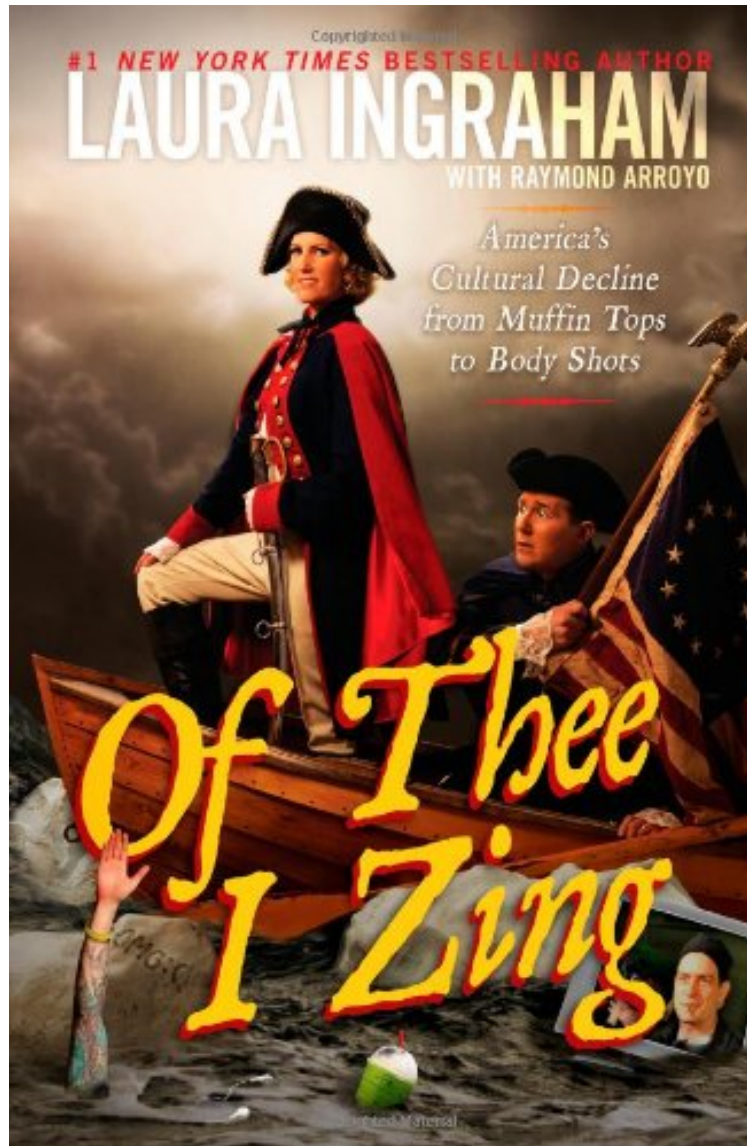


Of Thee I Zing: America's Cultural Decline from Muffin Tops to Body Shots

Laura Ingraham

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Laura Ingraham : Of Thee I Zing: America's Cultural Decline from Muffin Tops to Body Shots before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Thee I Zing: America's Cultural Decline from Muffin Tops to Body Shots:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Too Long - Too Strained By Paul Unlike many others who've given

