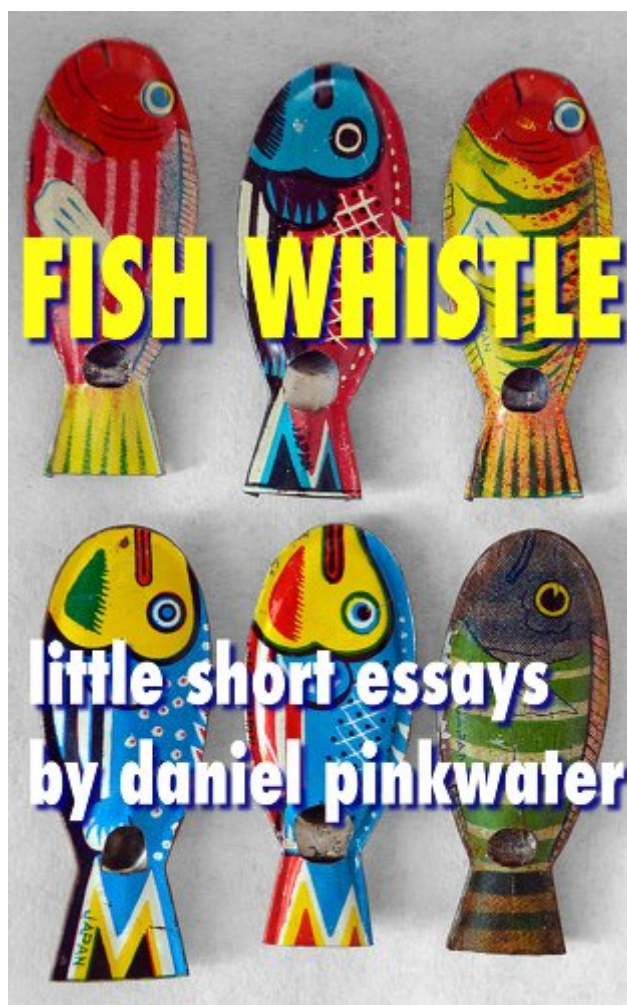


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Fish Whistle: Little Short Essays By Daniel Pinkwater



Synopsis

A compilation of the best of Daniel Pinkwater's short commentaries and essays. Originally published in 1990, this new Kindle edition features an updated introduction and Pinkwater's own selection of favorite material from NPR's "All Things Considered" and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

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.

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.

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 its clever reversal of expectation. Worth reading. Thought provoking. I recommend this book if you like your interest piqued by different perspectives.

Hilarious read, very entertaining.

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.

Takes me back to the days when I 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 made me laugh uncontrollably at several points.

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

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