



The Real Animal House: The Awesomely Depraved Saga of the Fraternity That Inspired the Movie

By Chris Miller

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"Loud, raucous, infantile, racy, and very funny...The book is full of likable eccentrics, sexual shenanigans, and--if you know where to look for them--valuable life lessons."--Booklist

Animal House, the movie, didn't tell the half of it.

Writing with a freshness and joy that make Dartmouth 1960 feel like a beer-soaked rock-and-roll heaven on earth, Chris Miller tells the real story of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity as no one else could. Seal, Doberman, Otter, the legendary Moses (he of the burning bush) - these titans and dozens of others come alive again, terrorizing the administration, taunting cops, surviving their own lunacy, and challenging the squareness of a stifling time. *The Real Animal House* is the perfect antidote for a conventional age much like today.

"A breezy, chuckle-worthy read, and a must for the Animal House fan." - *Courier-Post*

"Action-packed. . . . A boozy holler of a book, with a great soundtrack." -*Kirkus Reviews*

"A seriously funny read. . . . The joy and exuberance that Pinto and his pals demonstrate holds a lesson for every generation that needs to learn not to blindly follow the expectations of parents and guidance counselors, but to seek out those blissful bands of merry misfits that appear from time to time." -*Review*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The screenplay for *National Lampoon's Animal House* was the brainchild of *National Lampoon* editor Harold Ramis, Doug Kenny and Miller, who turned Dartmouth frat life into the 1978 hit movie. Often, their stories were considered too sordid for Universal's producers to air. Ironically, what seemed too gross to put on screen in the '70s is now too boring to put in print. Yet without actors to give dimension to the zany characters, the tall tales feel like an awkward, horny sophomore faking bravado. What readers learn is Miller's obsession with puerile details and his insane desire to degrade himself. Pinto, the name he gave himself at Dartmouth, finds acceptance at a fraternity because of his "booting prowess" (vomiting skills); he witnesses the sexual victories of his pals, drinks himself sick and survives car accidents. Like the outtakes in DVDs, this book proves that Miller's frat-boy shenanigans deserved to stay on the cutting-room floor, not because of any sense of prudery, but to save the reader from testosterone-fueled overkill. Die-hard fans may be amused by the tales of "Bags" and "Seal," the two real-life inspirations for *Animal House*'s Bluto, the role John Belushi nailed. But none of the recorded pranks have the life-spirit contained in Belushi's clarion call: "Toga!" (*Dec.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Billed as a "wildly exaggerated memoir," this book by the writer whose autobiographical stories for *National Lampoon* were the basis of the movie *Animal House* is exactly what you would expect it to be: loud, raucous, infantile, racy, and very funny. It's hard to tell where Miller draws the line between reporting and making it up, but does it really matter? Like the movie, this *Animal House* isn't about real fraternity life; it's about the life that the stereotypical frat brother from the 1950s and early 1960s wishes he had lived. The book is full of likable eccentrics, sexual shenanigans, and--if you know where to look for them--valuable life lessons. Put on a CD of '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll, sit back, and let Miller transport you to a place and time that never actually existed--but wouldn't it be something if it had? *David Pitt*

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Review

"McLaren's matter-of-fact tone makes the bizarre stories that much zanier. He even executes the musical cues within the text impressively." ---AudioFile

Users Review

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Shelia Lopez:

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Concepcion Shaw:

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