

NOTES FROM: *Is This Anything?* by Jerry Seinfeld

SUMMARY: This is one of those audiobooks that are much better than the physical book. Jerry Seinfeld reads it himself, and interestingly enough, it's also one of those audiobooks that you can't speed up. His timing is so perfect. Usually, I'll put it to 1.3x speed, or 1.5x, but you can't do that with this one because Jerry's just so good at what he does.

With this book, you get a little bit of autobiography, and those parts are certainly interesting, but the bulk of the book is a collection of his best and favorite jokes from over his entire career. I've copied out a few of my favorites, but you really have to listen to him tell them. So much better.

“The challenge with stand-up comedy is that you constantly have to justify why you should be the only one talking while a roomful of people sits quietly.”

“I'm a little disappointed that if you *do* laugh, I won't be able to hear it.”

“Adulthood is the ability to be totally bored and still remain standing.”

“I went skydiving once. I was 19. Horrible thing to do to your parents. They've just spent nineteen years trying to protect me from harm, injury, disease, I turn around: 'Mom, Dad, it's a pretty nice day...what do you say we risk the whole ball of wax right now? My idea is this: I go up in a plane, thousands of feet in the air, hurl myself out, attempt to operate the parachute correctly, and avoid plummeting to an almost certain death. Can you lend me the seventy-five bucks?’”

“Here you have a product where even the manufacturer's not quite sure what the hell it is. All they're telling you is, it's some kind of meat, and you should eat it...around noon. That's it. I think they figure you could never face it for breakfast, no one would have the balls to serve it for dinner, it's luncheon meat. 'We saw an animal, we grabbed it, we never got a real good look at him.’”

“Why are there 'wanted' posters at the post office? You're there, you've got your package, trying to mail something, this guy's wanted in 12 states, alright: now what? I checked the guy standing in line behind me, if it's not him, that's pretty much all I can do. What, are we supposed to rip one off the wall, go up to the counter, 'Yea, give me a book of stamps and a search warrant. I'm going after this guy. I've had it up to here with his activities.’”

“The luge is another great Olympic event. It's on the bobsled run, but there's no sled. It's just bob. I think it's the only sport I've ever seen that if you had people competing in it against their will, it would basically be the same thing. If they were just grabbing people off the street: 'Hey, hey, hey, I don't wanna be in that!' They'd strap him to the thing, you shoot him down the course, we would have no way of knowing. He's got the helmet on; we wouldn't hear him screaming. Sorry buddy, you're in the luge. World record, didn't even wanna do it. They should try it in the next Olympics. Call it the involuntary luge.”

“It’s rare that you hear about a divorce that didn’t work out. ‘Yea it turned out that Jim’s asshole qualities and Sue’s bitchiness were just temporary. They were wonderful, delightful people that should never have gotten divorced in the first place.’”

“People say life is short, but I don’t agree. Life is too long. It’s taking me forever to get through this thing.”