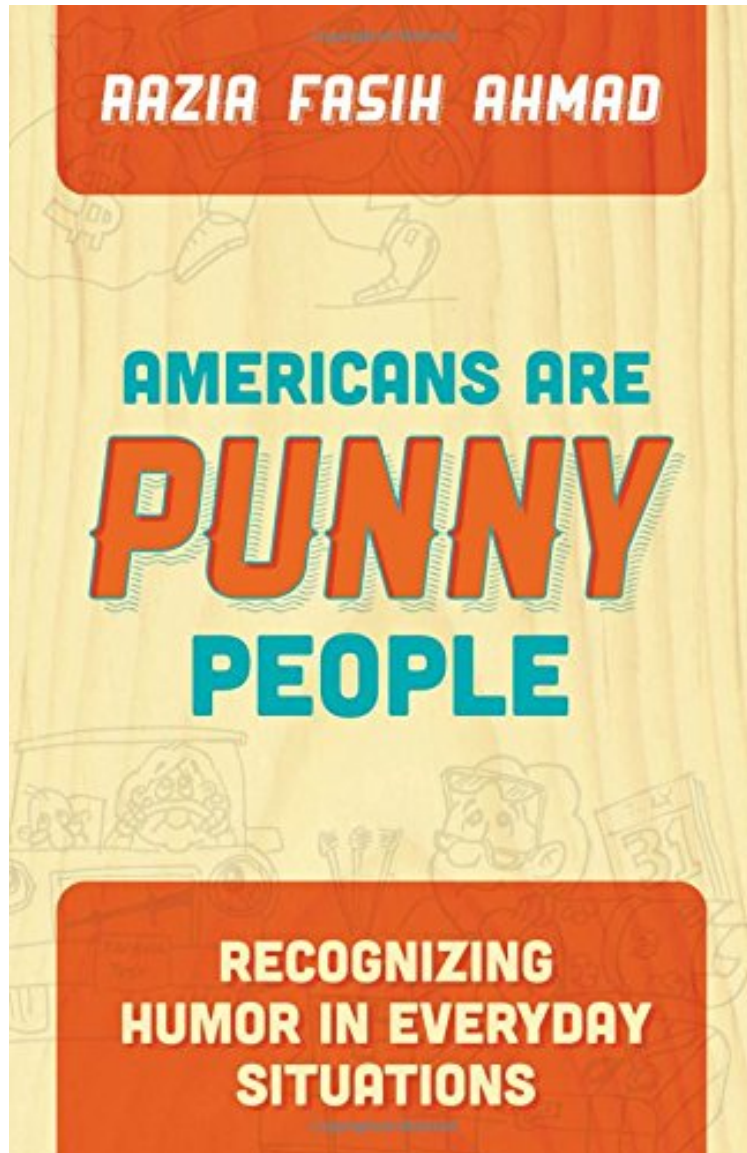


(Library ebook) Americans are Punny People: Recognizing Humor in Everyday Situations

# Americans are Punny People: Recognizing Humor in Everyday Situations

Razia Fasih Ahmad

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**Razia Fasih Ahmad : Americans are Punny People: Recognizing Humor in Everyday Situations** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Americans are Punny People: Recognizing Humor in Everyday Situations:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Humor and Insights about Everyday Living By Patricia J. Esposito As

