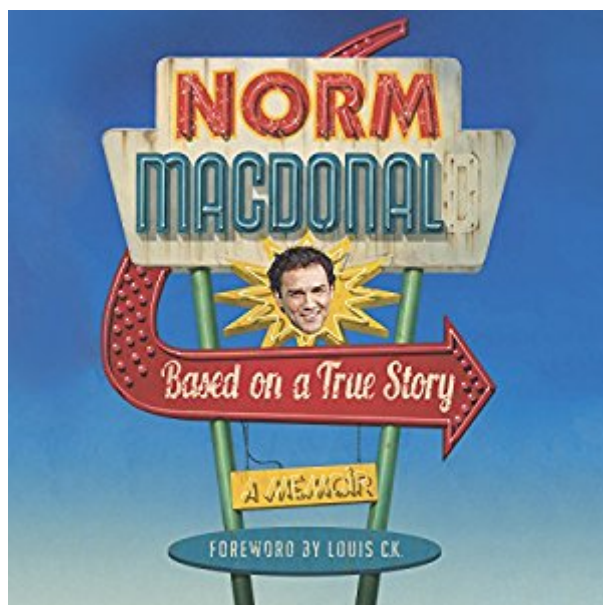


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# Based On A True Story: A Memoir



## Synopsis

Wild, dangerous, and flat-out unbelievable, here is the incredible memoir of the actor, gambler, raconteur, and SNL veteran and one of the best stand-up comedians of all time. As this book's title suggests, Norm Macdonald tells the story of his life - more or less - from his origins on a farm in the-back-of-beyond Canada and an epically disastrous appearance on Star Search to his account of auditioning for Lorne Michaels and his memorable run as the anchor of Weekend Update on Saturday Night Live - until he was fired because a corporate executive didn't think he was funny. But *Based on a True Story* is much more than a memoir; it's the hilarious, inspired epic of Norm's life. In dispatches from a road trip to Las Vegas (part of a plan hatched to regain the fortune he'd lost to sports betting and other vices) with his sidekick and enabler, Adam Eget, Norm recounts the milestone moments, the regrets, the love affairs, the times fortune smiled on his life, and the times it refused to smile. As the clock ticks down, Norm's debt reaches record heights, and he must find a way to evade the hefty price that's been placed on his head by one of the most dangerous loan sharks in the country. As a comedy legend should, Norm peppers these minutes with classic jokes and fondly mythologized Hollywood stories. This wildly adventurous, totally original, and absurdly funny saga turns the conventional comic's memoir on its head and gives the listener an exclusive pass into the mad, glorious mind of Norm Macdonald.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 23 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: September 20, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01LOGDSHY

Best Sellers Rank: #10 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Essays #17 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Entertainers & Celebrities #23 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Essays

## Customer Reviews

It might be most helpful to start with what this book is not -- it is most certainly not the typical comedian memoir that is common right now. You won't be getting a chronology of Norm's life written

humorously. You won't get any insight into his past or his personality, aside from tangentially. You won't even get many true stories. This book is aimed squarely at those who are fans of Norm's slightly odd brand of comedy; his mixing of fact of fiction, the shaggy-dog quality of many of his jokes and stories, his brilliant and hilarious use of language, and his deadpan refusal to acknowledge when he is joking. Some of it almost relies on outside knowledge -- for instance, his descriptions of Adam Eget probably just come across as confusing and mean if the reader is not familiar with their relationship from Norm's video podcast. Maybe some of that is a bit too "inside baseball", but for me as a huge fan of Norm, it made almost every aspect of this book uproarious. I believe I can honestly say I laughed more and harder while reading this book than any book I have ever read (including many, many other comedians' books). Without giving too much away, Chapter 5 in particular made me set the book down from laughing so hard. But at the same time, I can easily see others reading it and barely cracking a smile. It is definitely aimed at a very specific sense of humor, but for those of us who share that, it lands beautifully.

I really like Norm and his comedy. I think he's great on shows and podcasts in particular. There are certainly parts of the book which are funny and I appreciate his attempt to do something unique with the "celebrity memoir" genre. But frankly, I felt like there are several parts of the book where the absurdity drags on into tedium.

There is a Catch 22 with this book -- to appreciate the book you must be a Norm Macdonald fan, yet if you are a Norm Macdonald fan then you have heard many of the jokes already. It was a fun quick read and there is an imaginative "book within the book," that keeps the story moving forward (QUICK SPOILER The very last chapter is just a 1,000 word rambling so the book can meet its minimum word count.)

In this book, Norm MacDonald stands at the intersection of fantasy and reality and creates a literary genre as unique as his uncompromising brand of comedy. The author artfully conveys the essence of his experiences, and arguably, the inexplicable nature of life, without relying on the standard articulation of fact. The beauty of this memoir is that the story stands on its own, in the same way that 'The Myth of Sisyphus' is not really a tale about a man and an enormous stone. If you are a fan of Norm MacDonald, or simply find humor in life's absurdities, you will certainly enjoy this book.

but not THIS good! This is a well-written book that is so fun to read! Norm MacDonald never fails to

make me laugh but I think anyone, whether they are a fan of Norm's comedy or not, would enjoy this book. I hope he writes more!

I feel strangely compelled to purchase the audio, because somehow this book is very deep and only an inch deep at the same time, which is probably the deepest kind. Maybe the narration by the author himself will settle the matter in my mind, anyway. You should form your own opinion, for who am I -- nobody famous like Norm Macdonald is.

Norm Macdonald puts on an over the top account of his life beginning as a stand-up comedian; then writer, then an SNL bit player. His life is and always been a gamble; yet he has preserved over the years. If you like an over the top corn ballish, fictitious/non-fictional story telling. Then you will enjoy Macdonald's tale of his life and death. Lol.

I am impressed by the set up for the gag at end regarding the rope. I thought this was going to be a non fiction but it felt more like a joke book. Could have been better, having seen Macdonald's comedy.

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