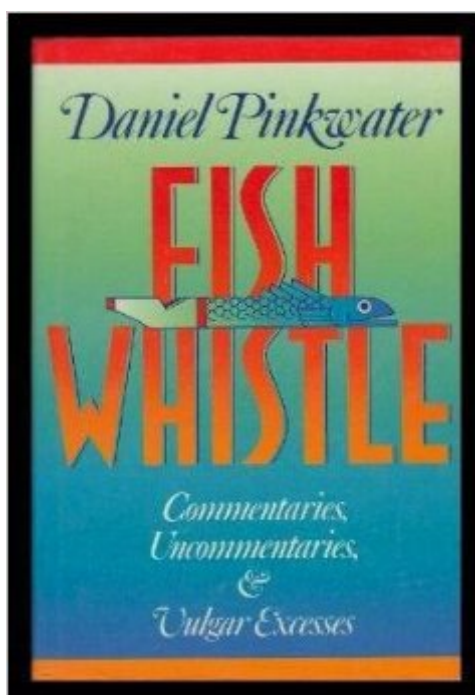


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# Fish Whistle: Commentaries, Uncommentaries, And Vulgar Excesses



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (32 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This collection of stories (most of which aired on NPR, I believe) is the best book on my bookshelf. The writing is brilliant, and humorous. Each piece is enjoyable because it is easy to identify with the events. I am always thinking about one story or another from this book, because they apply to real life so well. Buy this book if you are a fan of funny, honest stories.

This 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.

Fishwhistle for the Kindle! This is a very welcome development. Daniel Pinkwater's previously out of print collection of 3-minute radio pieces is a treasure of shining everyday wisdom. They are some of Pinkwater's best and most accessible writing. Having it on the Kindle means i can take it with me everywhere and sooth my soul with a few of these morsels anytime i want. I can feel my soul growing fat with Pinkwater goodness, already!Don't take my word for it. Buy this book. You will love it. And if you don't love it, you will appreciate that the chapters are short.

Good to read if you are sick or sad: love on every page. Daniel Pinkwater is sane, kind, naughty, and of course uncommonly funny.

I enjoyed the wit and intelligence of this book and I would have liked hearing the author narrate his own essays....in his underwear!Each little essay is a random train of thought, on some very diverse subjects. Each one has a clear perspective and a central idea propounded in a unique and distinctive style. One, in particular, brought tears to my eyes as I was reminded of pets I've lost in the author's narration of his own loss. And the tale of the forbidden subject made me laugh out loud with it's clever reversal of expectation.Worth reading. Thought provoking. I recommend this book if you like your interest piqued by different perspectives.

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.

This is the first time I've read Pinkwater, and it won't be the last.Pinkwater's marvelous book is a collection of stories from his life. He is an average joe, and speaks in a very straightforward and jovial way. It's the little details Pinkwater provides that make the stories funny and warm. Like for

example, the way his favor would say "fish whistle". A lot of zany characters also populate his past and make this book a joy to read. Pinkwater accurately captures these quirks without being mean spirited or making fun. He knows these people are different and doesn't fault them for it. The parts of the book I loved the most were the stories in which Pinkwater is traveling. He is the quintessential American tourist. He is away from the US, but still wants to find little snatches of home, as shown by his (successful) search for a Jewish deli in Japan. But, he accepts his foibles and makes a go of it. He is entirely unpretentious about his personality and is unafraid to make fun of his mistakes. That lends a human element to this book. A great book for any reader.

Takes me back to the days when enjoyed Daniel Pinkwater's commentaries on NPR, which took me back to the days when I devoured Daniel Pinkwater books as a kid. This book me laugh uncontrollably at several points.

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