early as the prologue to *Americans are Punny People*, by Razia Fasih Ahmad, I was charmed. Razia Fasih Ahmad has published some twenty books in Urdu, from novels to travelogues to short stories and poetry. She has won the Adamji Prize, Ahmad Nadeem Qasimi Award, and the Urdu Board Award. In this first book written in English, the author relates how she came to write humor, taking us on a journey of creativity—what she calls explorations and explosions—and we're ready to take that journey with her...into a book of humor, insights, and imaginative anecdotes about everyday living. The chapters are divided into Ahmad's experiences with people, things, relatives, ideas, tests, places, health, and finally the grave, and each section begins with a short introduction that philosophizes on the topic in Ahmad's friendly and humble style that makes us feel fondness toward our human connections and condition. From the misunderstandings of long-married couples to people's universal bemusement with weather reports to the meaning of the phrase "starting over," the chapters shift not only in subjects but in tone, from light humor to dark satire to winsome storytelling. My guess is that different chapters will appeal to different readers more or less dependent on what each of us brings to the book, what insights and humor most reflect our own experiences as well. I enjoyed the book's structure, offering insights at the start of each section, such as distinguishing "things" as either necessities or luxuries, and then delving into the various kinds of things in a manner that seems governed by whatever has taken Ahmad's fancy. We begin to see that it's Ahmad's imagination that created the need for this book. An imagination that doesn't stop asking, "but what if," that can develop a relationship between machines and their creators, in which machines are shown to have intellect and a less than friendly agenda, or imagine the "truth" about those purveyors of junk mail, "people agonizing over your problems" so much so that they mail you constant solutions. Part of my delight in the book comes from watching what the author has deemed curious enough to explore, such as fences, literal and figurative, surprising us what all she uncovers. The humor often comes through exaggeration, in taking an idea to its extreme, like how to make bulletproof vests popular or create game shows from junk mail or assert the birthright of cockroaches. There are laugh out loud moments, particularly, for me, in her discussion of in-laws, in which Ahmad names relatives by character traits that we all clearly recognize: Ms. Foresight, Cousin Smart, Ms. Misery. There are also quieter moments, in which Ahmad sheds light on human interactions and fallibilities within the many aspects of our everyday lives. Ahmad displays an obvious love of language, creating her own puns throughout, such as discussing the "whether" in "weather," and also a love of curiosity. When she's brought down 1,120 feet into the earth, without being told what she's there for, she reveals a person willing to take the ride, to observe with open mind and active imagination whatever comes before her. There are poignant moments, such as when she tries to read the faces of the people returning from this 1,120-foot journey below earth's surface, to search for disappointment or excitement, finding only mystery, and then becomes one of the returning faces herself. Anecdotes abound, from insights into learning new languages, getting plastic surgery, or handling confessions at the gravesite to meeting strangers who beg favors or arguing with a spouse about the strangeness of the creative mind. It's hard to imagine what Ahmad hasn't covered, yet I'm sure her mind has already thought up much more. This is the kind of book I'd like sitting on an end table, something easy to pick up and read for short moments, a break in the day, a delightful rejuvenation when the everyday world might seem boring, because Ahmad seems never to find it so.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent  
By Customer I started reading this book with some skepticism. However soon I got very interested. It's simplicity and light humor is very attractive . Excellent  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but to me it was kind of like the stories you read in Reader's Digest  
By mathphilosopher Razia Fasih Ahmad's "Americans are Punny People" is a standalone read. It's a collection of funny/witty stories about everyday life in America. I don't read in this genre much, but to me it was kind of like the stories you read in Reader's Digest. Some of the stories made me chuckle. The organization of the book is very good and I like the way things are grouped together. It definitely seemed like the author knew how to truly capture the human moments of our lives.

This is an intelligent, witty book, written with love of family, tradition, and country. There is little sentimentality in the tales; the prose is direct with several delightful turns of syntax and each essay has a twist at the end?sometimes a punny one. The essays call to mind Joel Stein's "The Awesome Column" in Time. These essays embrace a theme of human connectivity. In her prologue, Ahmad writes, "People are different, yet destined together." She is the mastermind, making sure they are. She loves the friend who is so unlike her. Her toddler granddaughter helps her learn a new language. "Americans are Punny People is Ahmad's first collection of essays in English and she must go on to write more so that we can have the gift of her wit, syntax, and remarkable perceptions about the world in which we all live." ?from the foreword by LYNNE HANDY. Writing humor and making people laugh is God-gifted?as they say you have it or you don't! You may have the greatest sense of humor, but capturing and injecting it in your writing is indeed formidable. Razia lets her adopted fellow countrymen know how a new immigrant adjusts in a completely new culture and environment. "I am sure the American readers and the literary circles will enjoy this book and welcome her in their midst!" ?Dr. UROOJ AKHTAR ZAIDI, University of Windsor. Razia Fasih Ahmad has published about twenty books in Urdu language, encompassing many genres. Students have done research on her novels, short stories and travelogues for M.Phil. and Ph.D. Her books are available in the Library of Congress and in university libraries. Her stories were broadcast from the BBC and published in anthologies in many different countries. Her translated novel

“Breaking Links,” is available at Amazon.com. Website: [raziafahmad.com](http://raziafahmad.com)

About the Author Razia Fasih Ahmad is an award-winning author with more than twenty books, from biographies to novels, published in the Urdu language. Her short stories in English have been broadcast on the BBC World Service and published in the US, and her novel *Breaking Links*, translated from Urdu, is available on .com. Ahmad is also the winner of Pakistan’s most prestigious award for writers, the coveted Adamji Prize.