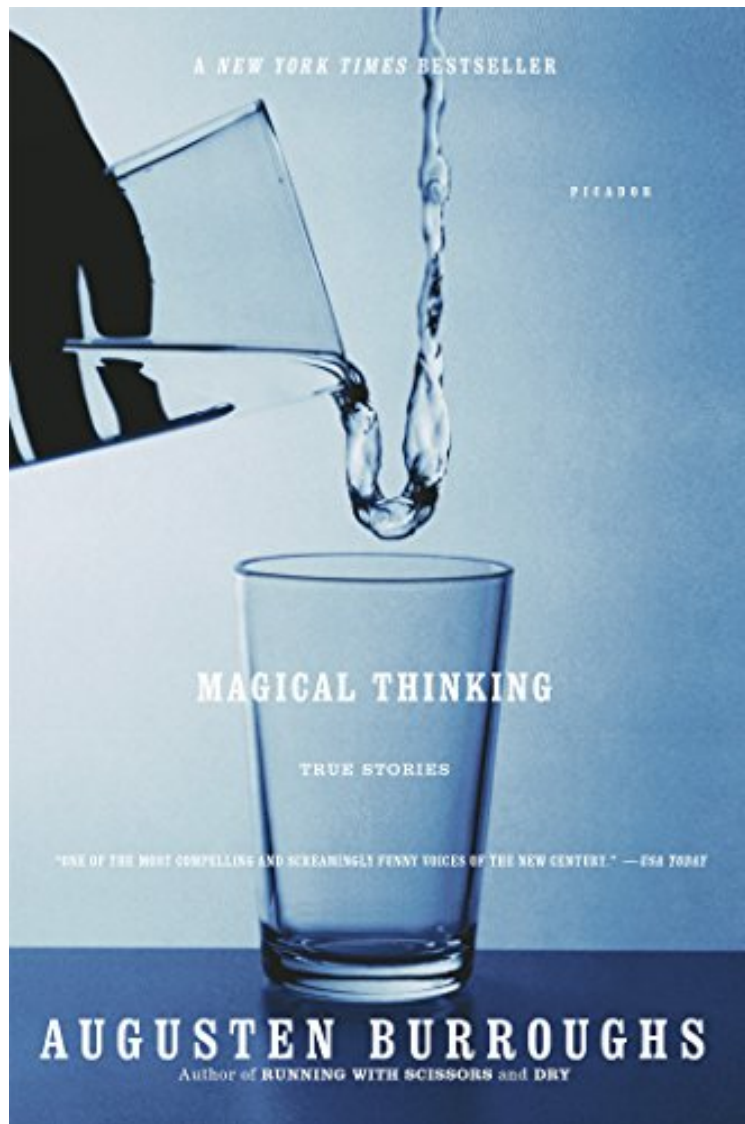


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Magical Thinking: True Stories

Augusten Burroughs

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Augusten Burroughs : Magical Thinking: True Stories before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Magical Thinking: True Stories:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A BLEND OF HONESTY AND FICTION By M.A. De Neve This is either a collection of short stories or a collection of personal essays. The author wants you to think they are true stories, but I don't buy that. Perhaps the word is magical thinking. He might actually think that if he says it is true, it might be. He's brutally honest about his failings, and doesn't mind sharing embarrassing moments. If you decide to read this collection skip over the one about how he killed a little white mouse in his bathtub. The author at times seems

to have the sensibilities of a serial killer. The next time I buy one of his books, it goes on the fictional shelf. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book By Sarah P. Farnham funny, sad, thoughtful. It was terrific. I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of the book (except the rat one). 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. one of my all time favorite memoirs By Irish Leo OMG I loved this book. I love just about anything he writes, though. I liked *Running with Scissors* much less than this...FYI. I just cannot even put into words how much A.B. can make me laugh and cry and enjoy every wild moment. I am doing this review a huge disservice in fact, but if you like quirky true stories like I do, consider reading this one! As with all his books, if you just read the titles of the chapters you can almost know you are in for a wild and hilarious ride! My favorite one of all, I'd have to say (because it brings to light so much about myself; I mentally traded places with him here I just know, I would have had similar results) is the Mouse in the Bathtub scene.....awful/hilarious/must read to appreciate !!! Yes he includes sometimes gory details and/or sexual exploits but not in a way I can't handle. I am a straight middle aged female; Augusten's life is so different than my own and I appreciate the chance to come along for an E-ride with him. Though he is a gay male, you'd think we don't have anything in common but like the mouse in the tub, I see that we have tons in common on how we think and deal with things.

