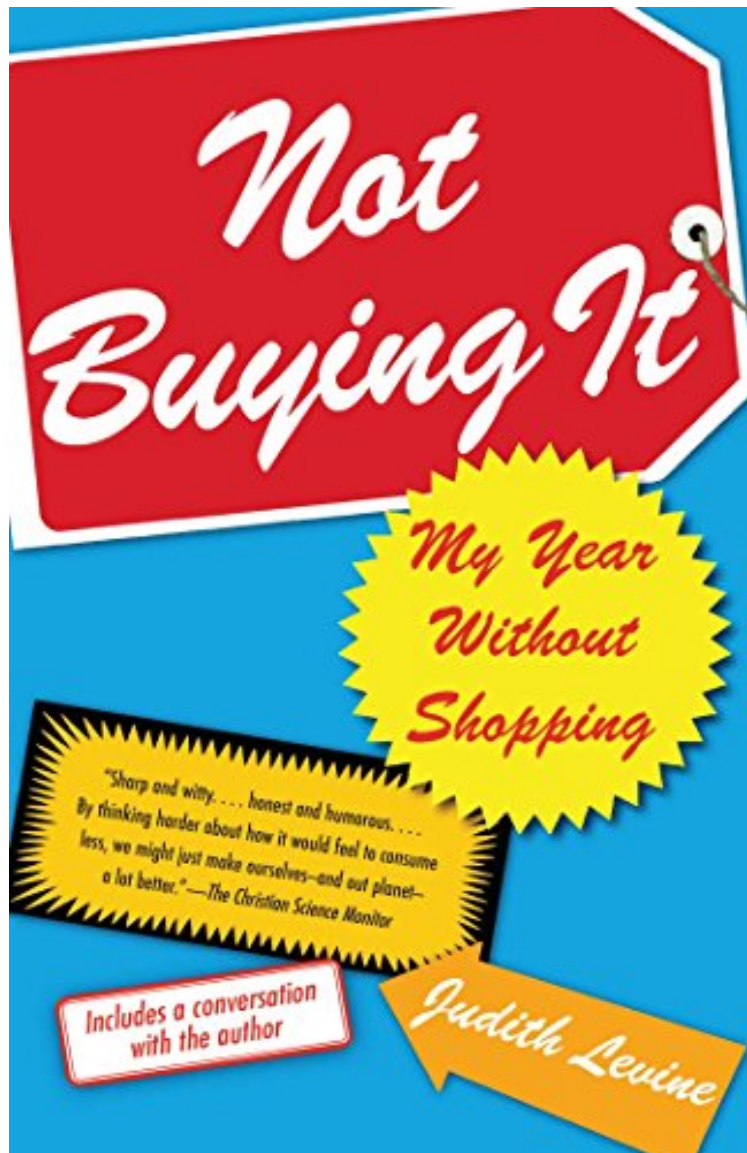


Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping

Judith Levine

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Judith Levine : Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extremely political-all about bush campaign, kerry, cell phone towers n corporate spending.....it lost it's focusBy deborah duckall about politics, the bush campaign, evil cell phone towers and occasionally a paragraph or two about how hew mascara has dried up and she is using generic tampons. she does manage to but a claw bathtub, a green pantsuit, and donate several dollars to the then republican campaign. I got this book to bolster my resolve as to not shop so much-but all the quotes on how much money big cooperations are

