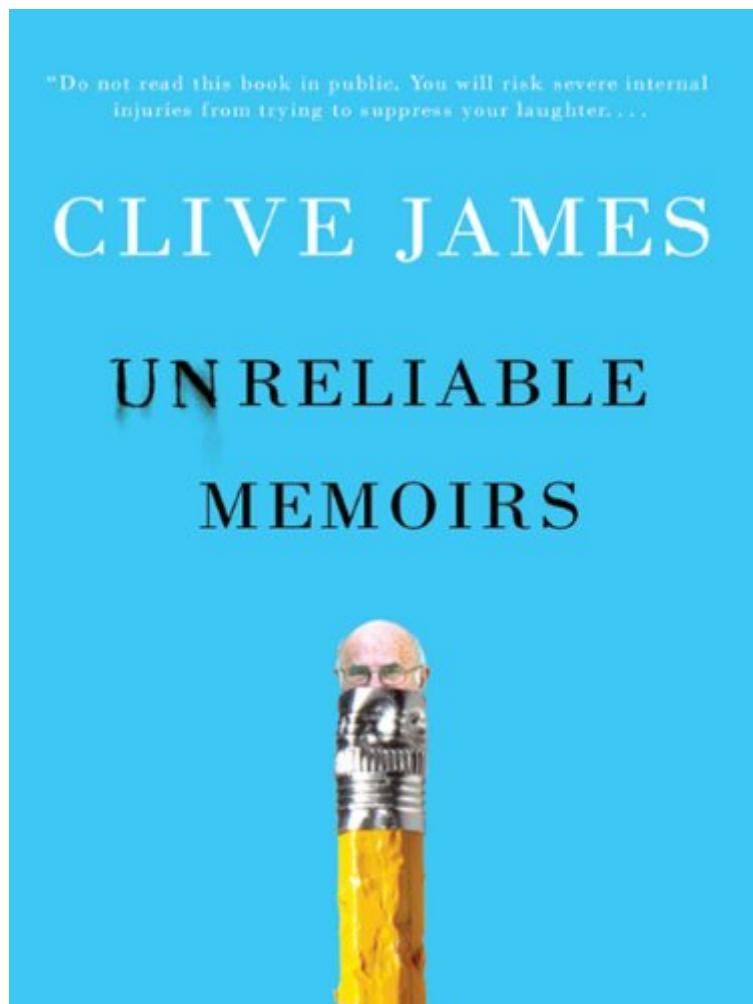


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# Unreliable Memoirs



## Synopsis

A best-selling classic around the world, Clive James' hilarious memoir has long been unavailable in the United States. Before James Frey famously fabricated his memoir, Clive James wrote a refreshingly candid book that made no claims to be accurate, precise, or entirely truthful, only to entertain. In an exercise of literary exorcism, James set out to put his childhood in Australia behind him by rendering it as part novel, part memoir. Now, nearly thirty years after it first came out in England, *Unreliable Memoirs* is again available to American readers and sure to attract a whole new generation that has, through his essays and poetry, come to love James' inimitable voice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book, read it in two days, the description of life in Australia then is so different to life for children growing up in todays world, and although the stories are "unreliable", the reality would have been very close. My disappointment was in actual fact the "unreliable" part. I wanted to

be reading this as a real story, and had to keep bringing myself back to the reality that a lot of this was not true. Disappointing but I knew before I started reading that it wasn't exactly reality, but there is a part of you that wants it to be. I guess if I wrote a story of my life the memory would have altered to what had really happened. Entertaining and a great commentary on the time and the places. Any Sydneysider would enjoy visiting the places of their childhood through this book. I now want to read the rest of his books.

I have to confess that I read this book over a considerable period of time picking it up occasionally and then finally finishing the last half recently. It's very clever and, at times anyway, laugh out loud funny. That's a fairly rare quality in a book. I couldn't decide on four or five stars as it's well written (of course, being Clive James), very readable and very funny. I settled on the four because obviously it didn't engage me enough to read it right through immediately. On the other hand it is the sort of book you can pick up and put down again being really a series of episodes in James life. I won't presume to review Clive James but if you are familiar with him you will probably love this book.

Entertaining numerous but sometimes it got a bit hard to stay interested

I've read this book a number of times over the years. This is probably my third copy of it having lost the others when loaning it to people. It's a good book, funny and well written. It loses its way towards the end and the best material is in the first two thirds, but overall it's well worth reading.

Was reading this book on a long-haul flight between Auckland and London. The people in the next seats were looking at me as if I was mad. Shoulders shaking with laughter and a head full of suppressed giggles for almost the entire flight!! They wanted to know what was so funny, and will probably end up buying their own copies of *Unreliable Memoirs*. I have rarely enjoyed a book so much, and although I was brought up at the other end of our planet, there was so much that reminded me of my own childhood - except for the spiders, snakes, sharks and sunny hot weather.....

What a hoot! Clive James's childhood and adolescence were a series of extraordinary adventures and mishaps. It is the way that he relays these stories to the reader that is hilarious and often brought tears to my eyes. It is also a window on a more innocent time when the long hot days of

Summer seemed to go on forever and the children ranged through the neighbourhood getting into all sorts of mischief without too much interference from their elders. Highly recommended!

Clive James' use of the English language is refreshing. Additionally, the inclusion of the Australian turn of phrase drew me back to my childhood. It was the first of his works I have read and I found it to be a light and enjoyable read - a good holiday read

Was told this was a very funny book - still looking for 'funny' haha, not funny small boy humour.

Prefer Clive James on TV.

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