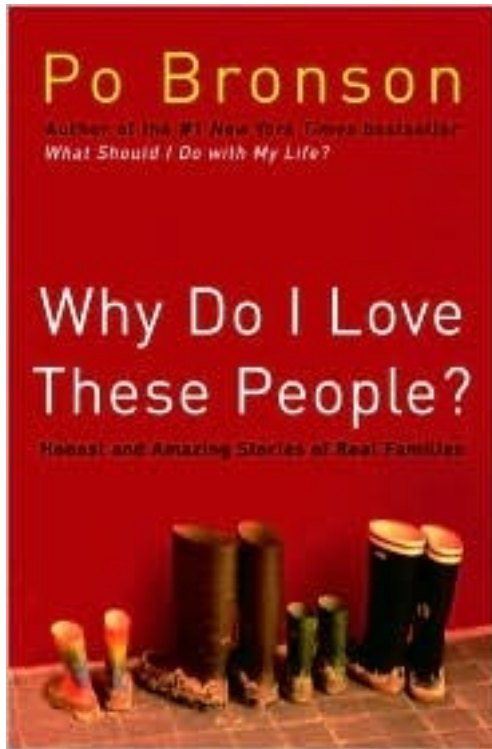

Po Bronson

Why Do I Love These People?



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Author: Po Bronson

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Description

We all have an imaginary definition of a great family. We imagine what it would be like to belong to such a family. No fights over the holidays. No getting on one another's nerves. Respect for individual identity. Mutual support, without being intrusive. So many people believe they are disqualified from having a better family experience, primarily because they compare their own family with the mythic ideal, and their reality falls short. Is that a fair standard to judge against? In the pages of "Why Do I Love These People?", Po Bronson takes us on an extraordinary journey. It begins on a river in Texas, where a mother gets trapped underwater and has to bargain for her own life and that of her kids. Then, a father and his daughter return to their tiny rice-growing village in China, hoping to rekindle their love for each other inside the walls of his childhood home. Next, a son puts forth a riddle, asking us to understand what his first experience of God has to do with his Mexican American mother. Every step and every family on this journey is real. Calling upon his gift for powerful nonfiction narrative and philosophical insight, Bronson explores the incredibly complicated feelings that we have for our families. Each chapter introduces us to two people a father and his son, a daughter and her mother, a wife and her husband and we come to know them as intimately as characters in a novel, following the story of their relationship as they struggle resiliently through the kinds of hardships all families endure. Some of the people manage to save their relationship, while others find a better life only after letting the relationship go. From their efforts, the wisdom in this book emerges. We are left feeling emotionally raw but grounded and better prepared to love, through both hard times and good time. In these twenty mesmerizing stories, we discover what is essential and elemental to all families and, in doing so, slowly abolish the fantasies and fictions we have about those we fight to stay connected to. In "Why Do I Love These People?", Bronson shows us that we are united by our yearnings and aspirations: Family is not our dividing line, but our common ground. From the Hardcover edition.

Insightful reviews

Nicholewebb@gmail.com Webb: This book has caused a major shift in perspective for me. I have come to embrace the mistakes, shame, depression, disappointments, chaos and drama of life and see them as opportunities to grow instead of seeing them as failure or something to fear. The stories in this book are success stories of people who overcame. We all will face obstacles, so why not learn from them and look for the opportunities that they offer?

Bethany: This is an "inspirational" book. (The quotation marks are intentional...) I was not particularly inspired by it, though I'm sure it is intended to do so. It is, however, fascinating to read Bronson's collection of stories from and about families.

My personal favorite involved a Caucasian man whose only immediate - and extended - family was his mom and step-sister. He married a Filipino girl, who (if you know Filipinos, you understand) had hundreds of relatives just in the United States. He met her titas and titos, manangs and manongs, lolas and lolos, usually in what his wife called "contingents". They became his family. My Filipino family is not quite as large, but is certainly no less my family though we are not related by blood or marriage.

