



Roommates: My Grandfather's Story

Max Apple

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From the author of The Oranging of America comes this inspiring true story about an American family. Rocky takes over a family, at the age of 103, and shows them how to survive.

Roommates: My Grandfather's Story Details

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Author : Max Apple

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From Reader Review Roommates: My Grandfather's Story for online ebook

Bev says

I liked this book about an aging Jewish grandfather and his grandson and how their lives connected over the years. My one disappointment was the one line wrap-up of Debby's life in the epilogue. She deserved more than that, even though the book was dedicated to the relationship between Max and Rocky.

Mary Anne says

The Library book club is reading this funny, heart-warming and tragic memoir. Rocky is a quirky and stubborn immigrant grandfather. He is also funny and loving. Max, his grandson is devoted to him but determined to live his own life too. Quick read that will leave you wanting to know more about this family.

Tahlia says

Sad, sad, sad! But meaningful and frustrating and thought provoking. I grew up with both sets of my grandparents and they were some of my very best friends. They were a lot nicer than Rocky, but had the same impact.

miriam says

This is one of my favorite books. Its possibly more simple, and could be read by YAs, but I love it. The characters, emotions and relationships are so great. Maybe its because I love old Jewish men, but this is great.

Heather says

Wow, this story of the relationship between a grandson, his grandfather and the rest of the family is almost unbelievable, and better than fiction. Can you imagine having your grandpa as your college roommate? And having him, when he is over 100 years old, as your children's babysitter?

PG

Pam says

I just love Max Apple's books because they are uplifting, humorous and absolutely heart warming. His love for his family shines through on every page! But what characters he has in his family, especially his grandfather. Read this book-it will make your day!

Julie says

Apple's story of his amazing, but crabby grandfather shows how deep love can go, even with people who get along like a house on fire.

This was an RD condensed book, but I'd probably read the full version if I get the chance.

Heather says

There is a reason that many people like reality TV. That's what this book is. A real family that loves each other, goes to school, works, falls in love and happens to have a member of their family that lives to the age of 106.

Love this heartwarming story of family love!

Patti says

One of big life bummers is that I never knew my great-grandparents (and of course couldn't know the great-greats). One of my big life regrets is that I didn't get to know my grandparents when they were alive. In my defense, I was a teenager and irritated by everyone who was grown. Still though, I wish I could have gotten to know them and learned about our family history. I've gleaned a bit from my mom and from ancestry.com but I'll never be able to fill in the blanks.

So maybe I was predisposed to enjoy this book about a grandfather and grandson. The book is an easy read (I read the whole thing in less than a full day including time to sleep) and is filled with stories about Rocky, Max Apple's plucky grandpa.

The relationship between Max and his family amazed me. I am not super close to my family and so I can't imagine any of them following me across the state to college and across the country for a job.

Reading about Ann Arbor in the late 60s was cool (I live there now) and I enjoyed the story of how Max met Debby. Speaking of which, Debby was the one true tragedy of the story. First she was held back by her times (had to be a housewife) and then by her illness. If she read this book in the hereafter, I'm sure she felt rather gyped. (I do think that her destiny should have been explained in more than just a sentence. Did Max and the kids ever see her again? When exactly did he meet Wife #2? How did she finally die?)

Otherwise, reading this book was a delight. Max and Rocky were truly the perfect couple. The book is spaced out over Max's life from when he's a young kid joining the Cub Scouts (to Rocky's horror it is held at a church!) to college to wife/kids to career.

Of course, reading about Rocky's piousness just made me feel guilty for eating cheeseburgers and not thinking twice when the sun sets on Friday evening. On the positive side, I have no doubt that Rocky is in

that crazy hazy World to Come, baking challah and turning off the air conditioners. Rock on, my friend.

Linda says

This is beautifully written. The characters just get right under your skin and stay there. It's a beautiful blend of tragedy and comedy, and makes one very grateful for one's own life!

Ellen Winokur says

This is a remarkable true story about a grandfather and his grandson living together as roommates. In today's society this would be unlikely. I could relate to the characters. This book gave insight into caring for our parents.

Holly Armitage says

Such a sweet family story

Kimberly Westrope says

An endearing account of the author's life, most of which was spent living with his grandfather. Filled with sweet and often humorous tales of his often tumultuous relationship with his aging grandfather, this book is a testament to the special love shared between a grandparent and a grandchild.

Roommates is also one man's coming of age story...a story in which we see him turn from a young man pursuing love and higher education to a father and husband who, through all of life's trials, finds his best friend and greatest supporter in his grandfather.

This book provides the reader with an honest and sometimes difficult look into the intimate relationship shared by these two men from different times and different cultures who clung to each other through all life threw at them.

Dee Toomey says

I loved this story about a man and his Jewish grandfather. It is heart-touching, because it really happened. I found myself irritated with the old gentlemann at times, and touched near tears at others. A great read!

Clouisejones4 says

Loved this book because of the funny parts and the step into a different world. It was also really sad and the sadness came unexpectedly, which I guess is how the author experienced it himself, and that makes me respect Max Apple's choice in springing it on the reader the way he did. Excellent development of character...I never knew Rocky, but I feel like I know him perfectly.
