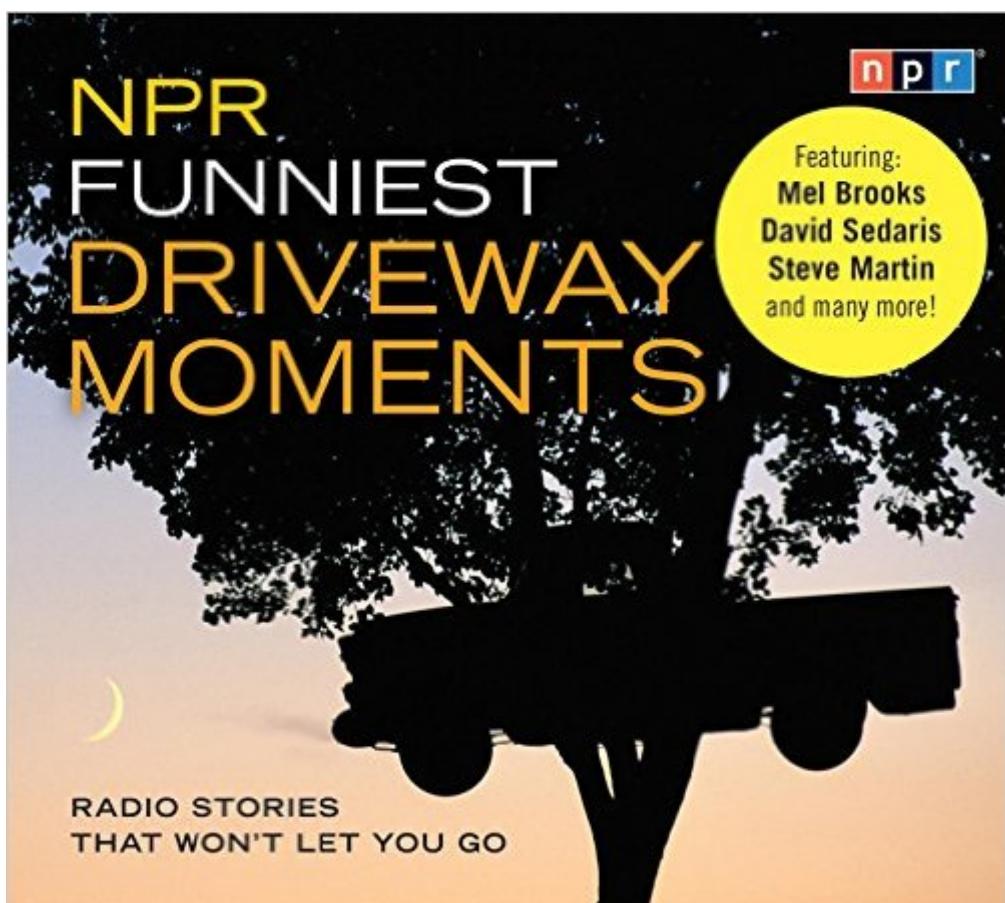


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# NPR Funniest Driveway Moments: Radio Stories That Won't Let You Go



## **Synopsis**

Selected from the National Public Radio archives, these stories by some of NPR's favorite commentators will keep listeners laughing. A "driveway moment" is when you're so captivated by a story on NPR that you stay in your car to hear it to the endâ "even if you're sitting in your own driveway. Some are serious, some are touching, and some, like the stories included here, are very, very funny. Literate, intelligent, and droll, each tale is worth hearing again and again, and now you don't have to stay in your car.NPR Funniest Driveway Moments includes stories and interviews from your favorite NPR commentators and guests such as David Sedaris, Sarah Silverman, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Dame Edna, Larry David, Darryl Littleton, Justice Stephen Breyer, Jonathan Winters, Phyllis Diller, Steve Martin, Lily Tomlin, and more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Truth in advertising - The 16 stories on this set - most about eight minutes long - are NOT the "funniest moments" from NPR. Because they were culled from shows aired only between 2003 and 2008 on NPR news magazine type programs like "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered", there was a limit. While some are truly funny interviews (Only David Sedaris's track is a monologue, rather than an interview), others are actually serious discussions of comedy. Author and comedian Daryl Littleton is interviewed discussing his book on Black stand-up comedy and, while some recorded excerpts of Richard Pryor and Redd Foxx are included, this is a serious discussion. The second longest piece in the collection (13:26) is an interview with Jonathan Winters and was one of the highlights for me. But, though it's funny in parts, Winters is more serious discussing his abusive

