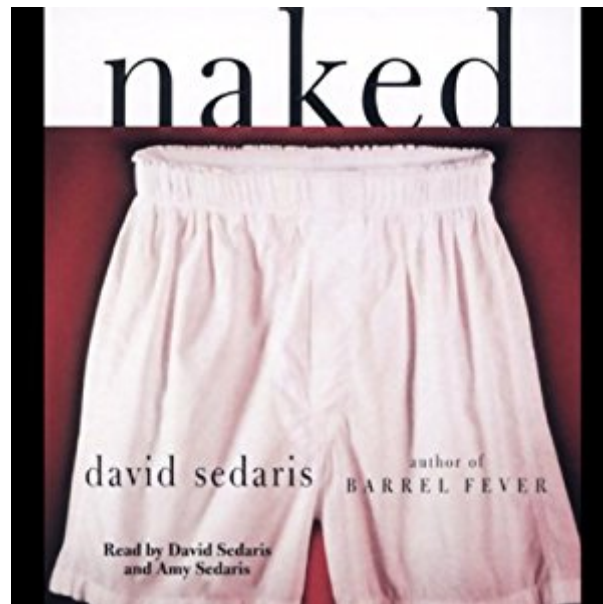


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Naked



Synopsis

One of the most talked-about, most enjoyed bestsellers of the year, "Naked" offers a collection of hilarious, touching, genre-bending vignettes "guaranteed to make you blow milk out your nose" ("Details"). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I read this book in two or three sittings. I had over half of the book left to read and planned on reading it slowly but I became hooked and polished the rest off in one night as though it were a delicious dessert. David's story became so exciting that I was mesmerized. I couldn't help liking him. He made me care about him. Picture yourself as a child inflicted with a severe case of OCD--the counting, touching, and checking exhausts you by the end of the day--you retreat to your room to lie on your bed and rock. Picture yourself as a young person with homosexual feelings in a world filled with hate and prejudice towards minorities and particularly gay men. Imagine yourself with parents who fill up their home with baby after baby but have no aptitude for parenthood--a mom who sees her son's frailties as fodder for comedy, a dad who's more in love with golf than his family, a mom whose addiction to cigarettes and alcohol is stronger than anything else. Imagine working in a mental hospital or attending a college with handicapped people and having to care for your roommates' needs. Picture yourself feeling so disenchanting with life that you find yourself shoplifting, taking drugs and distributing them, and going from one menial job to the next. Sedaris decides to take off and leave his family. This is when he travels all over the U.S., hitchhiking, working side by side with migrant workers, and seeing a side of life that is so seedy that suddenly

his home life is looking a lot better. As you might imagine, taking so many risks brings him into some unimaginable situations. I was reminded that men too can be harassed by sexual predators. He returns home to take on some unusual jobs, meeting some memorable characters along the way. The final chapter when he decides to spend a few days in a nudist camp is the icing on the cake. I loved it. Nudists are a hoot! If you're like me, you'll find yourself rooting for Sedaris and laughing a lot. Sedaris has a talent for making the bizarre seem outrageously funny. But I didn't find the entire book to be "side-splitting." At 67, I was still naive enough to be shocked by some of the characters and situations. I felt like a social worker looking at some appalling people and then from time to time it was all just too funny. Some readers won't laugh, some will laugh as I did--just some of the time--others will roar with laughter throughout the book. It all depends on your sensitivities. I'm the kind of person who doesn't want everything sugarcoated for me. I don't scream TMI all the time. I can take a dose of the bizarre because my life wasn't always a 50s sitcom. If nothing else, this book could make you feel as I did that my life wasn't so bad. If you laugh, it's a bonus.

Naked had been sitting on my shelf for at least a year before I decided to read it. I have a bad habit of not reading books after I buy them, so this should come as no surprise. As a memoir, Naked is an unbelievably good collection of autobiographical essays. As you make your way through Naked, you just find yourself in disbelief at Sedaris' dysfunctional family. Everyone out there claims to have some sort of dysfunctional family, but Sedaris' truly takes the cake. From the author's childhood filled with his nervous tics and OCD habits to his teachers visiting his home while being offered alcoholic beverages while watching his mother make mock impersonations of her son. It makes you really feel for the author. The best part of Naked by far is the Ya-Ya, Sedaris' grandmother. It makes me wish I had at least one grandmother just like her growing up. If you don't find yourself laughing out loud at least once, you don't have a sense of humor :). Then the author's tales as a long-time hitchhiker while doing a wide variety of manual labor jobs give readers like myself hope that haven't quite figured out who they are or what they want to do in life. On a personal level, these tales were really what I liked the most about Sedaris. The fact that he's come out of all of the hell and many years of uncertainty/wandering to become a successful author and playwright is truly inspiring. It just goes to show you anything is possible, even if it takes until much later in life to figure it out. My gripe with Naked comes as a "side-splitting" and "hilariously entertaining" memoir. For me, the humor started to die around the time Sedaris goes away to camp for a month. From that point on, the novel's comedic aspect drops off significantly. Granted, the novel definitely takes on a darker tone up until the last few chapters, but it was my expectation that it'd be funny for more than just half the

book. In that regard, the reviews and descriptions of the book disappointed me. Overall, it's definitely a worthwhile read for anyone who wants to be genuinely captivated by another person's trials and tribulations as well as how they overcame them. Just don't expect to be a comedy from start to finish. I wouldn't quite give it 4 stars, but more along the lines of 3.5 stars. As it's been out for about 14 years now, *Naked* is certainly a bargain for the price. So if you end up not liking it as much as you thought, it won't have burned a large hole in your wallet. :-)-Travis S.

Totally laugh till you cry, sidesplittingly hysterical!!! You just can't be in a bad mood when you read this book, David Sedaris at his finest! I've read this book about five times and it's still so funny!

Only David Sedaris can take a mundane activity and turn it inside out so intensely and simply that you can't stop laughing. This collection includes his morbid Greek grandmother who turns the family life upside down until they force her into not one, but two nursing homes where she traumatizes all around her. As a youngster, Sedaris finds an old pornographic novel with horrible typos that speaks of relentless incest. Passing it down to his sisters, they all develop a fear of their "sexual prowling" parents. Senior Sedaris tricks the kids into going golfing only to have sister Lisa have her first period at the fourteenth hole in front of all the Golfing big shots. Does the author stop hitch-hiking after several attempts on his life? No. This he finds exciting, made all the better when he can produce marijuana to calm any fag-hating drivers. The stories are alarmingly fresh and Sedaris' viewpoint is so violently skewed, you wonder how he lives his life at all. This is a hilarious outlook on life.

This book of essays covers the early life of David Sedaris. He uses humor to discuss serious issues. It is an enjoyable book to read. This is the third time I'm reading it (I read it twice for fun and now I'm reading it for a class).

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