



How I Got This Way

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Patrick McManus, the bestselling author of such hilarious books as *A Fine and Pleasant Misery* and *Never Sniff a Gift Fish*, now offers readers solid thoughts on the qualities that define leadership, beginning with the need to be tall, and much more, in this outrageous collection of short pieces that reveals his tortuous trip along the writer's path.

How I Got This Way Details

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Author : Patrick F. McManus

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From Reader Review How I Got This Way for online ebook

Brian says

Absolutely HILARIOUS ! I have never laughed so hard or for soooo long reading a book. Many of the situations are ones that could happen to almost anyone..... Well almost ! The his book was so hard to put down and my laughter continued well after I had finished the book as I recalled the events in the book. A well polished and down to earth author well experienced in the great outdoors and the many calamities that can, and often do, occur.

Charley Girl says

Ahh...simpler times...simpler humor. This book is amusing. It is like sitting on a nice Fall day listening to funny things your parents or grandparents did when they were younger.

Patrick McManus talks about the bullies that stole the old man's clothes as he was bathing in the creek so the man had to wear a blue dress to the bar and throughout the town looking for the bullies. McManus and his friend trying to scare a girl with a snake and a Grandma that was used to cooking for entire logging camps and didn't hand out sympathy for skinned knees.

It won't make you grab your stomach in laughter but it will make you smile.

Jolie says

One of the absolute funniest things I've read in a long time!!! Loved it! (Although reading this while eating is dangerous to my health; choking on scrambled eggs isn't entertaining! LOL)

Josh says

Another McManus gem.

Chelfea says

I reread this one the last few evenings in memory of the author, who died a few weeks ago and whose short stories were basically seminal works of my childhood. Here's to authors who make us laugh and help us see the absurdity and joy in life.

James Rickett says

Saying this or any other book by Pat McManus is funny is a bit like saying the ocean is wet. News flash for those who read it as an autobiography or a work of non-fiction: it's roughly as autobiographical and factual as Mark Twain's "Roughing It" and "The Innocents Abroad." All Pat's stories are told in the first person, and many of them probably have a kernel of truth somewhere, but you'll need to dig for it. Personally, I have my doubts about "The Night the Bear Ate Goombaw," but you can make up your own mind...

Bonnie says

I would suggest any of Patrick McManus's books to anyone. They are generally books of short, humorous essays on hiking, camping, growing up on a farm, and so on. This one (How I Got This Way) happens to be one of my favorites. All of his short humor is G-rated for the most part, with a few scatological references. However, kids will not "get" the humor for the most part -- for all that he writes red-neck humor, McManus is quite sophisticated.

McManus also writes the Sheriff Bo Tully mysteries, which are more serious novels (though they do have funny moments). I have only read the first one (The Blight Way), and it was PG-rated (for violence) but still very good.

Rocky Curtiss says

Perhaps the funniest writer America has ever produced, McManus tells story after story how he got this way. A dangerous book to read in bed, if your married, just before lights out because even after closing the book, uncontrollable giggles keep on going.

Jerry says

This is my second time reading through all of Patrick McManus' books and they were just as good the second time around...I managed to read them all during the course of the year mixed in with all the other books I have read. He is truly a treasure! So many of the things he writes about I see in my own life, including trips to the crick.

L.K. Evans says

I LOVED IT

This is a challenging review for me to write. I've not read something that could remotely be considered close to this genre since high school. I like my fiction. I only picked this up because a dear friend recommended it, and I trust his opinions. We have the same type of humor: slightly warped, dry, and nicely laced with sarcasm. So I took forever to pick it up, and I only did so after he had a handy copy available when we last

met in November. I read the first chapter and—just as he said I would—laughed. And I laughed more, then yet some more. I laughed a lot. More so than I have in any other book I've ever read. Yep, McManus has a wonderfully warped sense of humor. But . . .

As much as I laughed, I still had a problem motivating myself to pick this up each day. It's a short book that took me entirely too long to read. I've picked apart my brain trying to figure out why and I've drawn a sketchy conclusion: I love fiction. I like made up crap. This was more of a personal memoir that was insanely funny, but still based on non-fiction. Also, this book was a chaotic walk through McManus's mind. Meaning, one chapter we would be in a short story from his childhood, the next one from adulthood, and another chapter wasn't even a story but simply musings. I wouldn't call this a deterrent for me, but it jump around so much that there was nothing to look forward to because it was so randomly done that you never knew exactly where McManus's mind would take you. However, that was also part of its charm. I enjoyed the mystery of it all. But once you combine a bunch of stuff, I just found myself struggling to pick it up. Make no mistake, once I did I laughed and laughed and thought what a great book I was reading. Thus why this review is a tad bit challenging. Let's not even get into how long I labored over the correct rating.

Now, when I say that McManus has a lovely sense of humor, I'm really not kidding. I tried to find an excerpt that would show off the author's brilliant way with not only his humor but also his prose, but his humor is built over the story. Having only one side of it would not be nearly as hysterical as having the whole story. So sadly, I have nothing in the way of an example, but read the sample and if it has you smiling, I guarantee it only gets better. Gosh, my negative section is so long, but I can't stress enough about the relentless humor in this book. If I wrote anymore, I'd just be repeating the same words: It's funny and often had me laughing out loud, sometimes enough that I had to wipe a tear.

Because it's so funny, I dare say some will not notice how brilliantly McManus can weave a sentence. His writing was amazing! I absolutely loved his imagery and efficient use of short descriptions. And the way he wove in humor to even a mundane scene setting was nothing shy of remarkable.

So, will I read any of McManus's other works? Absolutely. But I won't push myself to finish them. Since his musings are so random, I could have easily picked up this book whenever I needed a laugh, read a chapter, wipe away joyful tears, and walk away a little lighter. For those with memoir experience and love, this will be simply delightful and I highly recommend it. It's short, charming, and damn funny.

You can see this and other reviews on my website: <http://booksbylkevans.com>

Kristin says

This is a good book to read when you don't want to ponder over what you are reading or you feel like reading but don't have a lot of time to devote to a whole book. Each chapter is a different story about the author's life as an outdoorsman. Warning: You WILL laugh your head off!!

Jim Fromm says

My Hero

Patrick McManus is my hero and he has been for over twenty years. His concise technical language, and professional pursuit of each endeavor is truly an inspiration. Patrick and his cadre of elitist friends, who treat each activity as a work of art, humble my most well planned efforts. There is no possibility me or one of my struggling companions will ever measure up to their benchmark. Every outdoor pursuit should have a standard bearer of this caliber. Mr McManus also writes.

Serena says

My Rating System:

* couldn't finish, ** wouldn't recommend, *** would recommend, **** would read again, ***** have read again.

Samantha says

Fantastic, witty, humorous, and nostalgic. If you're any type of outdoors person, you'll enjoy reading this book around the campfire or whenever you need a good chuckle.

Eric says

I especially enjoyed chapter 11 with Rancid Crabtree and a blue dress.
