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Home

The Story of Doctor Dolittle

The Plague Dogs

The Art of Racing in the Rain

The Complete Tales

The Hobbit

Mossflower

The Neverending Story

Fell

The Master and Margarita

Prince Caspian

The Horse and His Boy

The Animals of Farthing Wood

Felidae

The Complete Fairy Tales

The Amber Spyglass

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Posted on 12 November 2018 By David Sedaris

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THE NO.1 BESTSELLER

ME TALK

PRETTY

ONE DAY

DAVID

SEDARIS

'A humorist par excellence, he can make
Woody Allen appear ham-tongued, Oscar Wilde a drag'

OBSERVER

I just don't care for David Sedaris. There, I've said it. I've made peace with the fact I have stared deep into the cockles of my heart, and forced myself to come to the only obvious but unpopular conclusion. I just don't care for David Sedaris. It was somewhat of an existential struggle for me to reach this conclusion because I'm exactly the kind of person who should like David Sedaris. I am a sarcastic Generation Xer with an overdeveloped sense of irony. I enjoy reading personal essays about poignant and humiliating events in people's personal lives. Understated comedy is my favorite genre. I look at myself in the mirror and practice being droll. Hell, I even like listening to *This American Life* on NPR. I am exactly the target demographic for the witty, petty misanthropy with which Mr. Sedaris plies his trade. But, I just don't care for David Sedaris. I find him to be thoroughly unlikable. He comes across as the type of person who might be fun to have a beer with, but, afterwards, he'd probably make fun of you behind your back. When I was reading this book, I thought that his stories and characters were a little too colorful and a little too perfect to be true. And, as he tells the stories of his childhood, he comes across as a 40-year-old gay man trapped in an eight-year-old's body. Wow, that sentence doesn't sound right. After I finished the book, I found that Mr. Sedaris does, indeed, subscribe to a rather fluid definition of truth. Some of the instances were exaggerated. And, by exaggerated, I mean completely made up. But these revelations have done little to stem the tide of bare-knuckled enthusiasm of his legion of fans. I am confronted by people who are adamant that, despite my protests to the contrary, I really do like David Sedaris. It seems that Mr. Sedaris' work has become a litmus test for a certain level of sophistication. If you tell people that you just don't care for David Sedaris, they look at you like you've got a mullet tucked into the collar of your shirt, a six-pack of Old Milwaukee in the fridge, and a Tivo filled up with NASCAR races. Well, I for one refuse to be pigeon-holed. And, today, I am calling on all like-minded people to join me. And, together, we canuh not like Sedaris. Say it with me: We're loud, we're proud, and we just don't care for David Sedaris. That about sums it up. Because, what's the point to these anecdotes? Are you trying to tell me something, Mr. Sedaris? I think not. You think you're funny. Meh, not that funny. Special? You're not that special either. You're a writer, just another writer. What's the big deal? As I said, I don't care much for your little stories. Seriously, my dear, I don't give a damn. Witty, wry, bitter, delightful. My mom gave me the book. I was living in France at the time, so she thought David Sedaris and I would have a ton in common. She went to a Sedaris book signing to get a personalized message to her gay son in France. After he was done reading, she jumped up to get him to write a note to me, David. My son is gay. He's living in France right now, please sign this copy for him. He had already started an orderly signing process, going down the rows. He looked at her disgustedly and intoned, I'll get to you. He then skipped her row and did all the others first, making everyone in her row hate her. Imagine the wrath of a row of David Sedaris fans. Ouch. When he finally got to her, last he said, name and she started her story about me. Tim. He's 17 and he's gay and he's been living in France this year, so if you could put something about France. He handed her book

back, not having heard anything past my name, instead writing some witty thing with bad grammar that played off the book's title. When I returned from France, my mother gave me the book but had lost all respect for the author. It's a good book but he was a complete asshole, she said. My mother's experience aside, I'm sure Sedaris is not actually a soulless, cruel person. If you want a light read by a smart, gay cynic, this is a great book.

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