



## Holidays in Hell

By P.J. O'Rourke

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### **Holidays in Hell** By P.J. O'Rourke

A spin with P.J. O'Rourke is like a ride in the back of an old pickup over unpaved roads. You get where you're going fast, with exhilarating views -- but not without a few bruises."

-- The New York Times Book Review

P.J. O'Rourke travels to hellholes around the globe in *Holidays in Hell*, looking for trouble, the truth, and a good time. He is pepper-gassed in Korea; has a close encounter with a Philippine army officer he describes as "powerful-looking in a short, compressed way, like an attack hamster"; and concludes from these and various other journeys that "Some people are worried about the difference between fight and wrong. I'm worried about the difference between wrong and fun."

Victor Slezak's film work includes *The Saint of Fort Washington* and *Strictly Business*. He has starred on Television in "The Good Policeman" and "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," and has guest starred on "Law and Order" and "Crime Story."

The Bachelor Home Companion, Give War a Chance, Parliament of Whores, and All the Trouble in the World, by P.J. O'Rourke, are also available from Random House AudioBooks.

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## **Holidays in Hell** By P.J. O'Rourke Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

No doubt about it: P. J. O'Rourke has a bizarre sense of fun. "What I've ... been," he writes in his introduction to *Holidays in Hell* "is a Trouble Tourist--going to see insurrections, stupidities, political crises, civil disturbances and other human folly because ... because it's fun." Forget Hawaii or the Poconos--O'Rourke gets his jollies in places like war-torn Lebanon where he is greeted at the border by a gun barrel in his face, or Seoul, just in time for election-day violence. Wherever he goes, however, O'Rourke takes his quirky sense of humor, laser eye for detail, and artful way with words: a Philippine army officer is "powerful-looking in a short, compressed way, like an attack hamster," and the Syrian army is described as having "dozens of silly hats, mostly berets in yellow, orange and shocking pink, but also tiny pillbox chapeaux.... The paratroopers wear shiny gold jumpsuits and crack commando units have skin-tight fatigues in a camouflage pattern of violet, peach, flesh tone and vermillion on a background of vivid purple. This must give excellent protective coloration in, say, a room full of Palm Beach divorcees in Lily Pulitzer dresses."

O'Rourke's flip, sarcastic style isn't for everyone, of course; the concept that anyone could find sightseeing in the Beirut or El Salvador of the 1980s *fun* might prove offensive to more than a few readers right off the bat. But love him or hate him, P. J. O'Rourke knows how to tell a good story, and if you like your travel writing laced with more than a little cynicism, *Holidays in Hell* could be just the book you've been looking for.

#### From the Inside Flap

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#### About the Author

P. J. O'Rourke is the author of twelve books, including *Parliament of Whores* and *Give War a Chance*, both of which were #1 New York Times best sellers. His most recent book is the best seller *On the Wealth of Nations*.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Michael Brown:**

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**Beulah Scherr:**

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