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Dear Yankee

Lady Soliloque
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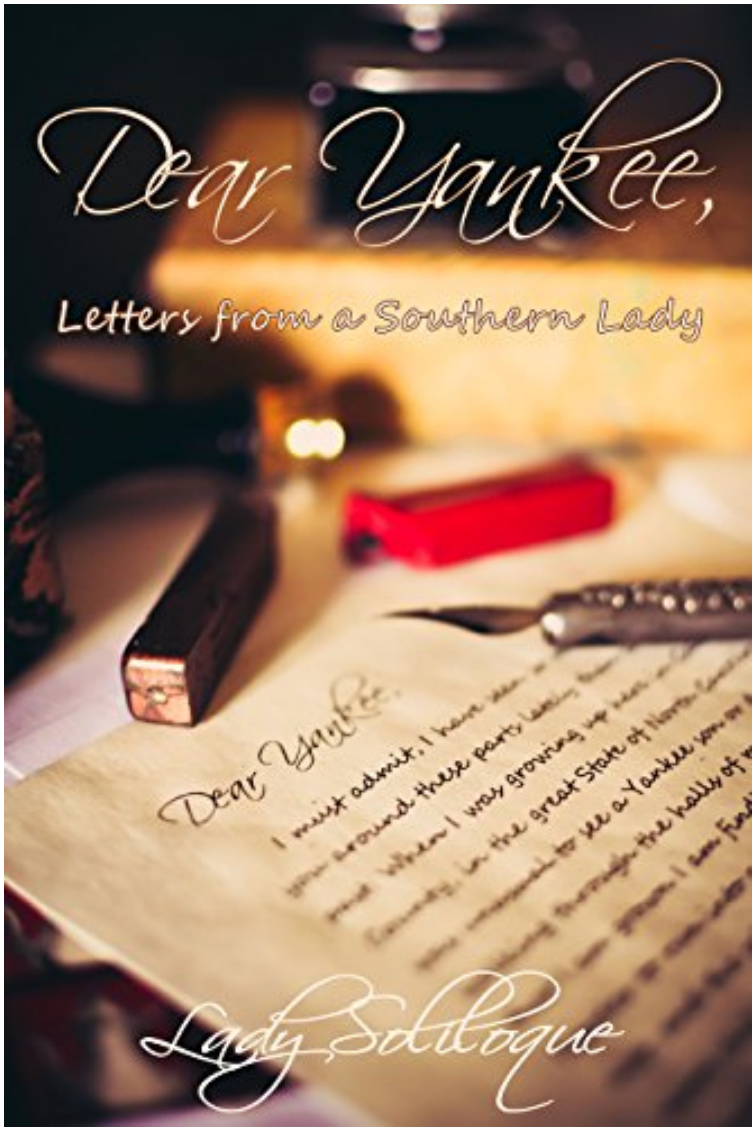

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Lady Soliloque : Dear Yankee before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dear Yankee:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More similarities than differences among usBy NCIndependentI thought this little book was amusing in parts, but really not all that humorous (a la Jeff Foxworthy, for example). As a Yankee transplant, with many Southern friends here, I already knew most of what the author describes as her Southern culture. However, I think what she should realize is that the rest of the country has more in common with her culture

