



# X vs. Y: A Culture War, a Love Story

*Eve Epstein , Leonora Epstein*

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## **X vs. Y: A Culture War, a Love Story** Eve Epstein , Leonora Epstein

Seen through the eyes of siblings 14 years apart in age, *X vs. Y* is a smart, funny, stylish, and visually driven anthology that compiles and compares their two generational cultures. It's a story told through lists, infographics, essays, anecdotes, and images, with chapters devoted to fashion, TV, music, technology, dating, books, and movies. Through musings on topics such as leg warmers, *Clueless*, *Sassy* magazine, and MTV, along with mixtapes and TV characters, *X vs. Y* paints a portrait of two intricately entwined generations.

## **X vs. Y: A Culture War, a Love Story Details**

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Author : Eve Epstein , Leonora Epstein

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# From Reader Review X vs. Y: A Culture War, a Love Story for online ebook

## Christine Ann says

good book. good read. I enjoyed the perspectives and reminiscing a bit. I felt there was one big miss in the book. I couldn't relate to either generation. The gen xer was a real gen xer obviously growing up in the 80s and the gen yer is obviously a youngin. I found myself somewhere in between being a 30 something who was a teen in the 90s. I mean how do you not talk about 90210, Melrose place, new kids on the block, and so many things that brought peace to 1991? I felt that maybe there should be a gen x.2. none the less it kept me interested and is a fast entertaining light read that can definitely start a few conversations.

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## Knotty says

I bought this book on a whim one day at a book store because the cover looked pretty awesome. Plus, what better way to sludge through your breast-pumping work breaks than reading about nostalgia? "X vs. Y" is a story written by two sisters born in two different generations. I definitely wanted to read it since I too live in the same sort of world. My kid brother was born in 1993 and I was born in 1982. Technically, we are both Generation Y/Millennials, but since I was born on Day 2 of the beginning of the generation, I really think I am a hybrid of both generations since I'm right there smack in the middle. How do our lives pan out based on the generation we are born into? It has always fascinated me. I feel like my brother's generation is really different from mine just based on the technologies they have always had, which in my time was a total luxury. I remember getting our first computer (a Mac) and AOL (which I believe was New Year's Eve 1994... what a way to start 1995?) I can remember where I was when Princess Diana died, where my brother has no idea who Princess Diana was. (Are you kidding me? Hasn't he seen the zillion magazines with her face on the cover in the supermarket check out line?!) I'm pretty sure I have had the same screen name my entire online life while my brother has probably changed his a million times. The other day, he came over to my house for the Game of Thrones finale, and I asked him if he knew about Pinterest since I re-created the Outback's version of cheese fries using a recipe from the website. His response? "Jen, that has been out over two years. It's useless now." Seriously? Burnnnnnnnnnnn. These young whipper snappers nowadays ain't got no time for that.

Some of this book did go over my head since I grew up in Indiana and not the hustle and bustle of New York City. I don't like a lot of popular music, and the kind I like is generally scoffed at for being terrible. Even now, the authors both live in Los Angeles and are probably doing way cooler things than I will ever do. I definitely got a BuzzFeed vibe from the book, and apparently the younger sister is a writer for the website.

My favorite part of the book was about Cher Horowitz and Clueless, which is still one of my top favorite movies. That movie had EVERYTHING, and it was my first double date matinée! (Shout out to two of the Adams triplets and Meg Williams Jack!) I'm pretty sure I say "Your man Christian is a cake boy!" at least once a month. (and I had no idea that "jeepin'" meant sex in a jeep... guess everyone went Jeepin' in the 90's.)

Fun facts: did you ever read a 'zine? I did- absolutely! After my name and address got published in X-men #33, I got a ton of weird mail, and a few 'zines were included. Also, how many things did you order from \*delia's? True story, I only had 1 shirt (and damn I loved that blue tank top even though it didn't go with my

look AT ALL).

Overall, a fun and entertaining look back into the past. I would think only girls would like this book since there isn't anything boyish in here other than Star Wars which is pretty much universal.

Sometimes you need a fun little book.

Jen's Rating: \*\*\*

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### **Angie Fehl says**

Using a series of essays and a humorous collection of infographs, IM / text messages and other illustrations, sisters -- born 14 years apart -- Eve (Gen X) and Leonora Epstein (Gen Y) take on the differences and similarities between Generations X and Y. They discuss what bridges the gap between the two as well as why there will never be total understanding between them. The book is divided into sections, covering every topic you can imagine -- movies, music, books, sex & dating, it's all here.

