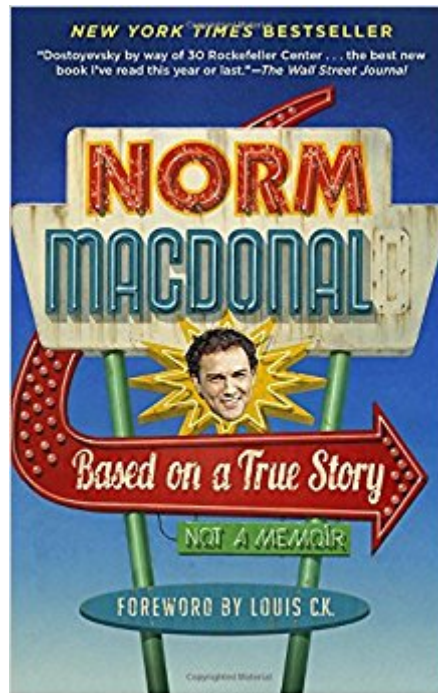


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# Based On A True Story: Not A Memoir



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “Driving, wild and hilarious” (The Washington Post), here is the incredible “memoir” of the actor, gambler, raconteur, and Saturday Night Live veteran. Don’t miss Norm’s new Netflix special, *Hitler’s Dog, Gossip & Treachery!* When Norm Macdonald, one of the greatest stand-up comics of all time, was approached to write a celebrity memoir, he flatly refused, calling the genre “one step below instruction manuals.” Norm then promptly took a two-year hiatus from stand-up comedy to live on a farm in northern Canada. When he emerged he had under his arm a manuscript, a genre-smashing book about comedy, tragedy, love, loss, war, and redemption. When asked if this was the celebrity memoir, Norm replied, “Call it anything you damn like.” Praise for *Based on a True Story* “Dostoyevsky by way of 30 Rockefeller Center . . . the best new book I’ve read this year or last.” • The Wall Street Journal “This book is absurd fiction. . . . Scathing and funny.” • The New York Times “Hilarious and filled with turns of phrase and hidden beauty like only a collection of Norm Macdonald stories could be.” • Esquire “Raucous . . . a hilarious, innovative work.” • A.V. Club “Part personal history and part meta riff on celebrity memoirs, the book, it quickly becomes clear, is also just partly true (and all hilarious).” • Vulture “Very, very, very funny! Thanks, Norm, for letting me be part of this Booker Prize-eligible literature equality effort.” • David Letterman “Norm is brilliant and thoughtful and there is sensitivity and creative insight in his observations and stories. A lot of comics over the years have been compared to Mark Twain, but I think Norm is the only one who actually matches the guy in terms of his voice and ability. I seriously f\*\*king love Norm Macdonald. Please buy his book. He probably needs the cash. He’s really bad with money.” • Louis C.K., from the foreword “Norm is one of my all-time favorites, and this book was such a great read I forgot how lonely I was for a while.” • Amy Schumer “I always thought Normie’s stand-up was the funniest thing there was. But this book gives it a run for its money.” • Adam Sandler “Norm is one of the greatest stand-up comics who’s ever worked—a totally original voice. His sense of the ridiculous and his use of juxtaposition in his writing make him a comic’s comic. We all love Norm.” • Roseanne Barr “Norm Macdonald makes me laugh my ass off. Who is funnier than Norm Macdonald? Nobody.” • Judd Apatow “Norm Macdonald is more than a triple threat—he’s a septuple threat. He is smart, funny, wry, rakish,

polite, rakish . . . no, wait. He is polite, insightful, and . . . aaaaah . . . warm. No. He's exciting. Yeah. Exciting! You never know what he'll do. Okay, then make that unpredictable. Add that up. He's amazing. •Alec Baldwin "Norm is a double threat. His material and timing are both top-notch, which is unheard of. He is one of my favorites, both on- and off-stage. •Dave Attell "Letterman said it best: There is no one funnier than Norm Macdonald. •Rob Schneider

