this book to several young women, as I think it portrays the strength of Southern women. Ms. Reed finally gave me a way of explaining to blue-state Northerners (where I live now) why I'm so proud of being Southern.

This was such a funny and nostalgic book. I saw so many of the "characters" I've grown up with or known in this book. The used copy I received was in terrible condition, I may have to find another copy that's in better condition to keep. This is a Southern classic.

I laughed out loud multiple times reading this collection of essays. The stories about her family and friends are so familiar to anyone raised in the South.

Only a Southerner could have written this. The stories not only ring true, but made me laugh out loud on the NYC subway. This is a FUN read.

Such a good read, started and finished on our way to Hawaii

I decided to read this book when I saw an article on it in our local paper. It is based in MS & LA & since I live in LA close to MS, I decided to read it. I even bought an extra copy to give to my sister for her birthday.

A good, funny Read!

story not as well written as some others

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