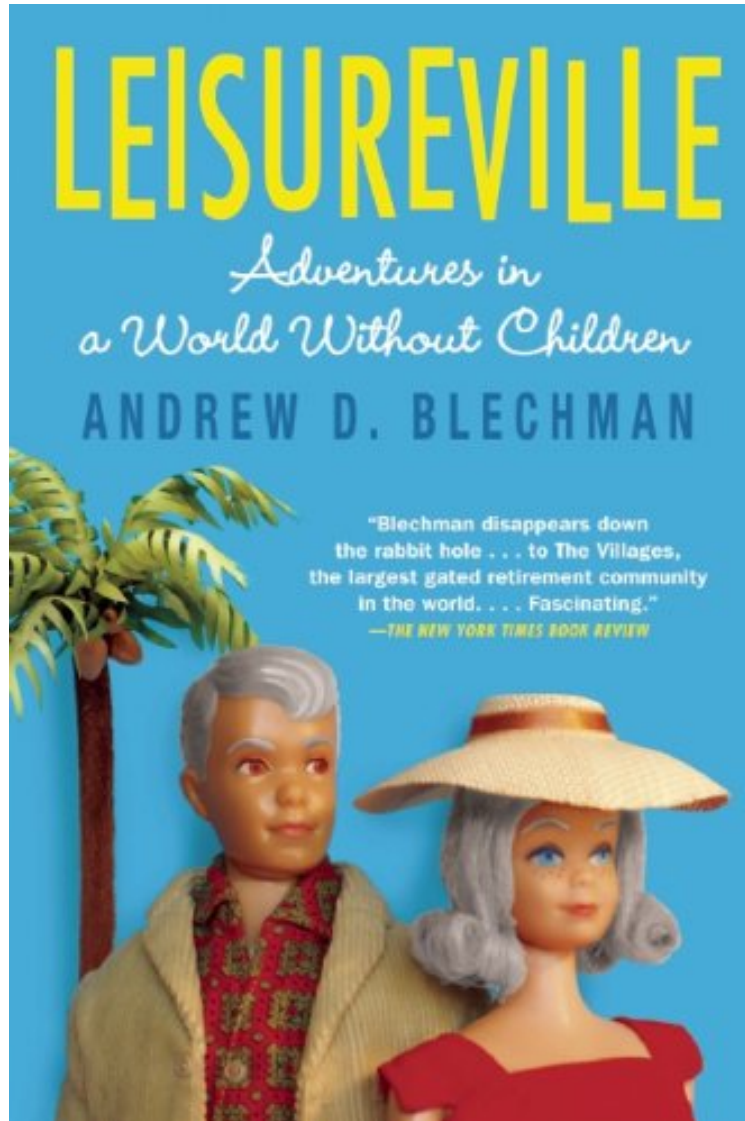


[Read ebook] Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children

Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children

Andrew D. Blechman

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Andrew D. Blechman : Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A master of dark comedy. By CARL R We moved to the Villages after reading the book. It is dead on, the history of such communities was fascinating, and the authors take on this place was accurate but we moved here anyway. We don't play golf or line dance but there is something magical about the place. It is very friendly and relaxed. Everyone is so darn nice here in Florida. We moved here from Long Island Ny and the Villages is a dream come true. You open the door and people are waving and it is almost like having a

large family for a neighborhood. I have never lived anywhere where so many people are just happy. The book hints at all this and also goes into the more dark aspects of living here. I loved the book for all the great information on the Village life style. The author is very entertaining, crafty and comic in a dark way. It is a lovely read and I am half way through reading it a second time now that I live here in the Villages. My wife and I love living in the Villages and really found Leisureville a wonderful read. I bought Andrew's book on pigeons and look forward to reading his other book. Mr Blechman is a master of dark comedy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A different view By Cinnamon Biscuit The writers view of a combined society with all ages is a bias throughout the entire book. He does list several faults of the Villages including the development control. Some real figures are sprinkled in but sparse. And the playboy character has to be a minority if mostly couples live there. Although he gives no reason people who have paid their dues are responsible to help his generation the tone harps through the entire book. I would ask him to see when the last time anyone under 30 spent two minutes talking to a senior they didn't know, but somehow they should pay for the school or other parks the family of the 30 year old wants. I am five years from even being eligible to live in the Villages and I find the authors point of view to be selfish. There is some good fact finding and questionable practices uncovered, but the depth is shallow and the writing leans heavy. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed this book, brings up interesting points By maureen I enjoyed this book and it offered some interesting points. I think the author did his research. What the author is missing is the perspective of a senior citizen and there is no way he could have that perspective. As a young retiree, 57, parent and grandparent I can definitely see the appeal of an age restricted community. At 57 I'm really not old but our society definitely makes a person feel that way. Once you are a certain age, people look at you differently. That reality, that understanding is what the author is missing. In a place like THE VILLAGES the old people rhetoric is nullified. I would tell him, work a job you hate for 30+ years, struggle raising kids (the hardest job of all) and see if you are ready for LEISUREVILLE. Now let me say, I am thankful for the jobs I've had, love my children, like other peoples children, feel that everyone has obligations to our society but I would like to experience a place like THE VILLAGES.

