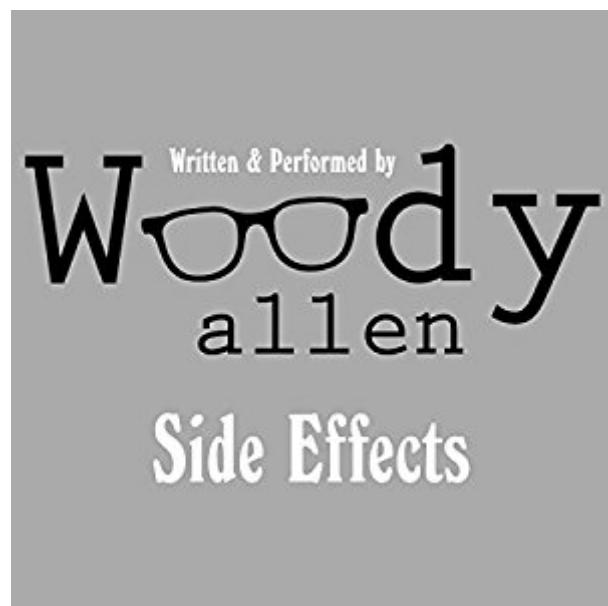


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# Side Effects



## **Synopsis**

Now, available in audio for the first time, *Side Effects* is narrated by Woody Allen himself. A humor classic by one of the world's funniest writers, *Side Effects* is a treat for Allen fans and those just discovering how gifted he is. In classics including "Remembering Needleman", "The Kugelmass Episode", "Confessions of a Burglar", and others, Allen discusses such subjects as the nature of relativity, the UFO menace, and the predicament of modern man. *Side Effects* compiles 17 of Allen's best *New Yorker* essays and offers wisdom and laughs in equal measure: "Ah, God, how the mind boggles when it turns to moral or ethical considerations. Better not to think too much. Rely more on the body - the body is more dependable. It shows up for meetings, it looks good in a sports jacket, and where it really comes in handy is when you want to get a rubdown." Woody Allen's short story collections *Side Effects*, *Getting Even*, *Without Feathers*, and *Mere Anarchy* are available separately or together as part of The Woody Allen Collection.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 35 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

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Best Sellers Rank: #1 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Parodies #3 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Political Humor #5 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Political

## **Customer Reviews**

*Side Effects* is a collection of short humorous essays written by Woody Allen 30 years ago. It is his third book and still very funny. Much of the humor is based in New York and Jewish cultural idioms with a sprinkling of mock intelligentsia - all with the neurotic, self-absorbed insecure point of view that he made famous. The first piece, "Remembering Needleman," is a satirical take off on scholarly obituaries. Only Woody Allen would think of bringing marshmallows to a cremation and to donate the ashes to a university for research. "The Condemned" takes a humorous look at Elie Wiesel's *Dawn* where a man must decide whether to kill a truly evil person. "By Destiny Denied" is 7 pages of

notes for an 800 page novel that was never meant to be written. "The UFO Menace" is Allen's take on the existence of UFOs. "My Apology" puts Woody Allen in Socrates' place as he faces death by hemlock. In "The Kugelmass Episode" the protagonist finds a magic way to cheat on his wife by going back in literature to have an affair with Emma Bovary. In "My Speech to the Graduates" we find Allen's philosophy most succinctly spelled out: "We are a people who lack definite goals. We have never learned to love. We lack leaders and coherent programs. We have no spiritual center. We are adrift alone in the cosmos wreaking monstrous violence on one another out of frustration and pain. Fortunately, we have not lost our sense of proportion." "The Diet" explores the insecurities often associated with working in corporate America. A person only identified as F. deals with his work problems by taking control of the only thing he can - his food intake.

Those coming to know Woody Allen from his legendary film work or infamous personal scandals will find uproarious laughter and glimpses of insight in "Side Effects." This is third in a collection of short stories and essays Allen wrote mostly for the New Yorker during his late 70s commercial/creative peak. Those strictly seeking laughs from a master will find them in one-act playlets like "The Query" and "My Apology" and in vignettes like "Reminiscences: Places and People." Each focusing on death, they underline Carol Burnett's observation "Comedy is tragedy plus time." (Alan Alda recited this line as a smarmy TV personality in Allen's 1990 "Crimes and Misdemeanors.") But Allen also unintentionally, tragicomically mixes asides and references to fallen icons like OJ Simpson, the World Trade Center (constant symbol of size here) and even Igor Stravinsky (an allegory for sophistication and complexity.) Yet Allen maintains his unparalleled character detail and nuance even in this short format (Few stories are more than six pages and are easily readable at one sitting.) You come to care for the TV producer who consoles a friend and eyes a nurse in "The Shallowest Man." You feel a painful twinge at the father-son dialogue closing the otherwise nonsensical "The Diet." You also sense the balding, hairy Kugelmass' giddy joy as he romances Emma Bovary and changes literature in "Kugelmass Episode." (Few main male characters in Allen's stories here are as attractive as the women they pursue.

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