parents and becomes emotional during the interview with Scott Simon on "Weekend Edition". I'm a big fan of the pop culture stories broadcast on the various NPR shows, and particularly interviews done by Scott Simon. The other notable piece on this collection is the first track of Disc One - an interview by Simon with Dame Edna. Slightly longer than the Winters interview, Dame Edna (Barry Humphries) continually says things so funny that Simon breaks up on the air. If laughter is contagious, it's certainly obvious here. I found myself breaking into laughter along with Simon. If you want interviews on the business of Comedy, there's a better collection, culled from "Fresh Air with Terry Gross" (full title "Fresh Air: Laughs with Terry Gross" - also released by Highbridge Audio). (Note: there are no "Fresh Air" interviews on "Driveway Moments"). So, a better title for this set would be: "A Sampler of moments with comedians appearing on NPR magazine shows". I enjoyed it but it could have been better. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

I like NPR and the comedians on the CD, however I don't particularly agree with the title of the product or the product description. While there are (mostly) interviews with comedians, not much of the interview time is spent on their comic material. They spend more time talking about their lives. If you're familiar with the comedians (as I was) then this will be of some interest, whereas if you're not (or even if you are) you want to hear more of what makes them funny than that. Given that they're such short interviews, they're pretty light and not really as deep or gripping as the clever "driveway moments" description suggests. Had I been listening to them live on the radio, no, I would not have stayed in the car to finish listening to them. They're also not so good for family listening. A piece on Pryor delves into the use of the "n word" going back and forth between using the word itself and the euphemism. Billy Connolly talks about his childhood sexual molestation and also the "dance of the flaming [...]" whereby some flaming paper is actually held in one's rear. Hmm.

I sat in my driveway until the end of the CD because I had fallen asleep.

I expected the stories to be a lot funnier because it is called teh funniest driveway moments. I found that I laughed at some parts, but it was just as easy to turn it off and not finish the story or just skip to the next track. Overall it was good, but not as funny as I anticipated.

I had high hopes for NPR Funniest Driveway Moments, but this was rarely funny. It starts out strong with a great Dame Edna interview and then goes downhill. Not one of the following interviews is very funny. I don't think they were meant to be funny. They were meant to be interviews of famous

people. Fine. But don't call it "funny."

NPR has broadcast a number of hilarious conversations over the years, but these are not those. These are talks with people you would assume would be funny. It's mostly interviews with aging comedians - thus it does not appeal to a youth like myself who have only a cursory knowledge of Kathy Griffin.

I stopped by the library last week to pick up some CDs to listen to while taking a trip. I was really looking for something funny and uplifting so when I saw "funniest driveway moments" in the title and the description said it was hilarious, I grabbed it. About an hour into my trip I decided to load this in and be entertained -- but that's not what happened. I was expecting hilarious comedy and what I got was a collection of interviews with comedians. There was a interview with a supreme court justice that I found had moments that were funny, but the rest were just interviews. Nothing funny in most of them and not even all that entertaining. It wasn't awful and I did listen to all 2.5 hours but will be glad to return it to the library and happy I didn't spend my hard-earned money on it. Not at all as advertised.

I love NPR and have listened to the "This American Life" tapes and CD's every time I go on a long trip. This one was a new addition to my collection and, being spoiled by "This American Life," I was a little disappointed. Some mildly funny stuff, here but no belly laughs. Of course, "Your Mileage May Vary."

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