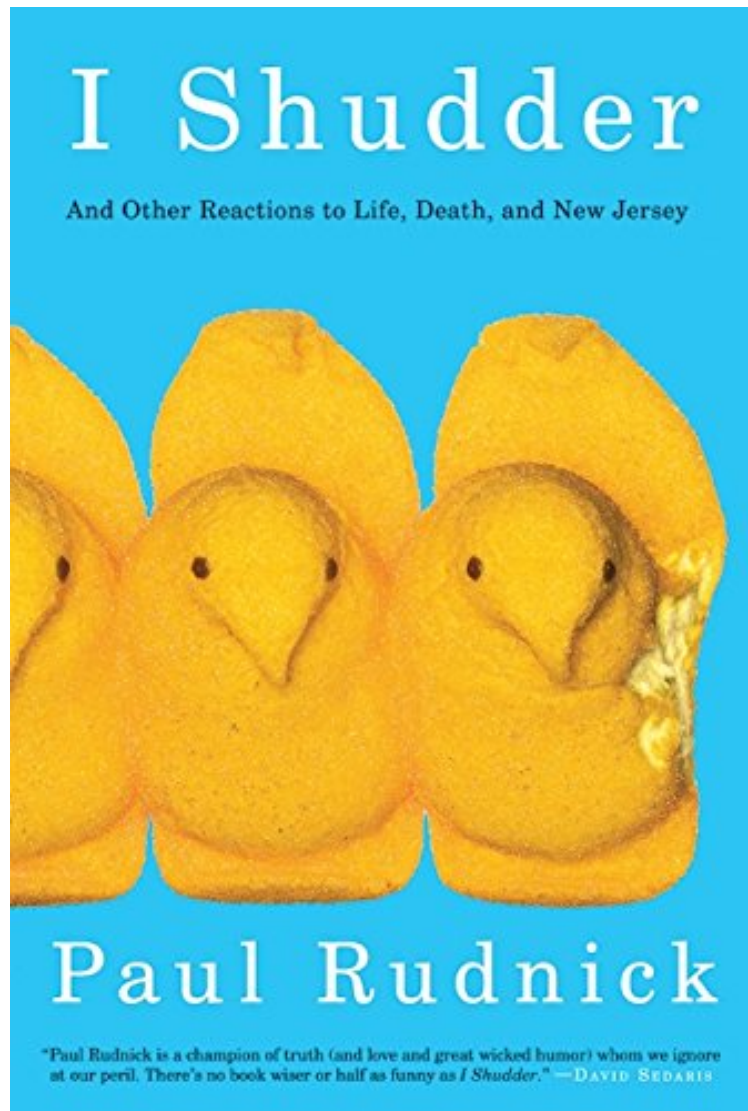


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I Shudder: And Other Reactions to Life, Death, and New Jersey

Paul Rudnick

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Paul Rudnick : I Shudder: And Other Reactions to Life, Death, and New Jersey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Shudder: And Other Reactions to Life, Death, and New Jersey:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A funny man with a big heartBy CatePaul Rudnick, my unknowing new best friend, lights on a few things that he fictionalized in "I'll Take It" but with real stories from his interesting life. He has such a wonderfully happy and funny "voice". There is such a sweet almost naïve quality to his very sophisticated observations. And of course, he can find the humor in almost everyone and every situation. I'd share a

bag of Halloween candy with him any time! 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous! By EJI have to admit right off that until I read a review of this book, I had no idea who Paul Rudnick was. I downloaded the free sample to my Kindle and thought the book looked at least moderately funny, so I bought it. I was in for a very pleasant surprise as I kept reading. This book is like one of Paul Rudnick's favorite treats. It's very sweet and people may look at you funny while you're consuming it; in this case, because you are laughing out loud. To be clear though, the book isn't all treacly. Rudnick has an incredibly sharp wit and he's not afraid to use it. The book is a mix of anecdotes from his life and essays written as an alter ego. Though I definitely enjoyed the autobiographical writing more than the interlude essays, the latter were also quite entertaining. This book truly did make me laugh out loud many times. It was warm and funny and just a really enjoyable read. In the past a few authors have attempted memoir-ish writing with disastrous results because the authors are completely unlikeable and, even worse, they don't seem to be aware of it. This book was the opposite. After reading it, I went from not knowing who Paul Rudnick was to wanting to invite him over to dinner and serve up some elegant Peeps arranged very neatly on a platter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not as funny as it could have been. By TeaBookLover After reading the excerpts online, I quickly bought the book. I found it just okay, and not too funny. The first chapter was the funniest for me (and from the online excerpt) so after that it just went downhill for me. I had a few laugh out loud moments throughout the book, after the first chapter, but too few and far between. I'm going to try another one of his before I give up on him completely.