spending-did not help. I skimmed over a lot of the statistics... by the way.... she never gets past March in her promise to not spend.IT LOST IT'S FOCUS-AS POLITICS AND CORPORATE SPENDING ARE NOT MY THING.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Shouldn't Have Bought ItBy Roseanne GiudiceThe premise of this book seemed interesting enough. Given I'm trying to make do with what I have (I find I just need to organize myself better and really do have more than I need...), I thought this book would be a good fit. I made it to chapter 4. It seemed to me that there was more rhetoric about politics than was necessary, what does George Bush have to do with your year without spending? I knew I wouldn't be able to get through it if that continued so I didn't finish it. That being said, I liked her reasoning behind her project and applaud her for doing it. I just don't want to read her political opinion but rather her opinions, thoughts and experiences on not spending. I'm sure they were in there, I just didn't get that far. There are far better books on not spending than this one.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Cheers, Judith; Here's your Sock.By CustomerI have been had.What I expected: I would hear how one goes about living without things that I consider necessary....for a full year (!)What I got: The political rantings of a patronizing over-embellisher--who, paradoxically, buys WAY more in this year than I could, and have, lived on. The deceptive title and enticing write-up do NOT prepare you for the lengthy lectures on the evils of capitalism and being human--it is apparently far more noble to simply be a bear; though she does not quite explain how to live this superior ursine life.... Ms. Levine's writing, in my opinion, places her solidly out of touch with common America; ordinary folks who want a good life for themselves and their families are impaled on the spear of extreme ecology. If this were entitled properly, the name would be "You Are a Bad Person For Wanting Anything Good For You Or Your Family, and Let Me Tell You This While I Eat My Fancy Bread And Live In My Vermont Vacation Home on 40 Acres"Halfway through the book, I decided I had better write this review to stave off what I REALLY wanted to do...drive straight to Vermont to personally stuff a sock in Ms. Levine's mouth; preferably one worn on a rather long, sweltering day by Michael Moore himself.

Many of us have tried to call a halt to our spending at one time or another. But what if we decided not to buy anything for a whole year? Obviously, we would need necessities like food and soap, but how would we manage without new clothes, treats, entertainment? Funny, smart and self-deprecating, *Not Buying It* is a close look at our society's obsession with shopping and the cold turkey confession of a woman we can all identify with -- someone who can't live without French roast coffee and expensive wool socks, but who has had enough of spending money for the sake of it. Without consumer goods and experiences, Levine and her partner Paul pursue their careers, nurture family relationships and try to keep their sanity and humour intact. Tracking their progress and lapses, she contemplates the meanings of need and desire, scarcity and security, consumerism and citizenship. She asks the big questions -- can the economy survive without shopping? Are Q-tips a necessity? A thought-provoking account of the pleasures and perils of the purchase-driven life, *Not Buying It* will get readers talking about their reliance on the act of buying and the possibility of getting off the merry-go-round.

From Publishers WeeklyIf you've ever contemplated cutting down on your consumerism but couldn't bring yourself to do it, Levine's volume allows you to witness and learn from this drastic experiment without going through the withdrawal yourself. Since giving up shopping entirely is impossible in North America (buying food requires money), the most interesting aspect of Levine's adventure is the process of defining necessity. High-speed Internet access, Q-tips and any soap fancier than Ivory, for example, are all ruled out as luxuries. With chapters divided by month, the book witnesses Levine's journey from enthusiastic experimenter in January to a still game but weary participant by the fall, as favorite luxuries run out and clothes become shabbier. As Levine trades in movies and restaurants for the public library system and dinner parties at home, she is forced to reflect on not only the personal indulgences she's become used to but also their place in defining her social space. Since this book is about exploring consumerism rather than economizing (although she does manage to save \$8,000 by the end of the year), Levine investigates several anticonsumer movements;she joins her local Voluntary Simplicity group, participates in Buy Nothing Day and consults experts on issues of consumerism and conservation. Yet the most insightful aspect is Levine's account of her own struggle to keep down her day-to-day consumption of goods and to define the fine line between need and want. (Mar.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistOther than phenomenal willpower and maxed-out credit cards, what does it take to simply stop purchasing for 12 months? Levine took the plunge--and found it irritating, exhilarating, thought provoking, and humiliating--among many other conflicting emotions. What's an inexpensive substitute for Q-tips? How to best gift a soon-to-be college graduate without spending any money? How to avoid the consumption seduction that lurks in every corner? Levine chronicles her feelings in this almost-weekly diary of the year of nonpurchasing. Many of her points are intentionally provocative; for instance, not buying makes her feel vulnerable and having to ask for help. Plus, her secondary sources, from the recently issued *Trading Up* (2003) to federal deficit projections and Socratic pronouncements, add a great deal of depth to a topic that could be perceived as frivolous. Barbara JacobsCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reservedUnknown"Sharp and witty.... honest and humorous.... By thinking harder about how it

would feel to consume less, we might just make ourselves -- and our planet -- a lot better." -- The Christian Science Monitor "One of the five best books on consumer culture." -- Paco Underhill, The Wall Street Journal "I love this book." -- Barbara Ehrenreich "An Important Book." -- Bill McKibben "Well worth its price!" -- Editor's Choice, Entertainment Weekly