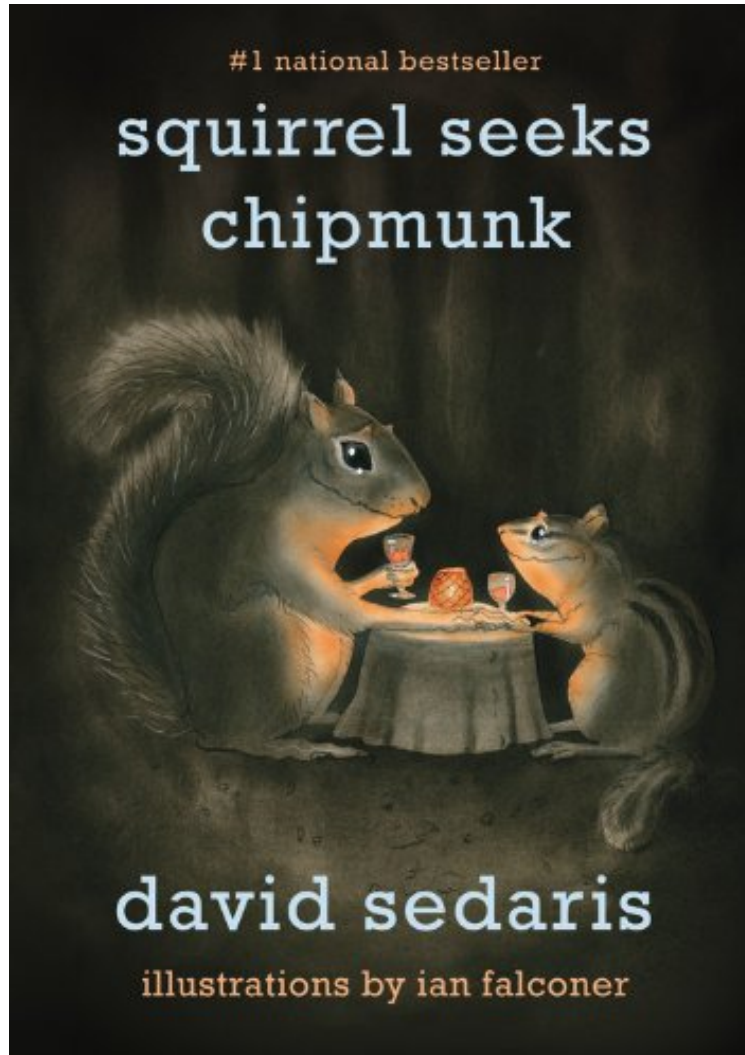


(Mobile book) Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary

Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary

David Sedaris

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David Sedaris : Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. If only AEsop, La Fontaine, and Krylov could write prose, they would probably write like Sedaris. By Tired Parent I simply can't believe all the poor reviews this book received. I love short story genre and am very saddened by the fact that there are so relatively few artists who are truly good at it -- Maupassant, Saki [H.H. Munro], Maugham, T.C. Boyle. (Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Gogol don't count. Unless one's Russian is good enough to read them and one's knowledge of Russian culture and history is good enough to appreciate them). With this in mind, David Sedaris is a little like an oasis in the modern wasteland. "Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk" is one of the most biting and hilarious collections of short prose Sedaris' acerbic wit has offered to date. The only