From the #1 bestselling author of *Running with Scissors* and *Dry*--a contagiously funny, heartwarming, shocking, twisted, and absolutely magical collection. True stories that give voice to the thoughts we all have but dare not mention. It begins with a Tang Instant Breakfast Drink television commercial when Augusten was seven. Then there is the contest of wills with the deranged cleaning lady. The execution of a rodent carried out with military precision and utter horror. Telemarketing revenge. Dating an undertaker and much more. A collection of true stories that are universal in their appeal yet unabashedly intimate and very funny.

.com It's best to know this from the start: Augusten Burroughs is mean. Augusten Burroughs is also outrageously X-rated. If you can get past those two things, Burroughs might just be the most refreshing voice in American books today, and his collection of acerbic essays will have you laughing out loud even while cringing in your seat. Whether he is stepping on the fingers of little children or giving you the blow-by-blow on a very unholy act, Burroughs manages to do it in a way that fills conflicted fans with both horror and glee. Spanning from the surprisingly Machiavellian portrayal of his role in a Tang commercial at age seven to his more recent foray into dog ownership, Burroughs has what seems to be an endless supply of offbeat life experiences. Much like earlier David Sedaris collections (*Barrel Fever* or *Naked*), there are occasional fits and starts in the flow of the writing, but ultimately, *Magical Thinking* is worth reading (and re-reading). If you're familiar with Burroughs's memoirs, *Running with Scissors*, and *Dry*, you may find parts of *Magical Thinking* repetitive, since these essays bounce around in time between the other two. In fact, in an ideal world, this collection would have come first, as it offers an excellent introduction to Burroughs's fascinating life. --Vicky Griffith From Publishers Weekly A psychological term, "magical thinking" describes the belief that one exerts more influence over events than one actually does. Burroughs, who spent childhood days stepping on cracks to see if his mother's back would break, possesses a wealth of magical thought. Like *Dry* and *Running with Scissors*, this collection showcases Burroughs's sharp, funny and sometimes brilliant writing. Burroughs views his life through a lens of self-deprecation, and the result is pieces like "My Last First Date," describing the first time he met his current boyfriend. After only a short conversation, he fumbles into joking about his life, to the horror of his date, and realizes, "I must ease people into the facts of me, not deposit large, undigested chunks of my history at their feet. Too much of me is toxic." Fortunately, his companion has a high threshold for toxicity, and most readers will, too. Burroughs's smooth prose, peppered with charming and awkward moments, is occasionally reminiscent of David Sedaris and David Rakoff. But he's no imitator of those essayists. Rather, Burroughs ambles toward insight in a continual state of self-examination and just happens to have peculiar adventures along the way, like drowning a mouse in his bathtub, attending the Barbizon School of Modeling and complaining that the "new gay thing in Manhattan" is adopting babies instead of buying shar-pei puppies. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine A small breath of ennui chills the generally good reviews for Burroughs's latest memoir. His bestselling debut *Running with Scissors* and his follow-up, *Dry*, were met with excitement. But the strain of keeping the shtick alive is showing. Instead of the coherent narrative of his first books, Burroughs presents a collection of true stories that provokes shock, laughter, disgust, and pity in equal proportions. The cynical critics feel that he's prey to the psychological disorder of his title, trying to make himself more interesting just by thinking about himself. But his supporters—fans, really—point to his distinctive voice and the courage of his unflinching honesty as the continuing marks of his brilliance. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.