

First World MALADIES

VOLUME

Mild Inconveniences to Perfectly Able Individuals

ERIC S. TOWNSEND

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- *The Legend of Tabula Raisa*
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all Americans. Each of us could use a bit more humility and perspective when it comes to just how fortunate we are.

FOREWORD

Day in and day out, we're all encumbered with horrible circumstances.

There isn't a wall on Facebook or a feed from Twitter that doesn't chronicle the woes of our society in excruciatingly painful detail.

From housewives to cube farmers to commissioned salespeople to candidates for President of the United States — we're all hopelessly struggling to live as free, well-to-do citizens.

Something must be done to minimize damages to the American dream. We can't continue to foster this kind of social terrorism on our soil. It's a threat of the highest magnitude.

As an initial measure, I've taken the time and energy from an ever-busy calendar to raise awareness of numerous irks and misfortunes. I offer to you here, my *First World Maladies*.

Look beyond the starving babies in Africa to gratify your passion for charity. It's time we turn our attention domestically — to an entire population of suffering Americans.

I cannot see our way to a solution. I feel the best course of action is to fill these pages with the sort of subtle, God-awful pollution that wills strict regulations into place. Action must be taken by greater individuals — those who observe Columbus Day as a national holiday.

Imagine a world with stifled social media. I can't. Not one of us should accept that reality. We all benefit from likes, shares, pleas and other forms of sympathy for unimaginable ills.

If you can find it in your heart — rather, drum up that spirit of ingenuity to overcome some of the most daunting challenges of our time — then bemoaned souls across this land shall be eternally grateful. This is a calling to all true, emotionated patriots.

In the interim, I pray that you and your loved ones can find a quiet solace for your thoughts. May you find the strength to endure your troubles. We must not allow the terrorists to win.

May God bless you, and may God bless these United States of America.

- 1. I don't want the pool boy to see me in sweats.**
- 2. My wifi password is impossible to remember.**
- 3. It's tough to masturbate to losing athletes.**
- 4. Online language translators are choppy.**
- 5. The bottom of my Macbook Pro gets way too hot.**

6. **Decluttering consumes time.**
7. **My Au Pair just asked for a personal day.**
8. **I bought 5 different Nikes. Shins still hurt after jogging.**
9. **The blind spot in my new Corvette is tricky.**
10. **I'm paying far too much in property tax this year.**

- 11. Too many menu options at The Cheesecake Factory.**
- 12. I spilled coffee on my only Obama “HOPE” shirt.**
- 13. I still hear people through noise-cancelling headphones.**
- 14. Broken blue corn chips are less suitable for dipping.**
- 15. I gave a homeless man a ten instead of a single.**

16. **My windshield wipers won't stop squeaking.**
17. **I got fired from second job.**
18. **“ Under Construction ” websites are disappointing.**
19. **Istockphoto.com keeps raising their prices.**
20. **My 401k just tanked.**

21. **Only four people
attended my poetry reading.**

22. **No one understands me.**

23. **Smartphone batteries
die too quickly.**

24. **My bathroom breaks sync
with a Yankees fan.**

25. **U.S. National parks
are spread too far apart.**

26. Patent and trademark fees are piling up.

27. My fingers are too fat for a touchscreen keyboard.

28. I can't deposit checks with my bank's phone app.

29. My phone always rings when I'm napping.

30. Only a few of my sayings become popular.

31. My driver always takes the long way to the marina.

32. “Hunger Games” wasn’t any better on BluRay.

33. Robots are inefficient.

34. Wikipedia is asking for yet another donation.

35. Rainy days make me sad.

36. Trader Joe's rarely carries enough Saint Andre's cheese.

37. Organic veggies spoil fast.

38. Don't want all twenties from the ATM.

39. Charge me for shipping?

40. Noticing a slight drop in Ducati production quality.

41. I need to run errands, but Viagra hasn't worn off yet.

42. Got sciatica from sitting on a stuffed wallet.

43. iPads are bulky.