disappointment I found is the actual story of "The Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk." You see, I expected this to be a variant of an old joke I once heard (I think I was still in college then, so it was a long time ago. No -- really long time ago... Yep, that long.) The joke went something like this: "So this squirrel and this chipmunk get married. And everyone tells them -- you can't get married. By God!... the two of you are just soooo different, you aren't even the same species. But the answer was always the same: 'We love each other,' Squirrel would say. 'More than anything in the world,' Chipmunk would add. And so they did get married. And year after year went by. And peace and contentment settled upon the little furry family. But their joy was besmirched by one thing: no children. They BOTH wanted to have children. Oh, how they wanted to have children. More than anything they longed to hear pitter-patter of little hybrid SquiMunk paws in their burrow. So they went to see Squirrel's rabbi. That wasn't helpful. Then they went to talk to Chipmunk's mullah. Same result. 'Maybe we should go and see a doctor?' said Squirrel at breakfast one day. 'You are brilliant!' said Chipmunk. And so, to the doctor they went. The elderly white-haired veterinarian appeared very thoughtful. He took them to separate exam rooms and performed thorough physicals and took detailed histories. His assistant drew multiple tiny vials for all sorts of test of every conceivable body fluid that could be tested. And the fur. The fur hairs got tested too (you just never know...) A week later both were sitting in the vet's consultation room holding their joint breath waiting for the doctor to give them the results. "Is it me?" asked Chipmunk. "Or me?" barely whispered Squirrel... "Well," said the doctor. "I am not sure how to tell you, but it is actually both of you." "Wha... What do you mean?" asked Chipmunk. "You see," said the doctor pointing at the chipmunk, "you are... a... um... a boy." The doctor then looked at the squirrel and said: "And so are you..." "OK, ok, I know this is VERY politically INCORRECT (and in some circles, I'd probably get crucified for it), but I know, I just know, that David Sedaris would make it work! If anything, it would probably be even funnier coming from him. Sigh... maybe he'll use this joke in one of his later books... you know? "Squirrel and Chipmunk -- the Sequel" or "Squirrel and Chipmunk Ride Again... For A Few Dollars More..." "Naaaahh.... He probably won't. So... back to the review. For the exception of the title story, I absolutely loved the book. And for all the nay-sayers. Have you ever heard of "allegory?..." "fable?... For that matter have you ever heard of Aesop?... Jean de La Fontaine?... Ivan Krylov?... No matter. I think this book is one of the BEST of Sedaris' offerings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quirky adult humor! I found a lot of it funny! An entertaining read! By Cindy I must love the book! I actually got two copies! What started out as a random purchase at a book store... ended up being a nice surprise! We took the book on a long trip. (16 hours.) I usually read out loud during some of the trip... This book promised "adult fairytale type" story telling... It was funny quirky.... complete with pictures! I didn't like all of the little stories... but enough that I told people about it and my friend seemed interested.... So I then bought a second copy as a gift! She was less amused. She then gave it back to me. So... the book is not for everyone. I also read some of them to my adult children with mixed reviews. They liked some and didn't like others... I have read some of David Sedaris' other books and found them to be funny. If you like quirky and offbeat humor.... this book is for you! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Funny funny By T. Heitzman funny stories from a funny storyteller, read by the coolest actors (like Elaine Stritch). Highly recommended for road trips, shut ins and general merriment.

Featuring David Sedaris's unique blend of hilarity and heart, this new illustrated collection of animal-themed tales is an utter delight. Though the characters may not be human, the situations in these stories bear an uncanny resemblance to the insanity of everyday life. In "The Toad, the Turtle, and the Duck," three strangers commiserate about animal bureaucracy while waiting in a complaint line. In "Hello Kitty," a cynical feline struggles to sit through his prison-mandated AA meetings. In "The Squirrel and the Chipmunk," a pair of star-crossed lovers is separated by prejudiced family members. With original illustrations by Ian Falconer, author of the bestselling Olivia series of children's books, these stories are David Sedaris at his most observant, poignant, and surprising.

From Publishers Weekly Like a modern-day Aesop or La Fontaine, Sedaris has his darkly comic and deeply cynical (if somewhat rambling) morality stories enacted by animals. Although Sedaris typically narrates his works solo, here he is joined by Dylan Baker, Siân Phillips, and (the incomparable) Elaine Stritch. The dry tones of both women are particularly well suited to the knowing commentary offered by various domesticated, barnyard, and wild animals on casual racism, self-congratulatory sanctimony, poor excuses for adultery, and fad spiritualism, among other common societal ills. The audiobook features a bonus fable not available in the text version of the book; in addition, the third CD includes PDFs of the book's illustrations by Ian Falconer (writer/illustrator of the Olivia picture book series). A Little, Brown hardcover. (Sept.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist The ancient Greeks had Aesop, seventeenth-century French people read the fables of La Fontaine, and now we, jaded inhabitants of the modern era, possess the distinct privilege to enjoy the beloved Sedaris' first collection of short animal tales. The appeal of this aesthetically pleasing little volume is inherent, as the American ambassador of the comedy memoir, human division, turns now to creatures of the hoofed and winged variety to make us laugh and, perhaps, learn a lesson. Illustrations by Falconer (of the Olivia children's books) are a perfect pairing for Sedaris' stories (both writer and illustrator have been published extensively in the New Yorker). In Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk, foibled fabular heroines

are given the opportunity to, finally, display all those humanlike thoughts and behaviors they've been banned from for ages. There's the motherless bear who alienates herself with her incessant, self-centered solicitations of pity, and the potbellied pig who, no matter the diet, just can't lose his breed-inherited descriptor. It's impossible to imagine the brainstorm that conjured up these absurd, animated tales, but readers will certainly be grateful that they rained from Sedaris' pen. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Sedaris' name creates its own buzz and will continue to do so even with this quirky little book. --Annie Bostrom "Outrageous....Wonderful...Sedaris's anthropomorphized creatures may seem domesticated, but this book, like his more familiar essays, is...wildly inspired--and a rip-roaring hoot."?Heller McAlpin, NPR"Wickedly funny....These are some of Sedaris's best stories...The animals have given Sedaris's humor some new teeth: tiny and sharp, and sometimes even ready to draw blood."?Carolyn Kellogg, Los Angeles Times"Wry and amusing."?Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune"For the strong-stomached, these tales are toxic little treats, fun-sized Snicker bars with a nougaty strychnine center."?Leah Greenblatt, Entertainment Weekly"Great fun."?Craig Wilson, USA Today"The funniest man on the planet."?Raleigh News Observer