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A driving, wild and hilarious ramble of a book, what might have happened had Hunter S. Thompson embedded himself in a network studio. •The Washington Post "Dostoyevsky by way of 30 Rockefeller Center . . . the best new book I've read this year or last. •The Wall Street Journal "This book is absurd fiction. . . Scathing and funny. •The New York Times "Hilarious and filled with turns of phrase and hidden beauty like only a collection of Norm Macdonald stories could be. •Esquire "Raucous . . . a hilarious, innovative work. •A.V. Club "Part personal history and part meta riff on celebrity memoirs, the book, it quickly becomes clear, is also just partly true (and all hilarious). •Vulture "My three favorite books: 1. The Bible, by Moses and other guys 2. The Art of the Deal, by President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump (a.k.a. President Trumpy) 3. Based on a True Story, by Norm Macdonald I have not read the first two. I have read Based on a True Story, and I believe it to be largely bullshit, but it is very, very,

very funny! Thanks, Norm, for letting me be part of this Booker

Prize. For literature. For equality effort. David

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A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A GLOBE AND MAIL BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

When Norm Macdonald, one of the greatest stand-up comics of all time, was approached to write a celebrity memoir, he flatly refused, calling the genre "one step below instruction

manuals." Norm then promptly took a two-year hiatus from stand-up comedy to live on a

farm in northern Canada. When he emerged he had under his arm a manuscript, a genre-smashing book about comedy, tragedy, love, loss, war, and redemption. When asked if this was the celebrity memoir, Norm replied, "Call it anything you damn like." --This text refers to an out of

print or unavailable edition of this title.

It might be most helpful to start with what this book is not -- it is most certainly not the typical comedian memoir that is common right now. You won't be getting a chronology of Norm's life written humorously. You won't get any insight into his past or his personality, aside from tangentially. You won't even get many true stories. This book is aimed squarely at those who are fans of Norm's slightly odd brand of comedy; his mixing of fact of fiction, the shaggy-dog quality of many of his jokes and stories, his brilliant and hilarious use of language, and his deadpan refusal to acknowledge when he is joking. Some of it almost relies on outside knowledge -- for instance, his descriptions of Adam Eget probably just come across as confusing and mean if the reader is not familiar with their relationship from Norm's video podcast. Maybe some of that is a bit too "inside baseball", but for me as a huge fan of Norm, it made almost every aspect of this book uproarious. I believe I can honestly say I laughed more and harder while reading this book than any book I have ever read (including many, many other comedians' books). Without giving too much away, Chapter 5 in particular made me set the book down from laughing so hard. But at the same time, I can easily see others reading it and barely cracking a smile. It is definitely aimed at a very specific sense of humor, but for those of us who share that, it lands beautifully.

I really like Norm and his comedy. I think he's great on shows and podcasts in particular. There are certainly parts of the book which are funny and I appreciate his attempt to do something unique with the "celebrity memoir" genre. But frankly, I felt like there are several parts of the book where the absurdity drags on into tedium.

There is a Catch 22 with this book -- to appreciate the book you must be a Norm Macdonald fan, yet if you are a Norm Macdonald fan then you have heard many of the jokes already. It was a fun quick read and there is an imaginative "book within the book," that keeps the story moving forward (QUICK SPOILER The very last chapter is just a 1,000 word rambling so the book can meet its minimum word count.)

In this book, Norm MacDonald stands at the intersection of fantasy and reality and creates a literary genre as unique as his uncompromising brand of comedy. The author artfully conveys the essence of his experiences, and arguably, the inexplicable nature of life, without relying on the standard articulation of fact. The beauty of this memoir is that the story stands on its own, in the same way

that 'The Myth of Sisyphus' is not really a tale about a man and an enormous stone. If you are a fan of Norm MacDonald, or simply find humor in life's absurdities, you will certainly enjoy this book.

but not THIS good! This is a well-written book that is so fun to read! Norm MacDonald never fails to make me laugh but I think anyone, whether they are a fan of Norm's comedy or not, would enjoy this book. I hope he writes more!

I feel strangely compelled to purchase the audio, because somehow this book is very deep and only an inch deep at the same time, which is probably the deepest kind. Maybe the narration by the author himself will settle the matter in my mind, anyway. You should form your own opinion, for who am I -- nobody famous like Norm Macdonald is.

Norm Macdonald puts on an over the top account of his life beginning as a stand-up comedian; then writer, then an SNL bit player. His life is and always been a gamble; yet he has preserved over the years. If you like an over the top corn ballish, fictitious/non-fictional story telling. Then you will enjoy Macdonald's tale of his life and death. Lol.

I am impressed by the set up for the gag at end regarding the rope. I thought this was going to be a non fiction but it felt more like a joke book. Could have been better, having seen Macdonald's comedy.

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