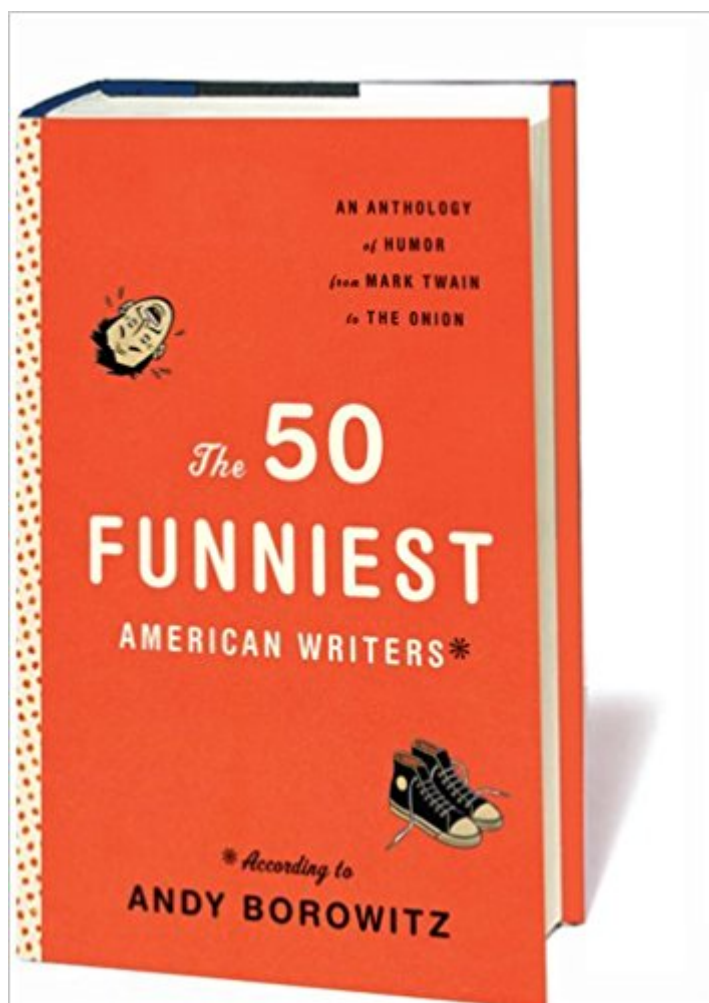


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# The 50 Funniest American Writers\*: An Anthology Of Humor From Mark Twain To The Onion



## Synopsis

Ever wondered who makes a very funny person laugh? Wonder no more. Brought together in this Library of America collection are America's fifty funniest writers—according to acclaimed writer and comedian Andy Borowitz. Reaching back to Mark Twain and forward to contemporary masters such as David Sedaris, Nora Ephron, Roy Blount Jr., Ian Frazier, Bernie Mac, Wanda Sykes, and George Saunders, *The 50 Funniest American Writers*\* is an exclusive Who's Who of the very best American comic writing. Here are Thurber and Perelman, Lenny Bruce and Bruce Jay Friedman, Garrison Keillor, Dave Barry, and Veronica Geng, plus hilarious lesser-known pieces from *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Atlantic*, *National Lampoon*, and *The Onion*. Who does "one of the funniest people in America" (CBS Sunday Morning) read when he needs a laugh?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Sublimely funny... This book is a treasure trove of laughter and an ideal gift for anyone who needs to be cheered up or refreshed, which these days means just about everyone you know."- Nell Minow *The Movie Mom* A New York Times Best Seller -- The New York Times Editor's Choice and Best Seller-- Buffalo News "Had me laughing out loud." -- Jack Goodstein, Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Surprisingly excellent. Anthologies of this sort rarely live up to their claims, but the selections here are a great representation of American humor from the last 100 years."--Goodreads "Sublimely funny. . . . This book is a treasure trove of laughter and an ideal gift

for anyone who needs to be cheered up or refreshed, which these days means just about everyone you know." -- Nell Minow, *The Movie Mom* "An indispensable book for anyone who likes to laugh. A surprisingly satisfying and consistently funny collection that might be the best American humor anthology on the market." Grade: A. -- Humor Lit Books Blog "You NEED this book. It's hilarious fun." -- R. L. Stine

Does being funny get you girls? Growing up in Ohio, I was convinced that it did. I got this from a source I took to be representative of all women: *Playboy* centerfolds. Every issue, the *Playmate Data Sheet* would, with astonishing consistency, indicate that Miss Whenever's turn-on was "a sense of humor." (Turn-off? "Phony people.") I vowed to be a hilarious sincere person who would have sex with lots of naked people named Brandi. I accepted this view of humor-as-pheromone despite mountains of real-world evidence to the contrary. At Shaker High, the girls mainly went for jocks whose idea of a witty retort was a wedgie. And if I had looked a little more closely at *Playboy's* monthly "Party Pics" feature, I might have noticed that the bunnies at Hef's Mansion gravitated towards the laps of people like Lee Majors, the star of "The Six Million Dollar Man" and not, to my knowledge, a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table. What being funny got me, mostly, was a lot of free time. While the jocks were busy having tantric romps with cheerleaders, I kept myself occupied by reading Mark Twain, Woody Allen, and the many comic geniuses of *The National Lampoon*. Little did I know then that, over the course of a thousand dateless nights, a Library of America collection was being born. So, getting back to my original question: does being funny get you girls? No. It gets you to be the editor of a humor anthology.

Good source book for funny material to steal.

While I like Borowitz, I disagree with many of his selection. Many of writers he selected were not funny. I would name it 22 of 50 funniest American Writers.

Got it for husband. Doesn't find it that funny.

Mark Twain, Ring Lardner, etc. Some fun, irony and much socially outdated. Better than nothing in the middle of a power outage with an e-reader at hand.

I thoroughly enjoyed what I read here...from the classics to new pieces. If you're looking for smart humor, this is a great compilation.

I pre-ordered a copy of this book for one reason only: I wanted to support Andy Borowitz who has provided me with so many laughs on so many days that I thought the least I could do in return is to buy his book. I simply don't know how Andy's daily emails can be funny every damn day. He never misses. So on the book. This is a delightful collection of all sorts of writers and many are topical, modern, diverse and also laugh out loud funny. Not "funny" the way something you read in English Lit in 8th grade was supposed to be funny but wasn't. Really laugh out loud at a funny movie funny. Who couldn't laugh at Wanda Sykes, for example? The other thing I like about this book is that each author gets about five or six pages so you don't have to commit to reading an hour at a time. You can pick up the book as the coffee is brewing and get a good laugh. Plus, you can just skip around and read the selections in any order. I will add (seriously) that this book would be a perfect holiday present for all those hard-to-buy for people on your shopping list, including sullen teenagers, old grand-dads, faux intellectuals, real intellectuals -- anyone. Buy a dozen or so and your shopping will be done. In short, we all need a break. We all need a laugh, and this is just the book to help us do so. Great job, Andy!

The funniest writer of the lot is actually Sinclair Lewis. Personally I don't like the bad language in some writings.

The selections are varied. Nora Ephron's piece alone is worth the price. This is a good introduction to writers that you may want to read more of.

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