



Unreal!

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A reunion of bones. An irresistible kisser. Wonder underpants. Cow-dung custard. It's all a bit much really! This is a brilliant collection of funny, weird and wacky short stories with strange endings from the award-winning Paul Jennings.

Unreal! Details

Date : Published January 5th 1995 by Puffin (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780140370997

Author : Paul Jennings

Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Childrens, Fiction, Humor, Young Adult, Fantasy, Cultural, Australia, Funny, Teen, Literature, 20th Century

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From Reader Review Unreal! for online ebook

Tara Calaby says

Paul Jennings is the king of gross out stories for kids--stories that stick in your head way longer than you'd like ;)

H. McGraham says

Jennings has inspired the imagination and creativity of multiple generations of Aussie kids. Legend.

Rachel says

I loved Paul Jennings when I was a kid! I remember reading a story from Unreal out at school assembly. I hated public speaking and it was horrible LOL but I was such a good reader that I got picked. All the other kids always read Roald Dahl stories but I preferred Jennings, because he was silly and weird. I still have my collection of his books.

Ghostly Writer says

A fun read!

It's great to go back and read old childhood books. It makes me wish I was a child again!

Lisa says

Brilliant collection of bizarre stories

Petra Damianovich says

A humorous, clever and light-hearted read. This book proved very enjoyable, even though it was quite easy and fast to read.

Scott says

A collection of speculative short stories for teenagers. A little silly at times but still worth a read. They are

Aussie and are the basis for the Round The Twist tv show I loved as a kid.

Legolord5000 says

I think I would've liked this book more if I hadn't read it in class.

Edward Davies says

This collection of short stories will be largely familiar to fans of the old Australian TV show Round The Twist. This collection of eight stories features five that were translated into episodes of the show; 'Without A Shirt' (changed in the show to 'Without My Pants'), 'Skeleton On The Dunny', 'Lucky Lips', 'Lighthouse Blues', and 'Wunderpants'. The other three stories are just as good, a particular favourite being 'The Strap-Box Flyer' which feels like Roald Dahl could have written it. This collection is highly recommended, especially for children who are soon to become teens.

Sally says

I re-read this as part of the 24-hour read-a-thon on Sunday. It was book #6 :)

One of the best by far of the un-books.

* Without a Shirt - it's "without my pants" in the TV series. Lots of fun! I love when the leg hops into the classroom and the teacher gives him a 10 on the speech :D

* The Strap Box Flyer - one of my absolute favourites. The ending is just so delicious! Oh but poor Mrs. Tibbs and her china horse always makes me want to cry :(

* Skeleton on the Dunny - I forgot that the reason he even has a plate is because of Old Ned! I just remembered it being lost down the toilet. Love this one too :D

* Lucky Lips - goodness the MC is so up-himself :D This one's crazy fun!

* Cow Dung Custard - totally gross, and of course another favourite.

* Lighthouse Blues - the weird thing is, I don't know if I've ever even read this one! I got up to it and my first thought was, oh this is the one I always skip. So what did I do? I skipped it. It just seems so much longer than the others!

* Smart Ice Cream - always loved the ending here :D

* Wunderpants - I think it was a frog in Round the Twist, not a mouse like here? Also totally love this one!

Kasha says

Use a little caution when reading this book...

I had to give it 4 stars because I was so impressed with how well it captured my sons attention. This book consists of 8 short stories that are divided up into little chapters, so it's ideal for kids with a short attention span.

I would definitely recommend 4 of the short stories, there are some possible problems with the other short stories I will talk about.

Each short story with my review is as follows.

Without a shirt-involves a skeleton so could be a little scary. My son read, and loved this one, though.

Skeleton on the Dunny-I thought this was a bit too scary, so I asked my son not to read it, but it is also quite funny. My favorite is when the main character has to go fish out his "plate" (a fake tooth) from the local water treatment plant.

Lighthouse blues-I also asked my son not to read this one because it was about ghosts...I just think maybe it's a little too scary. Although, my son doesn't seem to lose sleep like some of my siblings, and even my daughter, too, seems easily frightened. Maybe I'm worrying about him too much.

The strap box flyer- A very clever story that my son and I both enjoyed, although it's a little on the

Cow Dung Custard-This story is so perfect for boys my sons age. They just love this sort of thing, and it's parent approved, not too obnoxious.

Wonderpants-Not my favorite story, but there's nothing scary about it. My husband would hate how much they talk about underwear, and it's a little strange that the boy wears pink underwear with fairies on it, but it was reasonably entertaining.

Lucky Lips-This too was pretty funny, but lots of kissing going on. Nothing I found that was of any concern though.

I'm missing one story and I can't figure out which one it is. I do want to read more of Jennings' books, though. I think this is more along the lines of the type of book my son will be interested in reading, so I'll look for more of it.

It was not on the AR reading list, but I would say it is approximately a fifth grade level book.

Oscar Wright says

I could not find the book that I actually read, which had more stories than this version. Anyway, I found it a very interesting book, with excellent twists and endings that pull on heart-strings. It was much enjoyable, even though it was the third time that I had read it.

Michelle says

Oh man, I love these stories! More childhood reading that I'd gladly pick up again. "Unreal" in particular has some of my favorite stories by Paul Jennings - Without a Shirt, Cow-dung Custard, and Smart Ice-Cream. He's the master of a plot twist and a great gross-out gag.

Blue says

Paul Jennings is definitely one of the very few authors who really stuck with me since my reading years in primary school. I remember heading straight to the J section every time we had reading classes. His writing style is just captivating in each short story (and I don't know how he does it in those few pages but your eye balls are just glued until the story is over) and the quirky twists and ending that make you squirm in your seat or laugh are just the cherry on the top. Definitely one of the authors I will make my kids in future read, so they don't get robbed of some awesome childhood experience haha.

Susan says

Considering that I NEVER re read books and this is one I constantly re read says something about this story.

Recommended to anyone either with kids or just wanting light reading for a bit of fun or a laugh. The stories are nonsensical, a little whimsical, and humorous particularly without a shirt (though don't get your kids on them or this phrase you will hear repeated Ovre and over and over and over till you burn the book!). They're actually kind of intelligent though not in the sense of you'll learn anything from them.

This is also the only book I actually stole from our library at school. The same copy still sits proudly at the front of my bookshelf.
