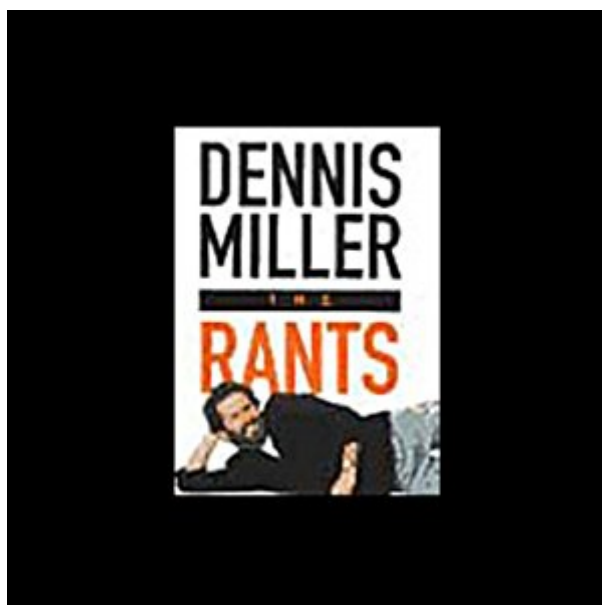


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# The Rants



## Synopsis

Now, I don't want to get off on a rant here— The New York Times called Dennis Miller's *The Rants* "a pleasing mix of profanity and wit...that will make fans of his irreverent liberal angst laugh out loud." Readers across the nation clearly agreed, because the book stayed on the Times hardcover bestseller list for months, with more than 130,000 copies in print. Now, an even broader audience can discover Miller's stinging wit in paperback. Dennis Miller respects no boundaries. Whether the subject is dope-addled baseball players who can no longer swing their bats, do-nothing politicians who devote their careers to creating meaningful sound bites, or the nation's resigned acceptance of violence as a way of American life, these thematically arranged monologues are funny and angry. More significantly, they shatter the conventions of comedy by simultaneously making us laugh, think, and seethe. When Miller takes the stage, the audience demands, "the rants, the rants, the rants." Here is the collection of his invigorating and thought-provoking monologues that showcase his singular point of view. From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 15, 1999

Language: English

ASIN: B0000544YL

Best Sellers Rank: #92 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Political Humor #391 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Essays #701 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Performing Arts

## Customer Reviews

Dennis Miller is a funny guy, grating and pompous to be sure, but lobbing his brand of irreverent humor around to keep his fans amused. After reading his book, *The Rants*, I tend to think he's funnier in person than as a writer. Of course, that's just my opinion. I could be wrong. The problem I have with his book is the tendency to throw out names that draw a blank with me. I don't know who

some of his foils are. I get the comedic reference when I recognize the name, and the humor is there, but if I don't know who he's talking about, the joke falls as flat as Barney Fife's abs. (That was a Millerism.) Miller rants on a wide variety of subjects. Forty three topics are listed in the Contents section, almost anything that could be considered controversial. Fortunately the chapters are short or the book would be longer than the Robertson's beards (another Millerism). But it is an easy read if you don't spend a lot of time trying to figure out who he's talking about a lot of the time. And funny: It really is. I particularly enjoy his lists; what women want from men, suggestions for moving into the twenty-first century (the book was copyrighted in 1996), recommendations to save the planet, and what men want from women. Some of the topics are rather dated but others will be debated forever. If someone was to sit down and list the things that tick them off, Miller has probably hit on it. Although Miller can be irreverent in some of his comments, he is surprisingly pragmatic about things like abortion, sexual harassment, gay rights, racial relations, and other topics seemingly made for snide rejoinders. So he obviously puts some thought into his views before he applies the skewer. I enjoyed the book very much.

Schuyler T  
Wallace  
Author of TIN LIZARD TALES

From his tenure on Saturday Night Live to the start of his HBO television show Dennis Miller Live, Dennis Miller was developing a unique and hilarious brand of comedy as he slowly became a household name. At his very best, which is wonderfully showcased in this series of books and audiobooks (there are four printed books and six comedy albums), Dennis Miller is like a lighter, friendlier Bill Hicks with a good dash of Will Rogers and Bill Murray. A silver-tongue smart-aleck with a strong grasp of comedy and cultural, political allusions and similes, Miller provides a lot of funniness and even sensibility with compassion in this book. How I wish the Miller of old was here today. This book is comprised of over forty "rants," a segment on his-then weekly show where he addresses by a topic with the preface "Now, I don't want to get off on a rant here but," and ends it with the humble declaration, "Of course, that's just my opinion. I could be wrong." It is interesting to see the Dennis Miller of the 1990s, when he was at the top of his game and American comedy in general, write about liberalism and compare it to him today as a Fox News talking head. The first rant chronicled in this book is called "Liberals---A Dying Breed?" Miller laments on the pathetic state of the Democratic Party and how liberals are up there with the KGB and Stevie Nicks in terms of relevance. That said, he launches scathing criticisms and mockeries against the likes of Newt Gingrich and the hate monger Pat Buchanan. "[Liberalism] grew from lean and noble roots...literally,

the battle for human rights, right here in this country. We can't afford to forget that."The humor in this book often includes ridiculous hyperbole, wonderful wordplay, pop-culture references and gags as well as simply great comedy. Where else can you find an essay which makes a joke connecting Molière and Screech from "Saved by the Bell"? Miller often begins his rants by giving a clever, sarcastic definition or explanation of the topic at hand. For example, the subject of power is a featured rant in this book. Miller describes power as "getting an honorary doctorate from the university that expelled you your freshman year...Power is the most sought-after, addictive, seductive, abused drug there is. Compared to power, crack is Fruitopia." This book has a lot of laughs and some insight as well into American society and life in general. Some readers might think these words lose some of its potency and humor without Miller's performance, and they are right, but there is something different and even special about reading them as printed. Additionally, the abridged audiobook is very abridged with less than half of the rants that are in this book. The comedy album "Rants Redux" bridges the gap by recording most of the rest of this book's rants into audio format, but there are still some chapters here that were never performed onto album or audiobook. These include "James Stockdale," a profound tribute to the politician and professor as well as chastising of those who mocked his disability, "Schadenfreude" and "Pro Sports Strike," which was recorded in 1994 when Major League Baseball was cut short. If you like clever humor or reminisce about "Dennis Miller Live," give this book a read; you will probably enjoy it a great deal.

I enjoyed this book a great deal simply because it was humorous and thought provoking. Rants doesn't sit out to tell you what the right approach is to solving the problems, but it does say that we need to find the common ground to correct the problems that we face in the words of another great commentator we have met the enemy and they is us. Now I didn't come away from this book thinking that liberals or conservatives were bad just that they need to get their acts together and deal with the real problems in life. If you like political commentary with a pinch of sarcasm then give this one a try.

Thank you Dennis Miller for giving me some really hilarious rantings! My father is quite a ranter himself and I have proudly (but in not such an as\$\$@#\$\$! manner) have continued the proud tradition! I will probably buy some more material from ol' 'Captain Hairdo! God Bless the 1st Amendment!!

Dennis Miller is a unique voice in American life and commentary - independent, willing to offend any

and all who deserve it, frequently obscene, always incredibly funny. Even though these rants were written a few years ago, and his references are sometimes now dated, the topics and opinions are as timely as ever.

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