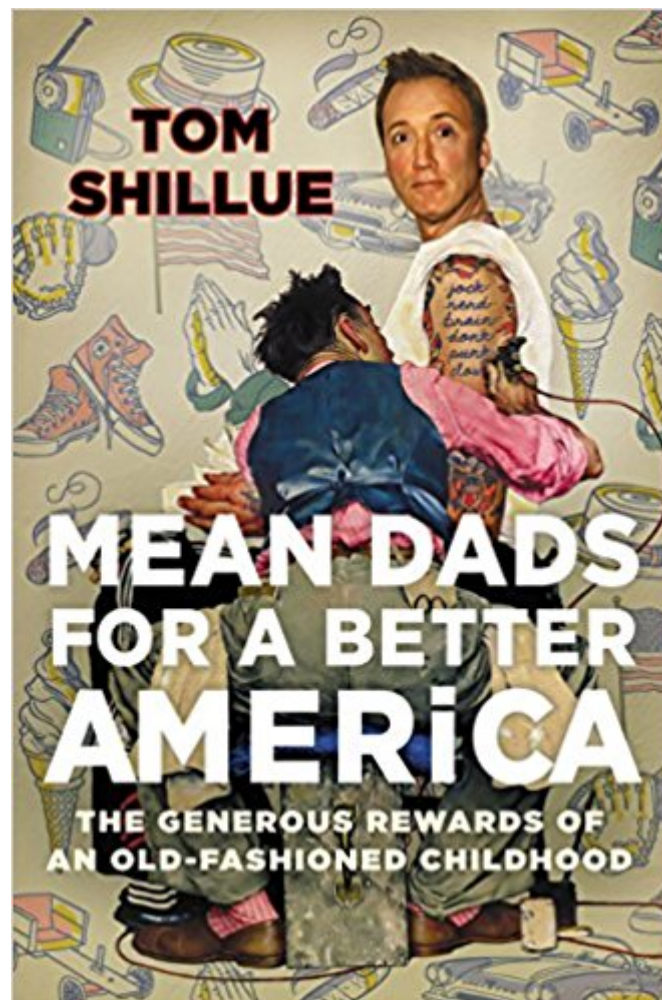




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# Mean Dads For A Better America: The Generous Rewards Of An Old-Fashioned Childhood



## Synopsis

From the stand-up comedian and popular host on the Fox News Network, a nostalgic look back at his childhood and the simple American values that shaped his worldview – a portrait of growing up in 1970s America. As a comedian and conservative thinker, whip-smart funny Tom Shillue grounds his ideas about our current culture and political climate in stories from his childhood. Growing up as one of five kids in a devout Irish Catholic family in a small town outside of Boston, Tom sincerely believes that the rough-and-tumble, rules-dominated world in which he came of age was a better America – a time and place that made him into the well-adjusted, happy, successful man he is today. In *Mean Dads for a Better America*, Tom reminisces about his childhood, his family, and the traditional values he cherishes. He takes us back to a time when neighbors disciplined each other – as children without fear of being sued, when kids made it to the family table for dinner, when parents' rules were gospel, when the occasional fistfight was considered a fair way to solve a problem, and when children were free to roam, make mistakes, and experience the first tastes of independence. On the Fox News Network, Tom debates, debunks, and entertains with his hilarious approach to issues of the day. Here, he brings that talent and wisdom to the page, tackling the issues that confound many Americans, like our hypersensitive culture and overzealous parenting. As Tom celebrates the stability of family life and the sanity of days gone by, he encourages us to hold on to our sense of humor and look back at our own lives, as we work towards creating a better future for ourselves and our kids, all while making us laugh.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As American As Apple Pie, As Wholesome As A Good Playground Rumble In a world of helicopter parents, overscheduled children, hamstrung teachers, and entitled teenagers, one sometimes wonders if imagination, determination, dedication, and good old respect have gone the way of the dinosaur. In *Mean Dads for a Better America*, comedian and Fox News host Tom Shillue tells tales of his own childhood and uses them to show how simple American values shaped his worldview. Raised in Norwood, Massachusetts, in a large Irish Catholic family, Tom grew up in the 1970s, but as far as his parents were concerned, it was still the 1950s. And that suited Tom just fine—whether he was serving Mass as an altar boy after school (while trying desperately to hide his sneakers from the nuns), dealing with playground tough guys by using his mother's time-tested aphorisms like "sticks and stones," or learning the evils of Meat Loaf's lyrics by being subjected to a dramatic reading of them by his father, Tom was able to navigate the perils of childhood with good humor. And through it all, love of God, Country, and Family kept him grounded. With charming, honest stories about his family and his road to adulthood, Tom Shillue takes a unique approach to addressing many of the issues that confound American parents today—our permissive culture, political correctness, overzealous parenting, and the dominance of technology over good old-fashioned outdoor play. *Mean Dads for a Better America* goes back to a simpler time while also reminding us that it's important to laugh while we work out where we are headed.

Tom Shillue is a popular host on Fox News Channel. He has appeared in his own Comedy Central Special, on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Last Comic Standing*, *Comics Unleashed*, *Broad City*, and in the feature film *Mystery Team*. Shillue has been featured as part of the barbershop quartet on *The Tonight Show* with Jimmy Fallon along with Justin Timberlake, Kevin Spacey, Steve Carrel, and Sting. In 2013 Shillue released twelve consecutive comedy albums as part of his ambitious "12 in 12" project. From 2012 to 2015, he toured the U.S.A. with friend and fellow comedian Jim Gaffigan. In 2014 he brought his solo show "Impossible" to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in 2016 he headlined at SF Sketchfest in San Francisco. He lives in New York City.

This book is so much more than just a book about being a traditional father. The author really takes you on a journey. You'll be laughing out loud on one page and then turn the page and find yourself feeling moved and inspired. The author's perspective on

parenting is really funny and insightful. If you were a child or teen in the 70's and 80's, you will be flooded with memories sparked by Tom Shillue's stories of his youth. Tales of his pursuit of a career in show biz are extremely entertaining. Tom Shillue is now one of my favorite authors and I can't wait for him to write another book. #LovedIt #Genius

Shillue wrote a very funny book about growing up in the 70's. Structure meant "go outside and play" rather than dance class, t-ball, soccer teams day care--you know, like kids today who seem to have not a minute of being what they want to be and doing what they want, unless it involves electronic devices. Some of the scenes had me laughing out loud and others had me gasping "how did we survive!?" I recommend this to anyone who grew up in that time or around that time and to anyone who can stretch their brains to wonder about their parents' childhood.

Tom Shillue is one of the best comics out there. His book is very good. A must read. The CD of the book, is also good. Tom reads the book.

Some good stories but from the promo I expected some dad tips.

Great read. Wish Dads could go back to being "mean dads", respected and good role models. Fathers need to be "fathers" not friends. Tom showed how having fear of authority at a young age, did not harm him and made him a better person as he matured. Because of his "mean Dad", Tom is a better person, husband, friend and father.

Not what I thought it would be. OK as a personal memoir

Excellent book and well written. Loved it!

ITS A GOOD READ... Very funny

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