

[Ebook free] Fish Whistle: Commentaries, Uncommentaries, And Vulgar Excesses

Fish Whistle: Commentaries, Uncommentaries, And Vulgar Excesses

Daniel Pinkwater

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Daniel Pinkwater : Fish Whistle: Commentaries, Uncommentaries, And Vulgar Excesses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fish Whistle: Commentaries, Uncommentaries, And Vulgar Excesses:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Feel Good ReadBy Pope MelThis is a pleasant collection of short essays, many of which were previously read by the author on NPR. Pinkwater waxes eloquently on his boyhood, his weight, writing and art, teaching writing and art, and loving and living with dogs.No surprise here, but my favorite essays involved food and memories of great meals shared.Here Pinkwater talks about an eatery from his youth:"Grease was the motif at Fred's. Instantly I would enter the place, a fine mist of grease suspended in the air would adhere to my eyeglasses--diffracting the light--so I always remember Fred's as a pointillist painting."And here is the story of a trip he and his father made to a Jewish restaurant in Warsaw, where they were served an eight-course meal:"First there was scalding hot chicken soup--minimum fifty percent fat. Delicious.""Chopped liver, glistening with schmaltz. My father inhaled it.""Third was some kind of herring. I dropped out after that. I knew another bite would kill me. Roast chickens followed. Carps' heads, jellied calves' feet, stuff I'd never seen before. The two old guys worked steadily. They took on more cholesterol than the average Greenland Eskimo gets in a month. They both lived through it. Afterward, my father and I were in the street. He was chewing a toothpick. "Dat vas good Jewish cooking," he said. "Don't tell your mudder ve vent here."I'd rate most of the essays between 3 and 4 stars, but because Pinkwater makes

me want to pinch his cheeks (all four of them!), I'll award him the higher score. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this book. By Jeff I've been a huge fan of Daniel Pinkwater since I first read *Lizard Music* in sixth grade. I bought this book of essays when it first came out in the early 90s and I still think about it all the time. Somehow, his take on things just resonates with me. The essays are mostly transcriptions of short radio commentaries he did on NPR over the course of 10 years. They are mostly recollections of incidents from his childhood and early adulthood, usually with a light tone. Some of them are just funny -- Pinkwater is pretty good story teller -- but some have little philosophical hooks in them that stay stuck in your brain. "How to Talk to Kids" is a surprisingly deep rumination on what art is about, and "Why I Don't Fly" is a lament about how modern flying robs aviation of its magic. Pinkwater tends to be polarizing; you either love him or you don't. I solidly fall into the former camp. Read a few of his essays and if you like what you see, send a bit of money his way. Now that I've sung the praises of this collection, I do have to note that review is for the ebook. The essays are gold, but the ebook is a no-frills affair. The essays run one after the other, with no separation between and no index. You can't quickly find an essay unless you do a word search. Some of the organization from the original book is lost, and it diminishes the reading experience. I'm glad to have an electronic copy but if I need to look up an essay at home, I'll grab my print copy. I also wish "Chicago Days/Hoboken Nights" was also available, since those essays also deserve to be shared with the modern world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Never knew this guy was so funny. By Stellarr Chance I actually got this as a free download a few months ago from a review on Boing Boing. If you are in need of a great laugh then you will do well to purchase this gem. (If the pudding story doesn't crack you up then you, my friend, have no sense of humor.) This book is a winner for those commute rides, doctor office waits and anything else you need to fill some spare time with.

Seventy humorous short essays--many autobiographical--by a commentator for National Public Radio combine storytelling with acerbic social satire in the manner of S.J. Perelman and James Thurber.

From Publishers Weekly Leaving his native California to settle in New York's Hudson River Valley, Pinkwater recently began broadcasting on National Public Radio, after a career writing and illustrating outstanding books for children. This is a collection of his "commentaries, un-commentaries and vulgar excesses" from the radio talks that enjoy a wide audience. An inspired satirist, Pinkwater speaks for all who suffer from those "Who Only Stand and Snarl," instead of doing their work; for fat people who can't lose weight; for those who can't find a real Jewish deli; for everyone benighted by life's perversities. In a lighter vein, the author tells about times at home with his wife Jill, their dogs and good friends. But readers will perhaps be most charmed by memoirs of Pinkwater's Polish immigrant parents, especially his father, who is the inspiration for "Fischvistle" and other affecting pieces. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-- Readers familiar with Pinkwater's books for children will enjoy this collection of humorous adult essays. The man is mad, and so are his comments. He takes on the characters of his small town in upstate New York, as well as those of his childhood; he comments on his weight problem and various methods of weight loss; he recalls incidents experienced while traveling the world. No topic is sacred, and all are cynically hilarious. Most pieces are taken from his efforts on National Public Radio, but their translations to written from spoken word do not suppress any amusing notes. Cataloging will hide this in 814, but creative librarians will find ways to make it more accessible. --Dorcas Hand, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, TX Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Pinkwater, who has heretofore applied his hand with deft authority to the creation of children's books, has gathered between the covers of this volume a number of delightfully inconsequential monologues, originally written for National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Almost anything--Mad magazine, shopping malls, being a writer, air travel--will set off and away his fancy flutters on a brief, airy little excursion. He is a writer with whom the reader goes lightly. None of his commentaries strikes very deep. He writes to amuse, and rarely does one feel that the effort of facetiousness is too ferociously sustained. In small doses, the book is wholesome medicine for gloomy moods. - A.J. Anderson, Graduate Sch. of Library Information Science, Simmons Coll., Boston Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.