When his next-door neighbors in a quaint New England town suddenly pick up and move to a gated retired community in Florida called The Villages, Andrew Blechman is astonished by their stories, so he goes to investigate. Larger than Manhattan, with a golf course for every day of the month, two downtowns, its own newspaper, radio, and TV station, The Villages is a city of nearly one hundred thousand (and growing) missing only one thing: children. In the critically acclaimed Leisureville, Blechman delves into life in the senior utopia, offering a hilarious firsthand report on everything from ersatz nostalgia to the residents surprisingly active sex life. But this is more than just a romp through a retirement paradise; Blechman traces the history of the age-segregated retirement phenomenon, and travels to Arizona to show what has happened to the pioneering developments after decades of segregation. A fascinating blend of serious history, social commentary, and hilarious, engaging reportage, Leisureville is an important book on a major, underreported trend.

From Publishers Weekly Blechman (Pigeons) journeyed to the age-segregated community of the Villages, in central Florida, to explore the reality of America's geritopia phenomenon. A sprawling, relentlessly cheerful development carved out of 33 square miles of pastureland, where 75,000 residents age 55 and older tool around in golf carts, the Villages is one of the most successful master-planned gated communities for retirees in the country, along with the older models of Sun City and Youngtown in Arizona. As part of his research for this engaging book, Blechman ensconced himself with the Villages' residents for a month, attending club meetings and exploring plentiful amenities, frequenting bars teeming with lecherous seniors, and patiently listening to residents' stories of jettisoning their pasts in colder climes for this autocratic fantasyland. Adult active housing is the fastest growing sector of the market, and municipalities are eager to attract these safe, lucrative, childless retirement communities. However, the author confronts the troubling trend toward isolation and escapism, and ponders how different the aging boomers are from their parents more diverse, more attached to cities and to their children, while resistant to the rules and regulations of a rigidly planned community. Ultimately, Blechman finds the residents blissful to be spared the friction and uncertainty of real life, yet, as one widow admits, There's a lot of sadness here. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Blechman describes this brave new world with determined good humor and considerable bemusement. He clearly disapproves of the whole thing, but accepts that for most residents living in these conditions is the fulfillment of a dream." ---Katherine A. Powers, The Boston Globe "Blechman describes this brave new world with determined good humor and considerable bemusement. He clearly disapproves of the whole thing, but accepts that for most residents living in these conditions is the fulfillment of a dream." -Katherine A. Powers, The Boston Globe --The Boston Globe "Andrew Blechman's account of the rampant unreality that has become the normal condition of life in Florida's child-free retirement ghettos is fascinating. The generation that enjoyed the greatest economic boom in the history of the world is going out with a bang--the sound of society blowing up in our faces. Blechman has a laser eye for the tragicomic absurdities of all the fun, games, and wild sex in theme-park senior villages where Oz-like control is exercised by the developer and his minions. His mordant report from a

strange land is consistently interesting." "Andrew Blechman's account of the rampant unreality that has become the normal condition of life in Florida's child-free retirement ghettos is fascinating. The generation that enjoyed the greatest economic boom in the history of the world is going out with a bang--the sound of society blowing up in our faces. Blechman has a laser eye for the tragicomic absurdities of all the fun, games, and wild sex in theme-park senior villages where Oz-like control is exercised by the developer and his minions. His mordant report from a strange land is consistently interesting." -James Howard Kunstler, author of *The Long Emergency*