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When The Offspring Have Sprung: Or, Happiness Is Turning The Nursery Into A Wine Cellar



Synopsis

Book by Anderson, William C.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The author, also referred to as "the old poop," shoots off one-liners like a souped-up BB gun, and the wife, a.k.a. Big Red, matches him tit for tat." - Kirkus Reviews, April 15, 1978

Mirth and madness reign supreme in William C. Anderson's high-flying comedy of a middle-aged man's return to college. His children having all left home (hence the title), our hero struggles with a wild, restless feeling. His sympathetic wife takes control, dissuades him from flying across the country in a balloon, and the couple moves to San Diego where he enrolls in college. Once in the swing of college days, Anderson happily makes friends with many of the students, gets involved with their love lives, literary ambitions, political causes, and their troubles with the law. He marches on a picket line and sponsors one of the contestants in a hilarious bathtub race. The novel touches upon a topic largely ignored: what does a couple do when their kids have fled the nest and retirement age approaches? The Andersons saw two options: to get a hammock and swing themselves to death or to regird their loins and charge the golden years with all flags flying. They chose the second. The pace is steady, and the comedy is steady too, yet Anderson is at times tender and genuinely moving. Witty and warm, WHEN THE OFFSPRING HAVE SPRUNG has all the freshness and ease of the best Anderson books.

This sounded like a romping good read, and indeed it was that! I noted that, while not actually stating what time period it took place, it was pretty obvious from some of the incidents and attitudes that this story took place in the 1970s. Some of the jokes and repartee between the characters would be considered pretty politically incorrect in this day and age. Didn't bother me, really. That's the way things were back then; I remember them well. I also was tickled at the "big stars" being cast for a movie based on a book the main character wrote. Seeing Michael Learned, and some other well known celebrities of the 1970s, listed was a real blast from the past! Even seeing references to a movie being made for network T.V. was nostalgic. I wish I could give the book 5 stars. The story was indeed rollicking, often amusing, and engaging. The characters were all interesting whether funny or poignant. Generally I enjoyed the book very much. BUT! There were some truly glaring typos and spelling errors, and they were frequent. Also there were no "breaks" when the action/focus within a chapter changed. Usually an author/publisher will put a little row of symbols, or a line, or something to warn the reader the perspective is taking a shift. This book did not..and it was jarring. If these things would be corrected, it would make the book even more enjoyable, and my rating higher!

I've enjoyed all of William C. Anderson's books, but this one really hit home. It almost mirrors my time of life, so I was able to empathize with his feelings and predicaments. Anderson and his bride have decided to downsize, selling their mountain home and moving into a Condo. While doing this, he also gets talked into going back to college, and relates all the hilarious going's on while on campus. If you've read any of Anderson's other books concerning his family life, I'm sure that you'll enjoy this one also!

I'm still not sure if I love or hate this book. The witty repartee between the author and his wife was great, and overall it is a very funny book. I realize this was written in the 1970's, but I had a hard time dealing with the racism and sexism. I do want to read more by this author, but I hope his other books are more PC.

It was okay... Lot of typos, just seemed like it was missing something to the storyline

Wm Anderson has always been one of my favorite authors. He is so funny. 30 years ago I got his books from the library and wondered if there were any in print to have for myself. Sure enough, through I found 3. Good condition, delivered on time. I am so happy with this service. Thanks!

The book was in very good condition and arrived in a timely manner to give as a Christmas present

This book's a slightly more realistic-feeling look at a slice of Anderson's life than The Great Bicycle Expedition. It's a good book and well written, but it does have a death in it which gives the book a more somber note. If you don't mind sadness sandwiched into an otherwise humorous book, I can definitely recommend this book. If you want something entirely funny, you might want to check out another of Anderson's works.

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