This book was right up my alley because it covers a number of conversation topics I find myself pondering on in my own life. I strongly identify with being in that gray area of people born in the early 1980s the Epsteins discuss! While technically my birth year places me as a millennial, I have a Gen X older brother whose interests had a pretty big influence on my own, growing up. So there's a lot that I identify with from both generational periods. Which is probably why I found this essay collection so fascinating, finding out that I was far from being the only one who felt this way! Even reading the thoughts and opinions of both Epstein sisters, I still found myself unable to side with either, feeling very much right down the middle on a lot of things. I would be feeling what one sister was saying but then she goes on about how stupid a song "Tubthumpin" by Chumbawumba is... c'mon now, how can you not love to party to that one? --D Oh, and then there was the time that Gen Y sister knocked Bono of U2, one of my all-time favorite bands. Fightin' words, girl. Fightin' words. But then I was Team Y again when she started waxing poetic about the days of the dELiA\*s catalog. ;-)

There were portions where I felt a bit of a disconnect with what both sisters were saying, I think simply because I had a different upbringing. These ladies had a bit of a privileged childhood which included stores I never had access to and Manhattan private school educations. So there were moments where they'd be like "everyone had these things" "everyone experienced this" and I would be left thinking, well no, not everyone. That aside, some of my favorite portions were the bits regarding online dating experiences, "the inexplicable nostalgia for JTT", and the debates on influential / classic movies of each generation. Also loved Gen X sister Eve comparing E.B. White's Charlotte's Web to the films of Spike Jonze and Wes Anderson. X-D

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### **Tara Kyrios says**

I loved this so much. If you are gen x or gen y, you should try it.

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**Danielle Lehman says**

You will laugh your asses off. And feel warm and fuzzy and nostalgic inside.

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**Chelsey Cosh says**

*X vs. Y* is a quick read, a comparative look at pop culture through the eyes of sisters with a fourteen-year age gap. Generation X is Eve Epstein who waxes on about Wham, bulky acrylic legwarmers, Saturday-morning cartoons, and auteur David Lynch and his *Twin Peaks* in her personal essays, while her sister Leonora Epstein, who represents Generation Y, was more my speed, rattling on about the profundity of Aqua, Tom Green, dating via text message and IM, and, one of my favourites, the book *The Perks of Being A Wallflower*. I especially appreciated the line of similarity she cuts through *Rugrats*, *Buffy*, and *New Girl*. It certainly captures the attention, even if only for a fleeting 190 pages. I'd recommend it.

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**Carla says**

This was a perfect beach read!

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**Alaina says**

EH.

If you want to write a pop culture memoir, write one. Don't try to sum up two huge generations with just one perspective each.

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**Mel Hop says**

Enjoyed this book as it was an easy yet entertaining read. I loved how they took simple pop culture topics from my adolescence and discussed them in a humorous, more in depth way (similar to Chuck Klosterman).

As someone born in the "gray area" between gen x and y (1979-1984), I could relate to a lot of what both authors were talking about. Even laughed out loud a few times. For example, when Eve wrote "high school boys weren't exactly banging down my hymen".

Also loved reminiscing about one of my biggest teen crushes when Leonora mentioned Skeet Ulrich. If you also had a crush on Skeet Ulrich, I think you'll like this book.

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## **shannon says**

A fun cultural examination

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## **Jehnie says**

Fun. Goofy. It made me laugh from time to time. There were a lot of very familiar cultural references. It was a bit too navel-gaze-y (although that was the book's purpose, so I should have expected it).

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## **Amy Talkington says**

X vs Y. Basically it's Nirvana vs. Britney, Family Ties vs. Dawson's, Heathers vs. Mean Girls. Doc Martens vs. foam footwear. But it's so much more than that. The book is just awesome in every way. It's all told from the sisters' perspectives via essays, letters, lists, charts, diagrams, IM chats, dating profiles... you name it! The layout is slick and cool. They are fantastic, sharp writers. Eve used to be the editor in chief of Daily Candy and Leo is a staff writer at BuzzFeed (where she has penned at least a dozen lists and quizzes that you have undoubtedly done!). But what really makes this read stand out is the heart and emotion they manage to squeeze into their essays that seem, on the surface, to be only about pop culture. Read this and then buy another one to give as the most awesome b-day gift to your BFF (of any generation)!

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## **Janet says**

This book offers up viewpoints on everything pop culture from sisters born 14 years apart, placing them in two different generations, thus the title X vs. Y. As someone who identifies with both generations, I am indeed its target audience. This was further evidenced by how I could relate to both authors. In fact recently, a new micro generation coined Xennials came out that perhaps suits me even better, but I digress. Anyway, I love analyzing pop culture nostalgia, so I expected to love this. I guess it just didn't get nerdy enough for someone like me. The references instead more or less just scratched the surface. It was an ok romp down memory lane with soundbites of goodness, but overall nothing too spectacular.

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## **Kim says**

I realised I hadn't finished this when I started it years ago, I liked it, but then I like anything with Gen X in the title.

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## **Jim says**

I thought this was a really cool idea. But it got a little tiresome as I got into it. Then one of the sisters said someone looked like a "tranny" and I was done...

