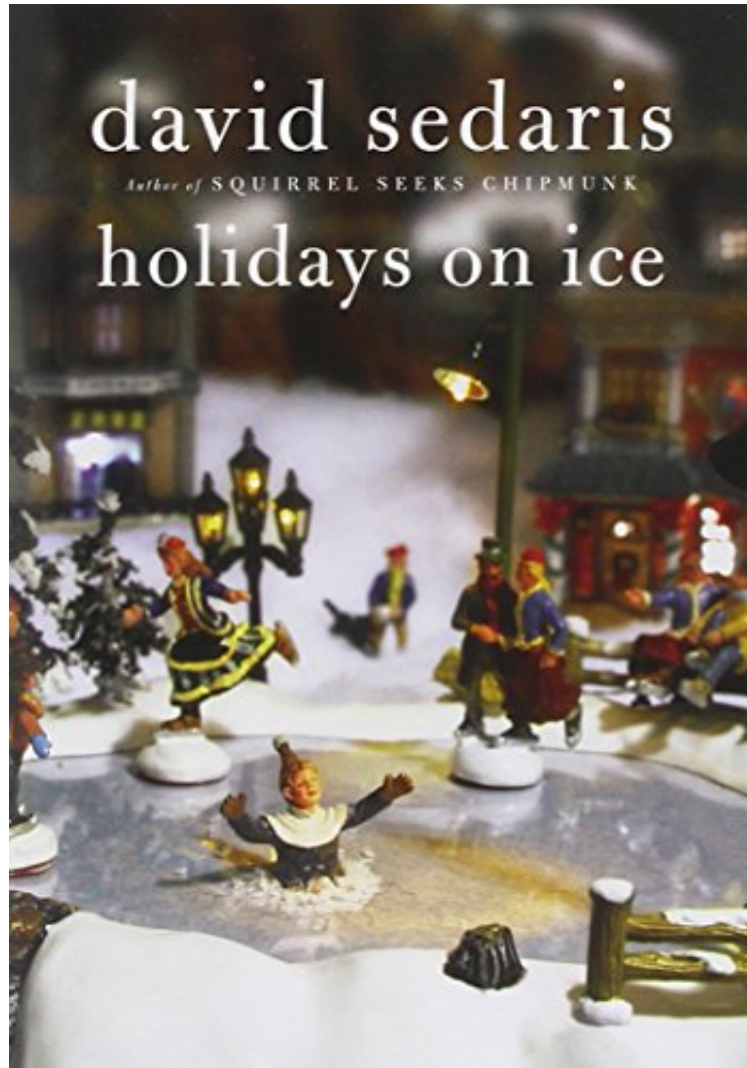


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Holidays on Ice

David Sedaris

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David Sedaris : Holidays on Ice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holidays on Ice:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Holidays bring out the crazy in all of usBy Whistlers MomThe stories in this book have all been previously published, so if you're a fan of the author, they won't be new to you. I don't usually seek out "humor" books, since many of them seem to take the business of being funny way too seriously. So I've been seeing references to Sedaris for years, but never read any of his stuff. My loss. If these stories are typical, he's both funny and thoughtful, which is a nice combination.The opening story "SantaLand Diaries" is the story that put this author on the map when it was read on NPR. It's the sort of "autobiographical fiction" (i.e. based on his life,

but exaggerated for comic effect) that Sedaris does so beautifully. It's a classic. Sedaris admits to some exaggeration, so maybe writing stories about holidays is a natural fit for his talents. Americans take their celebrations very seriously indeed, with the result that observing behavior during holidays is even more entertaining than observing behavior the rest of the time. Holidays bring out the crazy in all of us. Ask any cop or ER nurse or Mall Santa. Even normal people go whack-o. I loved the Christmas letters that spiral out of control. I howled at the critiques of children's holiday productions. Naturally, your own offspring (or grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc) are charming, talented, and delightful, but who the hell thought we'd want to watch those other boring brats? But my favorites were "Dinah the Christmas Whore" and "Let It Snow" because of the glimpses into the strange family that shaped this author's twisted outlook on life. His family may have been "Southern by the Grace of Greyhound" but they fit right in. Anyone who grew up in a dysfunctional family will recognize the characters and situations. Those of you who grew up in a normal family don't know what you missed. I think most of these stories are ones I would enjoy re-reading and the collection is a great introduction to this author's writing. After all, this is a man who's been called "one of the funniest writers alive." By The Economist. And if people who write about the economy don't know great humor when they see, I can't imagine who does. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bought used and got an autographed copy! Which I then got re-autographed. By The Nurses I love David Sedaris. I bought this book so that I would have a hard-copy to get signed when we saw him at a reading in York, PA. Imagine my surprise when I get this book in the mail and it had already been signed by David to someone named Christine. Well, I'm not Christine but yahoo! a book for less than a buck that is already signed? SIGN ME UP!!! The great thing about Holidays on Ice is FIRST listening to him read it. THEN read it yourself. AND you can hear his voice in your head reading it. That's what I do. I imagine his voice reading it and it makes it that much more funny. Funnier? I took it to the reading, and he re-signed it. I love him. He's so wee. You just want to wrap him up and take him home and make him tell you funny things. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great for people who get sad this time of year. By Susan Tyler As someone who gets depressed this time of year, and I know I'm not alone in this - this is my antidepressant! How can I be sad at all the signs of Christmas while I'm laughing my butt off with David Sedaris as an elf with me? Best to listen to it read by Sedaris himself, (he reads his work SO well!) but I have heard it so many times that when I read it I can almost hear him speaking in my head. I used to listen to it on the car between Thanksgiving and New Year's, and it really helped. Buy it for the people you know who get sad or just don't like this time of year!!! I do have a complaint with though - my copy, shipped along with another book, arrived bent! I'll try weighing it down with a stack of heavy books to weigh it down and hopefully straighten it out, but they should have shipped it differently - maybe between 2 sheets of heavy cardboard or something. But I highly recommend the book - one of the funniest I've ever read!!!!

David Sedaris's beloved holiday collection is new again with six more pieces, including a never before published story. Along with such favorites as the diaries of a Macy's elf and the annals of two very competitive families, are Sedaris's tales of tardy trick-or-treaters ("Us and Them"); the difficulties of explaining the Easter Bunny to the French ("Jesus Shaves"); what to do when you've been locked out in a snowstorm ("Let It Snow"); the puzzling Christmas traditions of other nations ("Six to Eight Black Men"); what Halloween at the medical examiner's looks like ("The Monster Mash"); and a barnyard secret Santa scheme gone awry ("Cow and Turkey"). No matter what your favorite holiday, you won't want to miss celebrating it with the author who has been called "one of the funniest writers alive" (Economist).

"He's the best there is." -- People "Judith Newman ""He's the best there is." Judith Newman, "People""A joy to read....Sedaris is a connoisseur of human nature at its worst." Christopher Muther, "Boston Globe""Sedaris is certainly worthy of hero worship....He is a master pathfinder." Mark Washburn, "Charlotte Observer""A writer comparable to Mark Twain or James Thurber. You have to go back a ways to find someone to compare David Sedaris with; his talent is so huge it just doesn't come around that often." Melissa King, "Raleigh News Observer""About the Author David Sedaris is a regular contributor to The New Yorker and Public Radio International's "This American Life." He is the author of the books When You Are Engulfed in Flames, Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim, Me Talk Pretty One Day, Naked, and Barrel Fever.