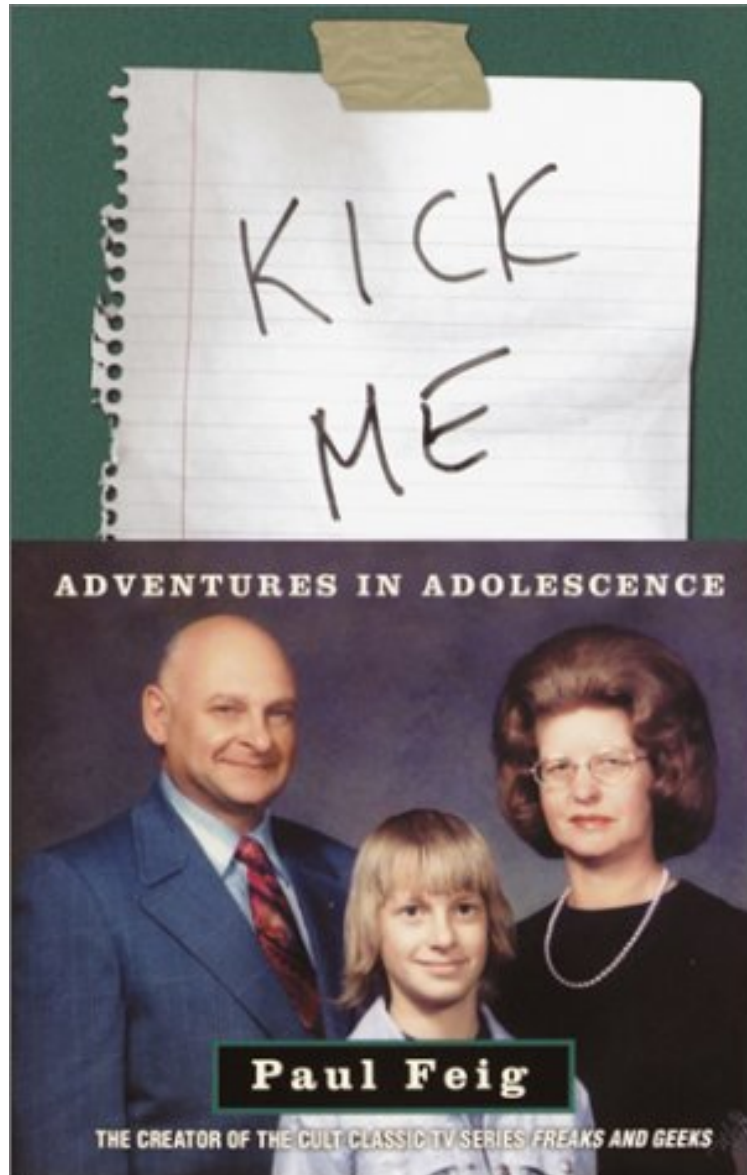


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Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence

Paul Feig

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Paul Feig : Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quite enjoyable.By CustomerVery enjoyable read. It is very easy to see where some of the ideas for stories in Freaks and Geeks came from. A few of the stories actually hit a little too close to home and I could very much identify with the situations. It was good enough that I am going to buy the follow

up book by the same author as soon as I finish up a couple other books I have had around for a while. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kick Me? How about READ ME?!?!By Chris FranczHilarious recollections of adolescence and puberty. He gets a tad wordy at points but this book is full of great stories that at times will cause you to laugh out loud. While I don't think his intentions are to cause you to laugh, you will. There's a streak of sadness that runs through the book and I think Feig wrote this book to process a lot of the hurt that he experienced while growing up. Hey, Freaks and Geeks fans: you need to read this book as it seems like it should come with the DVD boxset. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny but painfulBy A. SpiveyIf you enjoyed Freaks and Geeks, you'll love this book. If you grew up in the '70s and '80s, you'll love this book. This is a funny but painful and very personal account of Paul Feig's life from about age six through prom night. Being friends with girls, having trouble in school, discovering masturbation, gym class, trying to figure out girls, not being loud and rough like the other boys, riding the school bus, dating -- all this and more is included.

Written in side-splitting and often cringe-inducing detail, Paul Feig takes you in a time machine to a world of bombardment by dodge balls, ill-fated prom dates, hellish school bus rides, and other aspects of public school life that will keep you laughing in recognition and occasionally sighing in relief that you aren't him. Kick Me is a nostalgic trip for the inner geek in all of us.

From Publishers WeeklyThese interlocking essays on everything from a sadistic gym teacher and geeky after-class pastimes to obsessive romantic tendencies and a prom that wasn't the best night of the author's life are terrifically entertaining, although undoubtedly imaginatively amped up for maximum readability. Feig is the creator of the late-'90s sitcom Freaks and Geeks, a sort of Wonder Years for the Dungeons and Dragons set. Much of the show was based on Feig's own childhood, and this memoir is, in a way, the show's literary equivalent. After Mr. Wendell, Feig's seventh-grade gym teacher, orders a bunch of big, mean classmates to pile on top of Feig and pummel him as he stumbles out of the locker-room showers, the author recalls, "They all started to get off me one at a time, laughing and congratulating each other on a job well done.... All I could do was stand there and think about the fact that this was merely the first day of gym class. Nine more months of pre-teen locker room torture awaited me." But Feig gets the last laugh. Blessed with the sensitivity that landed him in such trouble when young, he lightly slices and dices the social cunning of all the bullies unfortunate enough to enter his orbit. True to form, Feig's mini-hit was canceled after one season, leading to a futile mass uprising, including a full-page ad in Variety, from his fans, who were disenchanted by yet another of life's downers. It is that very audience who will adore this originally written, imaginatively comic missive. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From School Library JournalAdult/High School-Readers will find plenty to relate to in these true stories of teacher's pets, proms, and riding the school bus. The book succeeds because of the universality of the situations. Feig is not the first person to hate gym class, nor will he be the last, but he recounts his various experiences so vividly that a situation as common as snooping for presents in a parent's closet takes on an extra level of paranoia and humor. Most of the reminiscences are decidedly tame. The author panics when his school-dance date drinks a beer and panics again when he thinks that he might have to kiss her after the beer makes her sick-especially since he has never kissed a girl at all. Some of the stories read like a lighter David Sedaris-there is even one about Feig's stint as an elf, albeit in the first-grade Christmas pageant, rather than the Macy's of Sedaris's Holidays on Ice (Little, Brown, 1997). In fact, despite the subtitle, more than half the book takes place in elementary and middle school. Teens will find lots to laugh at and relate to in these tales of insecure geekdom, even though the events took place more than 20 years ago, in the time of Olivia Newton-John records and polyester pants. Jamie Watson, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalIn 1999, Feig created a critically acclaimed comedy-drama series for NBC called Freaks and Geeks. In it, he captured the experience of adolescence as lived by typical freaks and geeks in a Michigan high school, circa 1980. Unfortunately, the show was canceled after one season. With this collection of very funny essays, Feig once again captures the experience of teenagehood with all its insecurities, embarrassments, angst, and obsessions. The reader can't help but relate to at least a couple of his stories about growing up, throwing up, or simply giving up. Feig is adept at bringing his geeky past to life in stories about the inescapable hell of gym-class dodgeball, inevitable betrayals by members of the opposite sex, and a wacky episode about announcing his first high school football game. Kick Me took this reviewer on a nostalgia trip through his own adolescence. It is certain to release a rush of memories in all who have finally come to grips with the awkwardness of having grown up. Primarily for the humor section of public libraries, this work might also provide some insight for psychologists specializing in adolescence. Joe Accardi, William Rainey Harper Coll. Lib., Palatine, IL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.