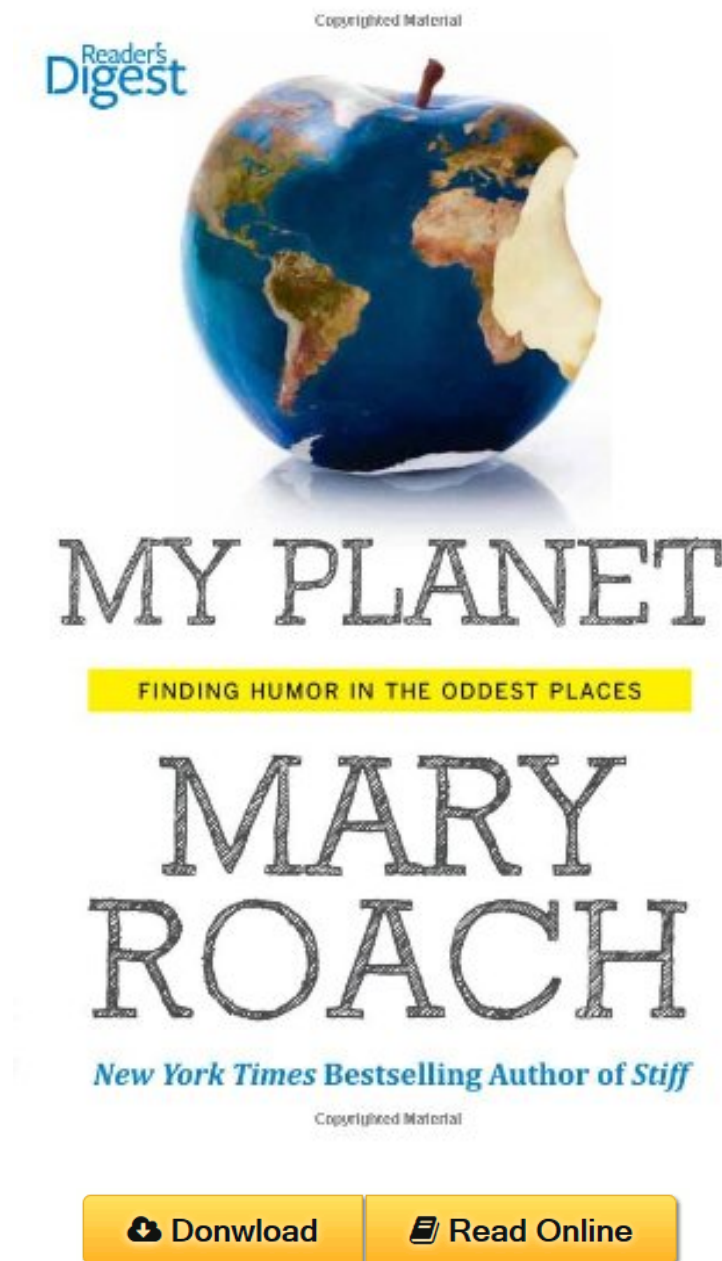


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My Planet: Finding Humor in the Oddest Places

Mary Roach

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Mary Roach : My Planet: Finding Humor in the Oddest Places before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Planet: Finding Humor in the Oddest Places:

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Funny, but...By Bob Scott I love Mary Roach's off-the-wall scientific books, so it's interesting to see this goofy side of her. I must admit, I prefer the scientifically sharp, even sharper-witted Mary, to this one who is as clueless about some things as a lot of other people are, and has hardly anything in common with her husband. It just got a little old after a while, you know what I mean? I get it that this is a

standard, every-person humor column style, a la Dave Barry, and if you talk about things at which you are competent all the time, it's just pretentious and not funny. So don't get me wrong, the book is funny and entertaining in its way, I just got to missing the other Mary. The clever one, that is funny by being smart. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Makes for a quick read and easy stopping places so one can get to bed on ...By biohazardkbdWritten a little differently than her previous books, this is snippets of more short story/anecdotes rather than full chapters. Makes for a quick read and easy stopping places so one can get to bed on time :) Funny and factual, as per her usual. One of my favorites! (Writer and book) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun collection of short essays By Mark Moran I'm a huge fan of Mary Roach's books. This is a collection of very short essays written over many years that are simply fun to read. This doesn't have the intense depth and fascination of her single subject books, but it's relaxing a fun to read a few of these at a time.

From acclaimed, New York Times best-selling author Mary Roach comes the complete collection of her "My Planet" articles published in Reader's Digest. The quirky, brilliant author takes a magnifying glass to everyday life, exposing moments of hilarity in the mundane. Best-selling author Mary Roach was a hit columnist in the Reader's Digest magazine, and this book features the articles she wrote in that time. Insightful and hilarious, Mary explores the ins and outs of the modern world: marriage, friends, family, food, technology, customer service, dental floss, and ants—she leaves no element of the American experience unchecked for its inherent paradoxes, pleasures, and foibles. On Cleanliness: Ed has crud vision, and I don't. I don't notice filth. Ed sees it everywhere. I am reasonably convinced that Ed can actually see bacteria. . . . He confessed he didn't like me using his bathrobe because I'd wear it while sitting on the toilet. "It's not like it goes in the water," I protested, though if you counted the sash as part of the robe, this wasn't strictly true. On the Internet: The Internet is a boon for hypochondriacs like me. Right now, for instance, I'm feeling a shooting pain on the side of my neck. A Web search produces five matches, the first three for a condition called Arnold-Chiari Malformation. While my husband, Ed, reads over my shoulder, I recite symptoms from the list. "'General clumsiness' and 'general imbalance,'" I say, as though announcing arrivals at the Marine Corps Ball. "'Difficulty driving,' 'lack of taste,' 'difficulty feeling feet on ground.'" "Those aren't symptoms," says Ed. "Those are your character flaws." On Fashion: My husband recently made me try on a bikini. A bikini is not so much a garment as a cloth-based reminder that your parts have been migrating all these years. My waist, I realized that day in the dressing room, has completely disappeared beneath my rib cage, which now rests directly on my hips. I'm exhibiting continental drift in reverse. On Eating Healthy: So Ed and I were eating a lot of vegetables. Vegetables on pasta, vegetables on rice. This was extremely healthy, until you got to the part where Ed and I are found in the kitchen at 10 p.m., feeding on Froot Loops and tubes of cookie dough.

About the Author Mary Roach grew up in Etna, New Hampshire, graduated from Wesleyan in 1981, and now lives in California. She has written the bestselling books *Packing for Mars* (W. W. Norton Company, August 2010), *Bonk* (W. W. Norton Company April 2008), *Spook* (W. W. Norton Company, September 2005), and *Stiff* (W. W. Norton Company, April 2003). Her articles run in *Outside*, *National Geographic*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Her 1995 article, "How to Win at Germ Warfare," was a National Magazine Award Finalist, and in 1996, her article on earthquake-proof bamboo houses took the Engineering Journalism Award in the general interest magazine category. She also reviews books for *The New York Times*.