



## Quirky Tails

*Paul Jennings*

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Includes the nine quirky tales:

Sneeze 'n Coffin  
Santa Claws  
A Dozen Bloomin' Roses  
Tonsil Eye 'Tis  
Unhappily Ever After  
Spooks Incorporated  
The Copy  
Stuffed  
No is Yes

## Quirky Tails Details

Date : Published December 1st 1995 by Puffin Books (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9780140376371

Author : Paul Jennings

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Childrens, Fiction, Young Adult, Humor, Middle Grade, Funny

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# From Reader Review Quirky Tails for online ebook

## Book Wyrm says

While my memory of most of this book is vague, I can recall **A Dozen Blooming Roses** was simply sad and uncomfortable reading, **The Copy** disturbed me as a child with its oddly strong philosophical commentary on the nature of personhood, **Stuffed** was goofy but carthartic and **No is Yes** is possibly one of the best stories I have *ever* read. Think Roald Dahl's *Tales of the Unexpected* but written for children, and by that I mean it doesn't include sex or gory violence but it doesn't hold anything else back. **No is Yes** is an extremely dark and brilliantly written story, which I'd advise anyone to read right this second, regardless of age. With memories of dreary, intelligence insulting, 'it's got bright colours so the kid's will love it' and 'lets shove in a hamfisted moral' TV growing up (Captain Planet, anyone?), stuff like Paul Jennings books and the TV show based on them (*Round the Twist*) were a reminder that children should not be considered incapable of handling darkness and complex ideas, and we'd all be better for reading something this gloriously profound and inherently messed up.

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## Bonnee Crawford says

A book I found lying around when I had nothing else to read.

The stories it contained were interesting and all came with a nice little twist. Of course, I had to keep in mind that the target audience is younger than me, but I still think the short stories were well written and worth reading. Great work by an Aussie author.

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## Kauri Tree says

Why I decided to read this book:

Even though it is slightly embarrassing, my little sister was reading this book, and when I saw that it was a short stories book, I thought that it would be perfect for my english reviews.

Category:

This book has short stories, so naturally, it fills out the 'three poems or short stories from one anthology' box. I personally really like short stories, because you can read them in 15 minute intervals, so if you have a bit of free time before you go to bed, you can just quickly finish one story before sleeping.

What I learned (with favourite quotes included):

1) No is Yes was my favourite story in this book because it had an incredible twist at the end. My favourite quote from this book was from when her father's house was on fire and Linda said "No." when a fireman asked if anyone was inside (her dad was inside). Linda was taught by her father that no is yes, black is white, etc. for human research. So basically, in the end, Linda's dad died because of his own research. I learned that all humans should have an equal and correct education.

2) The second story I read was the one that my sister said was the best. It was about a boy called Sean and his sister had said "I wish you didn't have such a big mouth", then the next day, Sean had a mouth the same size as the width of a pencil. By reading this story, I learned that I should be careful of what I say because

one day, it might come true.

3)"I know I can't tell Tara. She won't like the little face on my tonsils. She certainly won't like my extra eye. Once she wouldn't go out with me because I had a pimple on my ear. If I tell her the truth she will drop me like a brick."

This quote was part of Tonsil Eye Tis'. I learned from both this quote and the story that you don't know what people are really like, what they hate, what they love, what doesn't really matter to them. So, even if you have a third eye somewhere, there might be someone out there that absolutely loves extra eyes. You just never know in life.

Interesting character/setting and why:

- 1) Linda, because she was taught everything oppositely, and I just wondered what it might be like in a world of opposites.
- 2) Sean's sister because she says that she wishes Sean had a smaller mouth, but when he actually did end up getting one, I think she would've been quite shocked at him and sorry for what she said.
- 3) The angry gnome, because he was simply odd. Its eye glued onto the main character's (name not mentioned in story) tonsil, which isn't just interesting, it's weird.

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### **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

Read thanks to Open Library. I didn't like this collection as much as others he's written, probably because they were less scary stories and more just plain strange. Not that I don't like strange. Paul Jennings is the master of strange, oddball stories. I don't know where he gets his ideas from, unless it's from his dreams and nightmares. In this collection my favorite story was "Stuffed," about an evil bloke who likes to kill cane toads and the boy who likes to save them. Very clever and satisfying. I also enjoyed the short essay at the end that Jennings wrote about a stinky incident in his childhood that inspired him to write one of the stories in his first anthology. I'm so glad that most of his books are available here in the US. I do, of course, recommend this book, as I do all of Paul Jennings' books.

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### **Simone says**

I read this as a child, and No Is Yes in particular has stayed with me over the years.

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### **Sally says**

[Okay, to get out of my brackets. Basi

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### **Tara Calaby says**

Paul Jennings is the king of gross out stories for kids--stories that stick in your head way longer than you'd like ;)

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**Ana Silva Rosa says**

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Read for school.

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