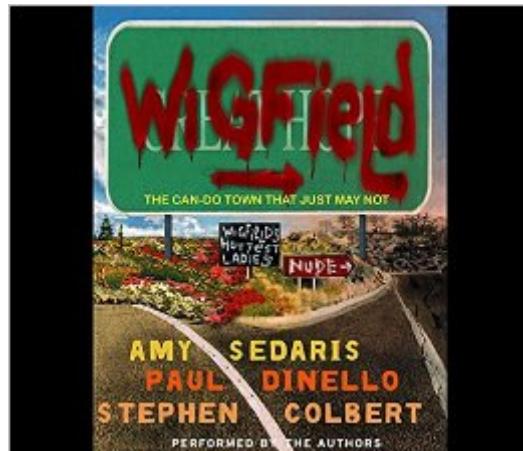


The book was found

Wigfield: The Can-Do Town That Just May Not



Synopsis

Wigfield is a small bucolic hideaway, situated in front of a massive dam which is about to be torn down by the state government to restore the salmon run. Wigfield's only hope lies in the self-righteous, self-involved "journalist" Russell Hokes, who arrives hoping to capture the quiet dignity of the disappearing American Small Town. However, Wigfield is neither quiet nor dignified. As the date of destruction draws nearer, Hokes casts about desperate to find something about Wigfield worth documenting. *WIGFIELD* is a razor-sharp satire by three major talents.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is going to have to be a very mixed review. I found many parts of *Wigfield* hilarious, but on the other hand I was also disappointed in it. This is a book that I feel could have been much better. After all, there was no shortage of talent here -the three authors are all highly creative comedians. The book starts off very well. I laughed out loud at the first couple of chapters, and I had high hopes for the rest of the book. Then, about a quarter the way through, I became a little concerned, as the material was already starting to seem a bit thin. Yet, I can't say it tanked completely. There were still laughs in the remainder of the book, but they were really stretching the concept out. In a way, the authors were a little too much like Russell Hokes, the fictitious author of the narrative, who is desperately trying to reach his goal of writing 50,000 words, despite not having much to say. Some reviewers have called *Wigfield* a satire on small town life. I don't think that is really accurate. It is really a satire about writing. The funniest part of the book, and I think the core of the novel, deals with the pretensions of an ordinary, not very intelligent or ethical guy who wants to make money as

a writer without doing much research, thinking or even writing. In fact, the deliberately bad writing done by Russell Hokes is the cleverest part of the book. I think this actually went over the heads of some people who said the book is total garbage. If you take the time to absorb it, you can appreciate that it takes as much work, perhaps a bit more, to write as atrociously as Hokes as it does to write well. The book is chock full of absurdly hilarious descriptions, characterizations and metaphors.

Wigfield represents the very best of quintessential small-town Americana. Built at the base of the pricey-but-worthless Bulkwaller Dam, Wigfield boasts sixteen gentlemen's clubs (including the premier T-- Time Show Palace, The Bacon Strip, The T--- Shop and The Muffeteria), several junkyards, a community theater with a troupe of semi-trained rabbits, and even its own local rag, The Wigfield Sporadic. Like many charming small towns, Wigfield is under attack; but the threat lies not in urbanization, suburban sprawl, factory farming or the like. Rather, that which shaped the proud town of Wigfield will soon be unleashed upon it if the government goons have their way. The Bulkwaller Dam is scheduled to come down - oh noes! Luckily, journalist Russell Hokes is on the case. Sent by Hyperion Books to document the plight of America's dying small towns in 50,000 words or more (it's in the contract), Hokes arrives in Wigfield just in time! Between immersing himself in Wigfieldian culture and sidestepping his publisher, can Hokes prevent the flooding of Wigfield? Does anyone really care? *WIGFIELD: THE CAN-DO TOWN THAT JUST MAY NOT* is a supersillious satire of small-town America. Admittedly, the comic stylings of Stephen Colbert, Amy Sedaris and Paul Dinello aren't for everyone, but I pity the fools. If you like *Strangers With Candy*, *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*, then you'll love the saga of *WIGFIELD*. In fact, reporter Russell Hokes of *WIGFIELD* is clearly the prequel to one Dr. Stephen T. Colbert, DFA, of *THE COLBERT REPORT* fame. From his trusting of the gut to his scorn for books, Hokes is the vision of Dr. Colbert in his early days.

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