Shelly: I don't give many 5-star ratings but I believe this book deserves it for one simple reason: It seems the author has done a fantastic job commenting on Family without the benefit of The Plan of Happiness in his arsenal. The first chapter alone made me realize what a small bubble of life I live in and how grateful I am for the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. I didn't truly connect, until this book, with how many thousands of people are in the world struggling with the issue of family without the peace and joy of knowing WHY it's so important. The echoes of prophetic warning are very loud in Mr. Bronson's many narratives and statistics. I started reading as a parent, a mother, and about half-way through realized I was also reading as a child, a daughter, and became moved with this phenomenon.

The author's clear ability to connect the symbolism within each individual story and his theme is more than impressive - it's true talent! And the great part? Through it all I never once felt like he was preaching to me, rather we were on a discovery expedition together to figure it out based on the material he had collected.

Overall, for ME, the author accomplished his goal; I now have new eyes in which to view familial bonds, some ideas on how to improve those bonds or create new ones as the need arises and even the courage to cut a few of the unhealthy ones. Thanks! Definitely a GOOD READ!

'stina: i ended Po Bronson's Why Do i admire those People? over the weekend. It used to be a reasonably quickly examine 19 families. Divorce, death, varied cultures, protecting in touch, pushing away. The publication kind of discusses how households stick together, make it work. it truly is having a look from either the viewpoint of the relatives that you just got here from and the relatives that you are making. i believe the most factor that I got here away with from the booklet is that during the last a hundred and fifty years or so, now we have been given much more selection in how we relate with kin and with that selection comes loads of stress. Husbands and wives, daily, are given the alternative as to if or now not they are going to remain together. grownup young ones have a decision within the form of dating they've got with their mom and dad and siblings. most of the expectation of relatives that sticks jointly has deteriorated during the last few decades.* There are, of course, the economic, criminal and societal advantages and pressures on being married, however the primary constitution of the family members has replaced dramatically within the final one hundred fifty years. What's additionally new is that the foundation of marriage has develop into romantic love. the industrial pressures are nonetheless there, as are societal and familial pressures, yet for the main part, whilst humans get married those days, we think them to be in love with one another. that is not traditionally been the case. And romantic love, as somebody who is ever had his or her middle stomped on knows, isn't unavoidably a stable, eternal thing.

Catherine Stark: when you ever questioned, "why did i must belong to this family", learn this ebook and include the fantastic stories, i feel it'll make even the main cynical person discover how very important it can be to, settle for and savour the family members we got here from. "That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger"

Sally: eta: Giving this again to DI. an individual wish it?*****Haven't a clue what i used to be expecting, yet this wasn't it. What a pleasant and uncomfortable (often on the related time) choice of *true* stories. there has been the girl who needed to how to reconcile sufficient along

with her mentally ill, contriving, compulsive mendacity mom to take care of her as she elderly and wanted the help. How do I choose and keep boundaries? How does this impact my marriage? There used to be the guy that fell in love with a Filipino gal with out knowing that her complete family, even those that lived in Chicago and Texas and the Philippines, got here with her, and the way they, even though embracing of a large, concerned family, got here to wish a few obstacles as well. there has been the gal, who after 10 years of marriage, determined she used to be thoroughly unhappy, yet didn't wish to go away her husband or disrupt her kid's experience of safety, so she *asked* her husband if she may have an affair. There was once the Irish Catholic girl who married a pleasant Protestant man, yet that intended they'd to go away either their neighborhoods and households behind, however it additionally intended their teenagers had a greater than reasonable probability of becoming up with out desirous to homicide the "other side." There used to be the daddy who came across his personal approach to grieve his three yr old's sudden, unexplained death, although each person else inspiration they knew how he may still do that. The writer spent weeks, if now not months and years, learning those families, asking all of the questions you'll are looking to ask. He spent virtually as lengthy philosophizing approximately what relations means, and the way we will functionality via and among our variations and trials. a few of his principles have been correct on. certainly worthy interpreting when you fight together with your principles of family, and it might probably even motivate you to examine others' struggles, and the way peace and contentment could be found, even if it sort of feels impossible.

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