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Lizzy Miles

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Memories of America's most hated vice



Edited by Lizzy Miles

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Lizzy Miles : The Smoking Section: Memories of America's most hated vice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Smoking Section: Memories of America's most hated vice:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For smokers and non-smokers alike!By Grampa CaligulaFirst, a bit of disclosure - I've written one of the stories in this book.Second bit - I am a vehement nonsmoker.Given the quality of the finished product, however, I'm very happy to have been included in this collection. It is a well written and aptly

assembled collection of personal stories regarding smokers, non-smokers and the smoke filled air they share. There's a common thread that links smokers and nonsmokers alike, and the contributors share tales varying from their first cigarette and why they still enjoy to smoke to the struggles of kicking the habit. There is a fun bit of juxtaposition in the overall narrative, and that makes the collection quite enjoyable. In my own story, for example, I theorized that smokers go out of their way to annoy people who don't care for smoking. In another story, a smoker talks about how she enjoys annoying people who don't care for the smoke. Contributing stories of her own, Lizzy Miles explains her love/ hate (though, I gathered, mostly love) relationship with smoking, and how her habit had actually been a benefit to her life in some ways. As a nonsmoker, these are perspectives that I had largely been unaware, but have always suspected (and to be honest, slightly resented.) As I noted, I am not a smoker. I could, however, completely relate to one author's experience to start smoking, or going to school smelling like a parent's ashtray. Though I am still unable to relate to the pleasure that people enjoy while smoking, I can at least understand it a little better, and this is what makes this book so appealing to read. Tales of buying cigarettes at the store as a child with only a note, for example - that was a page out of my own childhood. Watching a friend take that first big drag on a menthol cigarette, only to turn green during a coughing fit - I remember that, too. It becomes an exploration of what motivates some people to smoke vs. what keeps them from smoking. Gaining insight into why some people continue to smoke while others can't (or won't) quit. In reading this book, you begin to see smoking as its own culture driven underground by a public that has since swapped up to sugar as its vice. The stories are telling of their authors, but even as a nonsmoker, they are both engaging and relatable. No two stories read the same, and the thread is common all the same. All and all, a good read!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I can't wait to send a copy out to some of my favorite smoker and ex-smokers alike. By Sabrina Binkley I laughed out loud on several occasions while reading this collection of stories. As a former smoker I can relate to much the authors shared. I can't wait to send a copy out to some of my favorite smoker and ex-smokers alike.

In *The Smoking Section*, twenty-one smokers, former smokers and never-smokers from across America take a lighthearted look at America's most hated vice. We start out as children hating cigarettes and smoke. Then how in the world do we end up addicted to nicotine, craving that next drag? Often there is someone who leads us to the dark side... perhaps it was an older sibling that we looked up to, or the 'cool kid' with the leather jacket. Even if we've quit the habit and we know our health is better, sometimes we still think about smoking. Sometimes we may dream about having a cigarette. Sometimes we may "cheat" and have a cigarette when we're out with friends. And sometimes, we succumb and are drawn back into the smoking section permanently. *The Smoking Section* takes a lighthearted and humorous look at the addiction.

About the Author Editor Lizzy Miles changes her mind frequently about her career identity, but has always held true to her enthusiasm for written and oral storytelling. Lizzy considers herself a non-smoker at home but still smokes while in Las Vegas. She lives in Central Ohio with her husband and two cats.