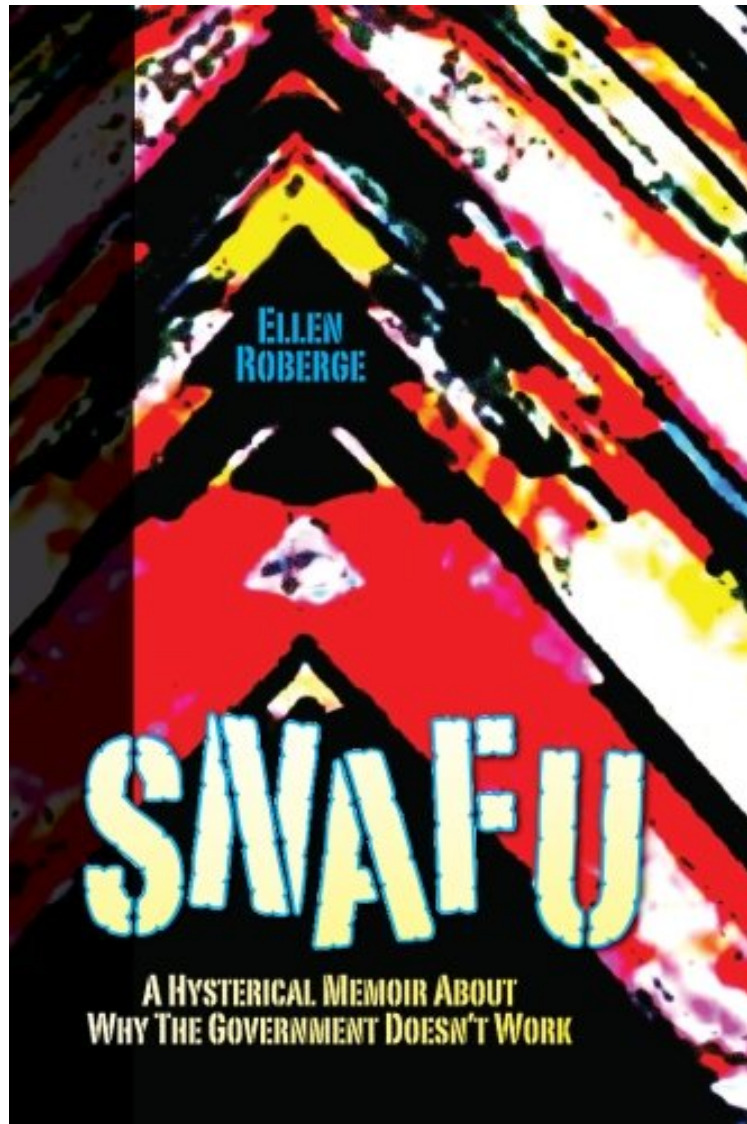


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SNAFU: A Hysterical Memoir About Why the Government Doesn't Work

Ellen Roberge

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Ellen Roberge : SNAFU: A Hysterical Memoir About Why the Government Doesn't Work before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised SNAFU: A Hysterical Memoir About Why the Government Doesn't Work:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Read.....Especially if you worked at this organization!By Retired 2005I worked 23 years at this organization. Ellen did a good job of sharing the flavor of this government

entity. Just to level the playing field.....I worked at other installations before landing at this one. The people here were far nicer and the management more competent than any other government agency I worked for previously. I actually enjoyed my work, the co-workers, the management people very much. I would elect to do it all over again if given the opportunity! The work was interesting and rewarding. A great career with many, many wonderful memories!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good but no redemptionBy Been There Done ThatInteresting story, many times funny, some very sad. Lots of gossip and human failings, like will occur in any organization. However there was no redemption from the author at the end. After serving in the Government for so many years, something good must have come out of it. The author went from a clerical job to a contract specialist job with a good retirement program. That alone is a success. There must have been at least one event or project in that career which was worth bragging about, and to balance out all the other SNAFUs.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not funnyBy CharlesIt wasn't funny. I think it's a light hearted expose'. And I was a little ticked off at some of the things that have gone on she mentioned. And I'm sure they are true. But the author doesn't come across as outraged by it, only pointing it out. It's obvious she only had a problem with sort of thing when it worked against her.

Enjoy the hysterically amusing, some astonishing, and irreverent but true stories of the Federal Government as I lived it for 28 years. There is something here for everyone who's ever had to deal with the Government. It will most certainly appeal to the 14.6 million currently employed Federal civil service employees, as well as all retirees (they may not like what I've written, but they'll be hard pressed to dispute it).

From Kirkus sA wry insider's view of the stagnant conditions plaguing governmental offices. The image of government workers as lazy, ineffective and corrupt is a common one in popular culture. Roberge, now retired after nearly three decades as a civil servant, makes it clear that the majority of her colleagues did not correspond to this stereotype. Nevertheless, for the sake of entertaining material, she focuses on those individuals who hardly worked instead of working hard. Most of the (in)action takes place in Florida, which the author convincingly presents as a kind of hell on earth, complete with palmetto bugs, fire ants, alligators, heat and humidity. Roberge writes in a breezy conversational style, often laced with a raunchy tone. Addressing sexism in the workplace, she notes: "Most of the women I knew would shatter the glass ceiling legitimately, but let's just say the ones I vividly remember, sadly, the stupid ones, all have glass in their knees." Office nicknames inspired by the film *Dances with Wolves* are humorous; the author's own, based on her conscientious yet futile attempts to navigate through layers of bureaucratic inefficiency, is "Screeches Like Owl." Overall, the book seems more suited to readers who prefer a series of vignettes with wacky titles instead of a sustained narrative thread. However, Roberge strikes a chord in the very last paragraph, where she connects a touching moment with her mother to the nature of the co-workers represented throughout the book. During one of their final conversations before her mother's death, as they watch foolish people feeding the alligators, her mother remarks: "No, they shouldn't feed them, but it's not the alligators [sic] fault; they don't know they're monsters."About the AuthorEllen Roberge lives in Orlando, FL with her husband and crazy dog. The first best decision she made was to go to work for the federal Government and the second was to retire early from the federal Government.