



Vickey Kall

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The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories

Vickey Kall : The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful stroll down memory lane!By Daniel WheelerI found "The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories" wonderfully nostalgic and beautifully written! So much fun and interesting information about a time period that many of us can remember and relate to. Growing up and experiencing all the joys and toys of the holidays and beyond. As a musician, I really enjoyed the section on the Holiday contemporary songs written during the Boomer era! The author has also included many photos and images from the period which brings the pages to life and enhances the reading experience. You will find yourself wanting to read this book over and over again, and each time discovering something new (or should I say nostalgic) that sparks your memories! A fabulous book full of holiday cheer, wonder, and enchantment written for everyone's enjoyment. I found myself saying, with a smile on my face, " I didn't know that!" over and over again!! I highly recommend this book as a journey down memory's lane and to share with others! Also great as a gift for that special Boomer in your life!!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not Just For Boomers!By Debra Ann PawlakIf youre a baby boomer or a

non-boomer who just likes a fun read, you must pick up Vickie Kalls *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories*. Kall covers everything boomer from TV dinners to slinkies. The story behind some of our favorite Christmas television shows, songs, decorations and toys will surprise you and tickle your funny bone. Kalls conversational writing style gives us a trip down memory lane that will surprise, delight and make you say AHHHHHH! If you ever wondered why silly putty was sold in plastic eggs or how Yachtzee got its name wonder no more. Kall will fill you in and make you smile all the while. But its not Christmas! you say. Thats quite all right. *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories* will delight you no matter the season. And if you want to do your Christmas shopping early, buy copies for your friends. They will totally thank you! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories* is Good All Year Long By Katharine Lowrie While the title of Vickie Kalls new book may suggest a memoir or Christmas book, *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories* is a captivating cultural and historical reminiscence about everything from the origin of the TV dinner to stories of Radio Flyer Wagons and Honey Baked Hams. It is not a personal story, yet is personally appealing for so many reasons. That said, *The Boomer Book* remains a fabulous Christmas gift, one directed at the Boomer generation as much as it is to anyone who cant get through the holidays without listening to Bing Crosbys *White Christmas*, buying tickets for *The Nutcracker Ballet*, or smothering a pumpkin pie with Reddi-Whip. For me, although a bit before the Boomer era, I will never forget receiving a Betsy Wetsy Doll from Santa Claus, and screaming with delight when Betsy cried real tears, drank from a tiny baby bottle and wet her diapers. I so loved *A Charlie Brown Christmas* that I can watch it today with the same enthusiasm. And as an adult I started my daughter on a collection of Madame Alexander Dolls, which were priceless to me as an adolescent (especially the Little Women set) and are now priceless for real. Want to revisit such things? Learn how Magic Rocks, Troll Dolls and Easy-Bake Ovens became the rage? Another favorite for so many was the Shirley Temple Doll, modeled after the huge child star of the 1930s. But did you know that a new version was produced by Ideal in 1958? The reason, Kall writes in her fascinating book, was because the grown-up Shirley Temple now had a TV show, *The Shirley Temple Storybook*. Even though the actress was clearly an adult and wore glamorous gowns on the show, the dolls depicted Shirley as the beloved little girl of classic movie fame. The doll came with outfits from her films, Kall writes, as well as original designs, and since the doll came in five heights, from 12 inches to 36 inches, there were lots of clothes to collect that are still sought after today. The book brings back so many fabulous memories, especially photos of TV dinners, which I only too well remember. One of my favorite stories that Kall dug up concerns how ten refrigerated railroad cars full of unsold frozen turkeys manifest into those frozen delights (some not so much) that came in compartmentalized ten plates so easy to pop in the over. Half a million iced gobblers! Kall writes. They were in Omaha, and the only available storage space was on the East Coast. But was it worth shipping them? Even unthawed, those birds wouldnt last till the next holiday season began. It took Gerry Thomas to come up with the outrageous idea of cooking and packaging the turkey in individual metal trays. Everyone laughed, everyone but the Swanson brothers, who allowed Thomas to create about 6,000 meals. They were sold for a buck each. You have only to glance at the old photo of a Swanson Night package to have the memories flood back, especially the photo of one of the first boxes, which pictures a turkey dinner on the face of a TV set. The stories are endless and endlessly fascinating, from the saga of how the Catholic Church resented Jimmy Boyd singing the 1952 version of *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*, to how Queen Victoria decorated her Christmas tree in Windsor Castle. Whether for a gift, or to reminisce, the book is a wonderful keepsake you will refer back to again and again.

Baby Boomers, remember the holidays? Aluminum trees, "The Chipmunks Song," TV specials with the Peanuts gang or the Grinch? Remember making Chex Mix and Green Bean Casseroles? The true and sometimes wacky stories behind the fads and holiday traditions of the Boomer Era are stuffed into this book. Who invented Bubble Lites? Did an Oregon DJ really get fired on the air for playing Elvis' version of "White Christmas?" What were the secret histories of Barbie and Ken, Slinkys, Play-Doh, and games like Operation?

From the Back Cover No holiday thrills kids more than Christmas! If you were born between 1946 and 1964, you enjoyed some of the greatest inventions in the world of toys, food, and entertainment. But just how much do you know about the history, fun, and controversy surrounding your favorites? Well, wonder no more! *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories* fills in all the blanks by revealing: Which toy designer was married to ZsaZsa Gabor, and which one's bachelor pad was profiled in *Playboy*? Why tinsel feels different now from when we were kids? How a surplus of frozen turkeys led to the invention of the TV dinner? What weird stocking stuffer NASA astronauts used to hold their tools in place in zero gravity? What popular Boomer game was dreamed up in a polio ward? Did Betty Crocker and Duncan Hines really exist? Were they married? Secret lovers? Or . . . visitors from another galaxy? And SO much more! A collection of the often wacky stories behind the Christmas traditions that Boomers hold dear, *The Boomer Book of Christmas Memories* reveals the secrets behind the foods, songs, decorations, TV shows, and--most especially--the toys that Boomer Babies enjoyed as children and teens, all wrapped up in one delectable volume.