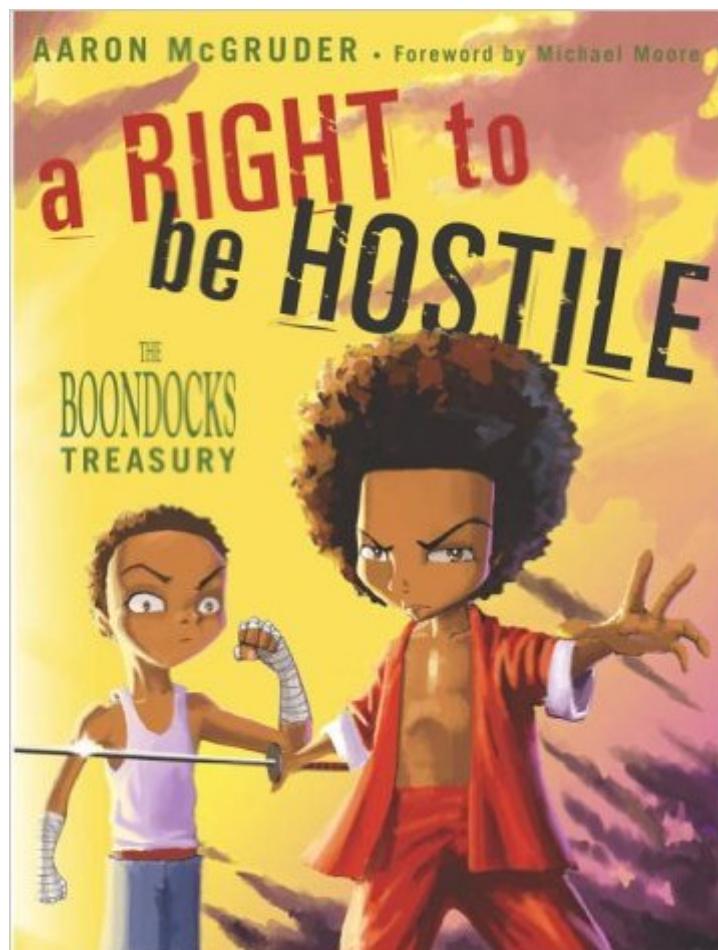


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A Right To Be Hostile: The Boondocks Treasury



Synopsis

Here's the first big book of The Boondocks, more than four years and 800 strips of one of the most influential, controversial, and scathingly funny comics ever to run in a daily newspaper. With bodacious wit, in just a few panels, each day Aaron serves up "and sends up" life in America through the eyes of two African-American kids who are full of attitude, intelligence, and rebellion. Each time I read the strip, I laugh "and I wonder how long The Boondocks can get away with the things it says. And how on earth can the most truthful thing in the newspaper be the comics?" From the foreword by Michael Moore

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #87,241 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Political #313 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips #803 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Satire

Customer Reviews

This comic works on several levels. First, Mr. McGruder is one of the most insightful political commentators today. His shots at Rush Limbaugh's hypocrisy, the Iraq war, the CIA "tip line." Second, while I have never met Mr. McGruder (nor have any hope of doing so), it is interesting watching the interplay of the four main characters, and imagining they represent four aspects of McGruder's psyche. The Grandfather, representing traditional values and history (fishing, homeownership, and Dorothy Dandridge (sp?)). Caesar, the creative, hip hop musical side. Riley, the struggle of coping with contemporary amerika's portrait of young black males--enjoying the thrills of being "bad," while ignoring how manipulated he really is. And Huey, my personal favorite, one of the last radical socialists in contemporary culture--an unapologetic leftist who is never not reading....All four struggling to form a balance, a home on Timid Deer Lane....The most important

point though, is the strips are funny. If a comic isn't funny, you might as well be reading Mary Worth. I did knock off one star, because this "treasury" suffers from the same marketing issues as the Bloom County books: Right to be Hostile has many, but not all, of the comics in the first two books. It also has comics that are *not* in the first two books. So, if you are a freakish, die hard, crazy fan—you need to buy all three books for a whole set. That's the only reason for removing a star (harsh, I know. But I'm an old crank). As for two previous reviews, the person who called Michael Moore Mr. McGruder's "massa" is an insulting moron. His own prose demonstrates what a hopeless idiot he really is. The second review takes Mr.

I've read the often ill-informed negative reviews here and it seems that most of the people deriding Aaron McGruder's work a) Don't know the meaning or purpose of satire, b) Didn't really read the book, c) Just have a personal agenda to badmouth the man. First of all, McGruder's probably reading all these negative reviews and laughing to himself, preparing to post them on his website or use them in future strips. Congratulations for giving the man more ammo to prove his point. If the nuances of satire (especially the obvious satire contained in this strip) are lost on you then I advise you to stay far away from every single episode of The Simpsons. Second, it's odd so many people leap to call McGruder a hypocrite or a racist or whatever and site examples from the book to back these statements up when said examples do no such thing. McGruder never sings the praises of Kwanzaa and in the book even Huey comes to the conclusion that, as a holiday, it needs a lot of work before it can be considered legitimate. Also, Huey is a broadly painted caricature of a black revolutionary and the fact that he is never taken seriously by other characters in the strip shows that McGruder is poking fun at yet another stereotypical figure: The overzealous, conspiracy theory nut. True his personal politics spill over into the strip but he is far from projecting himself into the character of Huey Freeman; an immature, lonely and misguided kid. And those who think he's a racist must have overlooked the fact that he lampoons black people far more than he does anyone else. As far as the kung fu getups on the cover, so what? McGruder's always said his art was steeped in Anime tradition and Asians are one of the few groups he hasn't directed his wrath at.

What I find most interesting about the majority of the negative reviews so far is that quite a few people have forgotten that the Boondocks is a comic and as such, a piece of fiction. Huey, Ceasar and Riley are all fictional characters, a creation by Aaron McGruder, but not Aaron McGruder himself. Each character is set to give a different perspective on the situation. You'll notice that quite obviously these perspectives are often biased by the individual. But as I've read through the

Boondocks for the last 3 years (or so, can't remember EXACTLY when it started) I've notice that Aaron McCruder makes strong cases for each character and why they are who they are. He even puts them in situations where they are wrong. Including Huey. This is true, authentic, and human. The assumption that Huey Freeman is Aaron McCruder, and Aaron McCruder is Huey Freeman is wrong. As such, to assume that Aaron McCruder believes and holds true to every one of Huey Freeman's statements and opinions is also wrong. This is a crafted piece of fiction, and the point it makes goes well beyond "Everything Huey Freeman says is true" but is in fact a dialogue and study on the various characters, and how they interact with eachother and the world around them (in this case Timid Deer Lane). Aaron McCruder does in fact make serious political commentary about the world, but you can no more assume that he believes everything Huey believes no more than you can assume that he runs around trying to be a thug like Riley. The thing that really concerns me is how many reviewers throw out accusations that Aaron McCruder is racist as easily as they throw out disgusting and racist comments straight at Aaron McCruder. This is wrong. Totally wrong, and little more can be said than that.

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