44. I didn't get what I wanted for my Star Wars collection.

45. People on Craigslist are cheap.

- 46. Wall mounts for a 90-inch television aren't elegant.**
- 47. The XM Radio signal in my car is weak.**
- 48. I need to walk to the cabana for cell reception.**
- 49. Travertine tile requires some maintenance.**
- 50. The dog doesn't like being weighed at the vet.**

- 51. People with coupons delay the grocery line.**
- 52. Derechos are terrifying.**
- 53. Back catalog for judges on “The Voice” is costly.**
- 54. Apple needs to strike a deal for Flash technology.**
- 55. Painting purchase doesn’t quite match my Persian rug.**

**56. Nutritionist requests
that I stop eating after 8pm.**

57. Missed the Hampton Jitney.

58. Been born again.

**59. Forgot to buy eucalyptus
bouquet this week.**

**60. The microwave burned
my popcorn.**

**61. Contractors keep wanting
30 extra minutes to arrive.**

**62. The neighbors opened a
daycare in their home.**

**63. Sushi keeps getting stuck
in my implant build.**

**64. Facebook Timeline
jumped the shark.**

**65. Thanks to Don Draper,
I now have emphysema.**

66. No saffron served on the rice en route to Dubai.

67. Rental car keeps chiming for me to buckle up.

68. None of the USPS stamp designs appeals to me.

69. Sandwiches at 7-11 always expire today or tomorrow.

70. Amazon split my shipments yet again.

71. The walk to the beach is two blocks.

72. Ice cubes taste like they were made from tap water.

73. Room service blows at this Hilton.

74. Pet health insurance is pricey.

75. This is not my favorite brand of gelato.

76. I can't finish a loaf of bread before mold grows.

77. I ran out of champagne at the company party.

78. Fiverr should be Onerr.

79. I don't get out to the movies as much as I once did.

80. Can't reboot my lifestyle.

81. Einstein said God is a product of human weakness.

82. Betting app makes it tough to withdraw earnings.

83. Galapagos excursions are expensive, for no good reason.

84. I haven't seen a baseball game in every stadium yet.

85. Our home theatre sound rattles the Venetian windows.

86. **Our formal dining room rarely gets used.**

87. **My yoga mat smells less zen with each passing class.**

88. **The self-sharpening knife keeps destroying tomatoes.**

89. **Rachel Maddow's demeanor is annoying.**

90. **Stealing music online takes too long.**

91. **Memoir needs more editing.**

92. **My wife says my khakis
are riding high.**

93. **Remodelers tracked dust to
and from the new cigar room.**

94. **Many of our ancestors were
probably racists.**

95. **Our regional currency
is tanking.**

96. My apologies. The maids haven't been here yet today.

97. I'm fearful that my death won't be profound.

98. Pretending to be rich is exhausting.

99. I have friends staying in the guest house that weekend.

100. Not my President.

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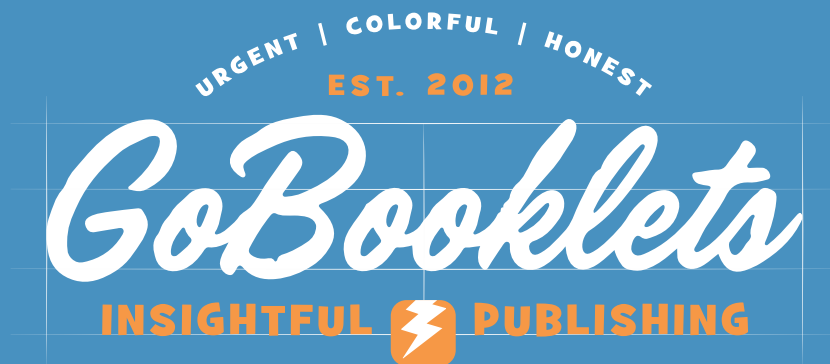
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