low ratings to this book, I don't disagree with this author on most political issues. Despite she and I holding some similar views, I really didn't think that much of this book. The problem is that she has a good solid magazine article here or perhaps a blog where she could hit a zing a week sort of series. There just is not nearly enough for a book, though. The book starts out rather strongly with some solid hits on what many consider the deterioration of our society's norms. Go back to the 1930's and even hobos or 'bums' (today called homeless peoples) wore ties and usually jackets. Men on assembly lines also wore ties and collar shirts unless the job was too dangerous due to the tie. I can go on as probably you can as well. Today people arrive half naked to shop at Walmart. Men go to good restaurants wearing nasty tee shirts often with gross pictures or sayings on them. They eat never taking off their baseball caps. This is the sort of behaviors which Ingraham starts out lambasting. However, after a good start, she runs out of material and wanders into a long complaint / whine about such trivial things such as guests who arrive too early to suit her tastes. She complains about parents lobbying for their children and outcome based education. That is, she moves from individual bad behavior to criticizing institutions she dislikes or disapproves of. Toward the end of the book she picks up steam again hitting some more material complaints. Finally she finishes in what I consider a rather odd and controversial manner. She complains that the world is getting to be too secular for her. She goes on to explain that anybody with normal sense can see that we 'have a soul' (note to Laura - if you are a Believer, then you believe you ARE a soul) and so gets off on those who are either atheists or who claim to be non-religious but spiritual. In essence, Laura says that God will get those guys and give them a good whacking at some unspecified date when the dead return to life. Although I agree with Ingraham on many things and enjoyed the first part of this book, I can't recommend it. The material just is not there for a book of this length or cost. I only hope God doesn't give me a whack for saying that. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. 3.5 stars, not her best. By Cornhusker It is a great idea and I loved the cover but a lot of the 'zings' come off as downright mean. It's almost as if anyone encountering Laura would be better off just ignoring her. She seems to criticize anyone with equal acidity. I almost felt like saying 'elite alert' most of the time. I rounded up to four stars (rather than down) because I have been a 365 member for four years now. But I had a few laughs. I love Laura as an analyst, she puts on a great show, and I hope this book is not really representative of her as a person. I would hope she is a little more tolerant of us little people who can't afford many of the things she takes for granted. We can't all be perfect. And if my tree is ever about to fall over, I would thank a neighbor to tell me. That is what being neighborly means. I almost feel bad for her neighbors. If you want a better sample of Laura in a much better book, try The Obama Diaries. She is far better at analyzing politics than she is at social 'zings'. (But I do agree with her overall assessment, that our society is in serious decline) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Right idea, but could have been funnier. By Zachary Goldman I liked the idea of a less serious book about American culture that goes beyond the politics. Laura Ingraham had the right idea, focused on the right cultural details, and had the right style in mind; but I felt the writing could have been executed a little better. "Of Thee I Zing" is an attempt at pointing fun at the "decline" of American culture, but ends up sounding like a long rant. The book has its moments, but that's just the point: laughs are few and far in between. For a book dedicated to arousing laughter in readers, I would have expected more enjoyment from this book. Ms. Ingraham tells it directly how it is in many cases, but I feel she goes overboard in some instances where the cultural "problem" isn't a problem at all. Some of the jokes she makes are tasteless (such as poking fun at new college graduates who move back in with their parents, which isn't hard to imagine in this economy). On the other hand, some of her jokes are funny and true (like making fun of people who substitute real social interactions with Facebook), which is the part of the book I enjoyed. If you're looking for a book to give you some laughs, I would pass this one over. While I personally believe Ms. Ingraham is a great talk show host, she should stick to political commentary and leave the comedy-writing to others.

While Laura Ingraham was walking through a Northern Virginia shopping mall one Saturday afternoon, it all became clear to her. Everywhere she turned, she saw signs of the impending disaster: zombie teens texting each other across a café table; a man having his eyebrows threaded at a kiosk; a fiftyish woman shoe-horned into a tube top and skinny jeans; and a storefront ad featuring a Victoria's Secret model spilling out of her push-up bra and into the faces of young passersby. Ingraham wondered to herself, "Is this it? Is this what our forefathers fought for? What my parents struggled for? I wonder if Victoria's Secret is still having that two-for-one sale?" A menacing force surrounds us. We see it, we feel it, we know it. The country we love is in grave peril. While politicians and "experts" prattle on about the debt crisis at home, and terrorism abroad, a more insidious homegrown threat is emerging. It endangers our future and undermines our present. The uncomfortable truth is: We have become our own worst enemy. The culture we have created is now turning on us. We're on the verge of drowning in our ignorance, arrogance, gluttony . . . can you believe there are only three shots of vanilla in a Caramel Macchiato?!? Now in an act of patriotic intervention the most-listened-to woman in talk radio casts her satirical eye upon all that ails American society. In this sharp-witted, comic romp, Laura Ingraham takes you on a guided tour through ten levels of our cultural hell. You know we're in trouble when . . . • Airplane seats shrink—just as the passengers expand. • Celebrity baby names go from the peculiar (Apple, Stetson, and Daisy Boo) to the pathetic (Bamboo, Blanket, and Bronx). • People meticulously tend their virtual crops on Farmville, while their children eat takeout. • "Breaking News" usually means it happened yesterday. • The

weddings last longer than the marriages. • Facebook has become a verb and reading has become an ancient art form. Of Thee I Zing is cultural commentary too funny to ignore, igniting a national conversation long past due. America, your cultural recovery begins here.

About the Author Laura Ingraham is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Obama Diaries* and *Power to the People*, the most listened-to woman in political talk radio as host of her own nationally syndicated radio program, a Fox News contributor, and permanent substitute host for *The O'Reilly Factor*. A former Supreme Court law clerk and white-collar criminal defense litigator, she lives in the Washington, D.C., area with her two children.