



When You Are Engulfed in Flames

By David Sedaris

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When You Are Engulfed in Flames By David Sedaris

"David Sedaris's ability to transform the mortification of everyday life into wildly entertaining art," (*The Christian Science Monitor*) is elevated to wilder and more entertaining heights than ever in this remarkable new book.

Trying to make coffee when the water is shut off, David considers using the water in a vase of flowers and his chain of associations takes him from the French countryside to a hilariously uncomfortable memory of buying drugs in a mobile home in rural North Carolina. In essay after essay, Sedaris proceeds from bizarre conundrums of daily life-having a lozenge fall from your mouth into the lap of a fellow passenger on a plane or armoring the windows with LP covers to protect the house from neurotic songbirds-to the most deeply resonant human truths. Culminating in a brilliant account of his venture to Tokyo in order to quit smoking, David Sedaris's sixth essay collection is a new masterpiece of comic writing from "a writer worth treasuring" (*Seattle Times*).

Praise for *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*:

"Older, wiser, smarter and meaner, Sedaris...defies the odds once again by delivering an intelligent take on the banalities of an absurd life." --*Kirkus Reviews*

This latest collection proves that not only does Sedaris still have it, but he's also getting better....Sedaris's best stuff will still--after all this time--move, surprise, and entertain." --*Booklist*

Table of Contents:

- It's Catching
- Keeping Up
- The Understudy
- This Old House
- Buddy, Can You Spare a Tie?
- Road Trips
- What I Learned
- That's Amore
- The Monster Mash
- In the Waiting Room

Solutions to Saturday's Puzzle
Adult Figures Charging Toward a Concrete Toadstool
Memento Mori
All the Beauty You Will Ever Need
Town and Country
Aerial
The Man in the Hut
Of Mice and Men
April in Paris
Crybaby
Old Faithful
The Smoking Section

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Sedaris's sparkling essays always shimmer more brightly when read aloud by the author. And his expert timing, mimicry and droll asides are never more polished than during live performances in front of an audience. Happily, four of the 22 pieces are live recordings, and listeners can hear Sedaris's energy increase from the roaring, rolling laughter of the appreciative audience. Sedaris's studio recording of his 10-page *Of Mice and Men* runs 16 minutes, while the live recording of *Town and Country*, which runs the same length in print, expands to 22 minutes thanks to an audience that often doesn't let him finish a sentence without making him pause for laughter to subside. The studio recordings usually begin with an acoustic bass and brief sound effect (a buzzing fly, the lighting of a cigarette, the clinking of ice in a drink, etc.). Sedaris's brilliant magnum opus, *The Smoking Section* (about his successful trip to Tokyo is quit smoking) stretches across the final two CDs. *A Little, Brown hardcover (Reviews, Apr. 28). (June)*

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From [Booklist](#)

With essay collections such as *Naked* (1997) and *Me Talk Pretty One Day* (2000), Sedaris kicked the door down for the “quirky memoir” genre and left it open for writers like Augusten Burroughs and Jeannette Walls to mosey on through. Sometimes the originators of a certain trend in literature are surpassed by their own disciples—but, this is Sedaris we’re talking about. When it comes to fashioning the sardonic wisecrack, the humiliating circumstance, and the absurdist fantasy, there’s nobody better. Unfortunately, being in a league of your own often means competing with yourself. This latest collection of 22 essays proves that not only does Sedaris still have it, but he’s also getting better. True, the terrain is familiar. The essays “Old Faithful” and “That’s Amore” again feature Sedaris’ overly competent boyfriend, Hugh. And nutty sister Amy can be found leafing through bestial pornography in “Town and Country.” Present also are Sedaris’ favored topics: death, compulsion, unwanted sexual advances, corporal decay, and more death. Nevertheless, Sedaris’ best stuff will still—after all this time—move, surprise, and entertain. --Jerry Eberle

Review

“It’s not just that Sedaris’s crisp prose is humorous. What makes his work a consistent joy to read is his deliciously skewed vision of the world, and his deadpan delivery.”?Christopher Muther, *Boston Globe*

“The Sedaris genius is to be incredibly particular, not to mention peculiar, and yet take fantastic and rapid leaps to the universal. . . . He’ll be telling some weird story, and all of a sudden, just at the end, it turns out not only to be about him, but also about you. He’s a master at evoking fellow feeling.”?Nancy Dalva, *New York Observer*

“David Sedaris is horribly observant. He sees things as they are.... He’ll be telling some weird story, and all of a sudden, just at the end, it turns out not only to be about him, but also about you.”?Nancy Dalva, *New York Observer*

“What makes Sedaris’s work transcendent is its humanity: He adores some truly awful people, yet he invests them with dignity and even grace.... He’s the best there is.”?Judith Newman, *People*

“The preeminent humorist of his generation...His reluctant charm and talent for observing every inch of the human condition remain intact.” ?Whitney Pastorek, *Entertainment Weekly*

"Sedaris is certainly worthy of hero worship-he so breezily translates the landscape through his bent, prismatic view that he makes you forget what a skillful narrator he is."?Mark Washburn, *Charlotte Observer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesse Linder:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book When You Are Engulfed in Flames it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Micheal Clothier:

This When You Are Engulfed in Flames is great book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but difficult core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having When You Are Engulfed in Flames in your hand like having the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that?

Jane Cuellar:

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Antonio Ritchie:

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