than she seems to think (the South hasn't cornered the market on morals, manners, hospitality, and knowing how to be ladies and gentlemen). As I have always said , it is not WHERE you were raised, but HOW. What we need to all do is find common ground and approach one another with mutual respect and an open mind. After all, 150 years is much too long to hold a grudge. :-)I did find, however, some misconceptions about us Yankees and some revisionist history about the Civil War (ie, the South trying to convince us all that slavery was not one of the major driving forces behind forming the Confederacy when actual secession documents prove it was). But, on a lighter note, about those misconceptions ... For instance, I have never heard that we prefer gas stoves to electric -- to me, it has always been dependent upon what is available to you in your locale. Also, that there are no or not very many "Yankee" cookbooks in bookstores. Not surprising (but who's counting), because, in the Northeast, where I was born and bred and lived all of my life before moving south, we tend to cook the cuisine of our ancestral heritage. For me, Italian, and I know there are countless Italian/Mediterranean cookbooks out there. More ethnic than regional cooking.Therefore, in reading this book, it dawned on me that our Southern neighbors need a guidebook to us too. Yes, we all have our driving quirks, but it drives us crazy that no driver from around these parts seems to use a turn signal (fyi, it's the lever to the left on the steering wheel). You have to become a mind reader! Also, when we say we are from New York, we mean the state, NOT the city, which is Manhattan to us and what most tourists visit (even though it is only one of five boroughs that comprise New York CITY). New York State is vast and it borders to the north with Canada. Therefore, its regions are as diverse as its people and it is also mainly rural (where children there too are taught how to shoot and hunt, etc., and nearly everyone owns a gun).I do love the friendliness of the Southern people (at least to your face- LOL!) as I am a friendly person too, and love when you ask someone how they are, they answer fine, and then say "hope you are too". I also like to chat in stores and such, but when there is a long line behind you in a bank or supermarket, it is not the time to do it. To us Yankees, it is inconsiderate of other people and their time -- especially if you are doing these errands on your lunch hour or under other time constraints (e.g.,have to get back to caring for elderly parent or child, or to the hospital to be with ailing spouse, or to a cancer treatment.) At these times, a little common sense goes a long way.BOTTOM LINE: Please do not judge us by negative stereotypes like Jersey Shore or Real Housewives of NYC/NJ and we won't judge you by Honey Boo Boo or Duck Dynasty, and the dark days of slavery, segregation, and Jim Crow (I cringe when I see the 'Whites only" and "Colored" signs sold in antique stores). We can continue to peacefully co-exist in this beautiful part of America's Great Melting Pot.Again, getting to know each other is a two-way street of mutual understanding and respect -- coupled with keeping an open mind devoid of prejudice and preconceived misconceptions.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really have enjoyed this bookBy Connie MccluskeyReally have enjoyed this book. I am Southern born and bred for the most part but my late husband was a Yankee and so were my Step Mom's family. Between this and IBM moving us North 3 different times I can understand a little bit more of how Yankees feel about Southern folks and life in general. Originally bought it as a gift but liked it so much kept it for myself ! Lot of truth, lot of humor. You will enjoy it, especially if like me, your life includes both worlds !2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Tour Guide to Southern Culture.By Harald P. CagotA thoroughly enjoyable read that brought back some grand memories of vacationing in the South, especially the Lady's reminiscence of Myrtle Beach where my family enjoyed many a summer vacation.In the 1950's and 60's I grew up in Southeast Ohio where much of the Southern mores overflowed into my culture, so some of the book did not carry total revelation. At times I wished she would have delved deeper in some of her topics, but I realized this book is a tour guide, not a thesis.I am glad she did bring up the point the the War between the States was not fought primarily on the slavery issue (less that 10% of Southerners owned slaves) but rather an trade issues; the free trade South vs. the Protectionist North along with basic state rights issues. The Lady also pointed out the poverty and destruction in the South as a result of the War and the later punishments laid upon by the North. Many Americans do not know or have forgotten the wars aftermath. Again, kudos to the Lady Soliloque for her insight and stimulating the desire to research more.

"And so, my dear Yankee, it is with open arms that I begin this correspondence with you. As a bonafide Southern Lady, born and bred, I can understand how confusing and bewildering my culture is to anyone who was not born and raised here. I know several of you who have been in residence for quite a spell and are still completely baffled by all but the most surface aspects of being Southern and all that being Southern entails. "I have high hopes that our forthright communication will lead to a new understanding which can only deepen our respect for one another." And so begins a collection of letters from the Southern perspective on everything Southern a Yankee needs to know. From cooking, to cliques, to manners, to the explanations behind what seems to be the strange culture of the South, Dear Yankee, Letters from a Southern Lady covers all aspects of the South with poignant humor.