I Shudder is a side-splittingly funny collection of essays from Paul Rudnick, one of America's preeminent humorists. Rudnick, who writes for *The New Yorker* and has written the screenplays for the films *In and Out*, *Sister Act*, and *Addams Family Values*, shares his hilarious observations on life in New York City and New Jersey, the perils of show business, and dealing with one's family, however crazy they may be. As David Sedaris says, "There's no book wiser or half as funny as *I Shudder*."

From Publishers Weekly Best known for his hilarious stage and screen plays, Paul Rudnick courageously takes on a David Sedaris style of memoir with this collection of essays. Rudnick offers a hilarious romp through the many components of his life: from the sweet tooth that landed him in child therapy to his debut Broadway play, *I Hate Hamlet*—and everything in between. Rudnick's humor comes from his ability to buoyantly portray the large-scale personalities that fill his life, including his Jewish aunts, a neurotic agent and a flamboyant costume-designer friend. With such a cast of characters in his own life, it's no wonder Rudnick developed the comical genius within his hit screenplays: *The Addams Family*, *Sister Act* and *In Out*. Yet in these essays, Rudnick never sacrifices honesty for humor. Rather—as the title suggests—he tastefully incorporates humor into real-life issues, such as his father's death and his friend's struggles with AIDS. In addition to Rudnick's personal essay, he offers the narrative of Elyot Vionnet—Rudnick's alter ego of sorts—whose crude insights are woven throughout the book in the form of journal entries paired with absurd events. Elyot Vionnet is a compilation of Rudnick's friends and family—plus a truly New York sense of entitlement. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "I Shudder is filled with deeply funny musings and adventures that elevate Paul Rudnick to the highest level of American comedy writing. It should be noted that I would be at the highest level of American comedy writing if I had had Paul's early advantages." (Steve Martin) "Paul Rudnick is a champion of truth (and love and great wicked humor) whom we ignore at our peril. There's no book wiser or half as funny as *I Shudder*." (David Sedaris) "Uproariously self-deprecating essays about being gay and Jewish in suburban New Jersey and downtown Manhattan... The vignettes that give the book its title offer... irresistible screeds against the indignities of modern urban life." (New York Times Book Review) "The witty, sardonic playwright (Jeffrey) and screenwriter (*In Out*, *Addams Family Values*) delivers an acerbic and entertaining memoir about his experiences as a child in New Jersey and an adult in showbiz." (Entertainment Weekly) "Piscataway, N.J. and Hollywood don't usually have much in common, but writer Paul Rudnick finds absurdity in both." (Modern Tonic) "Uproariously self-deprecating essays of a gay, Jewish life in Manhattan, Hollywood and suburbia." (Editor's Choice) (New York Times) "[A] lovable and astute collection of humor pieces... breezy and giddy with zingers, all handcrafted to make their good-natured defiance seem easy... [a] deceptively sweet and droll collection." (Newsday) "A laugh-out-loud pleasure to read... [Rudnick] writes with glee and unjudgmental warmth about the bohemian people and places of late 1970s and '80s." (Asbury Park Press) "[A] smart, dishy and very funny essay collection." (Daily News) "A hilarious, often touching hodgepodge. . . . It's the literary equivalent of the tchotchke, at least as [Paul Rudnick] defines it: 'Something peculiar which you don't need, and which has no discernible purpose or value, but which you can't live without.'" (Four out of four stars) (People) From the Back Cover For more than twenty years, Paul Rudnick has been one of America's most prominent and beloved humorists. From his acclaimed, much performed plays to his screenplays of wildly popular films to his regular contributions to *Premiere* magazine and *The New Yorker*, he has established himself as a comic genius whose talents transcend any one genre. Now, in this much overdue essay collection, he trains his wickedly perceptive eye on all manner of side-splitting subjects, from living in a series of increasingly bizarre, altogether fabulous apartments in New York City; to cavorting with a cast of colorful artists who have to be read to be believed; to dealing with some of the

most perplexing yet endearing personalities in show business; to handling the finer points of putting up with, and loving, one's family, however out of their gourds they may be; and, above all, to keeping one's tongue sharp in the midst of life's many obstacles and hilarities. In this collection, Paul Rudnick takes his place firmly beside today's most adored humor writers, from David Sedaris to Augusten Burroughs and onwards. Raucous, laugh-out-loud funny, and rendered in Rudnick's gorgeous, always zinger-laden prose, *I SHUDDER* is one of the most accomplished essay collections in years, from one of America's true comedic treasures.