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BOOKS ENTERTAINMENT

'Is it Just Me? Or is it Nuts Out There?' by Whoopi Goldberg

By **BY SHAMONTIEL L. VAUGHN**
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In her wide-ranging debut collection of short stories, Nana Nkweti seems like a writer who can do anything



JUN 23, 2021

I'm a borderline bonehead*, and I know this because Whoopi Goldberg told me so in her book "Is it just me? Or is it nuts out there?" Then again, she admitted she's guilty of some of the things she writes about, but she's "aware of it."

I must read 38 books before Labor Day and I'm already behind. Here's my list: Mostly shorter must-reads for summer 2021



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Normally a book filled with complaints would not be something I'd pick up, but Whoopi Goldberg is funny so I knew there would be some humor intermingled with her fist wagging. She did not disappoint.

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Although she takes on serious topics such as gay marriage, bullying, politics, safe sex, respect for the elderly, the "n-word" and domestic violence, readers also found out some of Goldberg's pet peeves that may not be something we run into everyday — i.e. toenail clippers on trains, touching famous people and assuming celebrities are role models

Then there were the topics we all could relate to — loud cell phone talkers, standing next to someone who smells like he or she drowned in a fragrance aisle, smart-mouthed children and mandatory air fresheners in airplane bathrooms.

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Speaking of planes, Whoopi had plenty to gripe about when it comes to travel. She lists "stinky" foods not to eat on a plane (or in the office) and gives tips on what not to do in a plane bathroom. She had some choice words for the folks who won't turn off their digital devices, the ones who give TSAs a hard time and travelers who get way too drunk during the flight. And she didn't hold back when it comes to loud kids on a plane.

There are times you may be indifferent about her rants (yes, Whoopi, I am one of those people who waves my hands about when I'm near a smoker) and other times you want to give her dap (newbies call it "fist bumping") for saying exactly what you were thinking -- for me it was why it's not okay to talk out loud on a cell phone during a movie.

"Everybody has paid their \$75,000 to get into the movie, and they want to watch it, or see the show. So why do you feel the need to pretend like you're sitting in your living room having a conversation with your husband?"

I couldn't agree more.

While there are plenty of hilarious moments, there may be some things certain readers will be offended about such as her opinions on gossip columnists, bloggers and parents who are enthusiastic about their kids' athletic teams.

I didn't particularly care for the n-word chapter, but I can appreciate that the opinions in the book are hers. Everybody has different pet peeves, and sure enough she does touch on how to agree to disagree without becoming angry or violent. Before you get ready to scream about something, turn to page 47 and read the "You respect my opinion, I'll respect yours" excerpt.

** At the end of several chapters, Whoopi had quizzes through which readers could find out how civilized they really are (according to Whoopi's scale). I totaled my scores and earned a total of 49.*

Is it Just Me? Or is it Nuts Out There?

By Whoopi Goldberg
Hyperion, 200 pages, \$22.99

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