



## Pistache

*Sebastian Faulks*

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## **Pistache** Sebastian Faulks

Some very interesting pieces from the pen of the bestselling author of **Birdsong** and **Human Traces** — a collection of clever, funny and surprising parodies, pastiches and air-shots, inspired by *The Write Stuff* on Britain's Radio 4.

Here's a small sample of Pistache pieces:

Thomas Hardy is sent to cover the big match.

Jane Austen braves a contemporary “dance”.

William Shakespeare writes a speech for Basil Fawlty.

Oscar Wilde tries to be an agony uncle.

Samuel Beckett writes a monologue for Ronnie Corbett.

Pistache will be received with great delight by fans of Sebastian Faulks.

## **Pistache Details**

Date : Published October 31st 2006 by Hutchinson (first published October 5th 2006)

ISBN : 9780091797072

Author : Sebastian Faulks

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Humor, Fiction, Short Stories, Comedy

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# From Reader Review Pistache for online ebook

## Barroca says

Um conjunto de contos (2-3 páginas cada) em jeito de sátira.

A ideia é engraçada e Faulks conhece os bem os autores cujo estilo imita (há sempre uma abordagem cómica: Dan Brown utiliza um multibanco; Thomas Hardy faz um relato de futebol; o primeiro dia de Martin Amis em Hogwarts), mas a fórmula resulta melhor nuns textos no que noutros, e o livro arrasta-se ao ponto de começarmos com um sorriso e acabarmos com um bocejo.

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## Gordon says

I picked this book up from the local library at a book-sale for \$1.00. It was a perfect sized pocket book for what I wanted. Before putting the book to good use, I opted to give it a read-through. I flipped through a few of the stories, and found them utterly un-interesting. Which was lucky for me. The book was in great shape from having sat on a shelf being ignored.

I set to work quickly, using a scalpel to cut the pages out of the inside removing a perfectly Kobo sized section. I discarded the dust jacket faster than felt necessary and glued the remainder together. What resulted was one of the most useful books in my library. Perfectly sized, non-descript, brown with a little red devil on the cover. I love it.

I'm not sure how to rate this book. The content was shit, but I made quick work of that. Now it's the most opened book in my library.

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## Annie says

Sebastian Faulks is one of my favorite authors, but he should stick to writing his own fiction. Maybe I just don't get British humor, but this was the most esoteric, unfunny collection of short stories I have ever encountered. I wish there was a half-star rating.

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## Pete Young says

A while before Faulks had written a new James Bond novel he'd already done a 'pistache' (pastiche, piss-take, whatever) of Ian Fleming, one among many other short pieces for BBC Radio 4's *The Write Stuff* that are collected here as flash fictions and poetry written in the styles of others. I can appreciate perfectly about half of them (and they are all indeed rather clever), but that half also reveals my own tastes and prejudices: Martin Amis has his first day at Hogwarts (probably my favourite), James Bond goes shopping, Dan Brown visits the ATM, Enid Blyton's Famous Five are drafted by the Anti-Terrorist Squad, George Orwell confronts the real 1984, Harold Pinter writes a TV sitcom, Shakespeare composes a speech for Basil Fawlty... and on and on. The mind does boggle a bit at how diverse Faulks has shown he can be, and stay

funny and mostly original too.

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### **93bcn says**

My review here

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### **Ian says**

I bought and read this out of a sense of completion. It's a collection of two-page, and often less, pastiches of various classic and well-known writers, originally written for The Write Stuff on Radio 4. It's mildly amusing stuff, though some are better than others. The Dan Brown one, for example, is quite funny. But this collection is only worth reading if you're a fan of The Write Stuff or an indiscriminate fan of Faulks' writing.

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### **Emma says**

Very short excerpts that show Faulks has a mastery for mimicking another writer's tone. I particularly enjoyed Wodehouse in the world of Chandler and vice versa. It's a very short book and should be taken slowly so as to savour it all the better. Unfortunately it is only truly amusing if you are familiar with the style of each of the writers mimicked but this is not Faulks' fault and even the ones I didn't know are bound to have been true to form if all the authors I did recognise are anything to go by.

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### **Heather says**

Hit and miss, most no more than a gentle laugh.

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### **Fiona MacDonald says**

'Pistache' was incredibly amusing. The idea of Faulks writing a short parody in the style of numerous authors on a range of hilarious topics was brilliant. I would say 80% of the parodies were extremely funny, whilst others were just clever with their words and showed the breadth of the author's talent. Such a great idea though. Well done Sebastian.

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### **Norah says**

Enjoyed these little pieces, and read them aloud to Paul in bed! May pass it on to my brother- or sister-in-law...

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## **Laura says**

'Pistache, pis-tash n. a friendly spoof or parody of another's work. [Deriv. uncertain. Possibly a cross between pastiche and pisstake.:] This should have been very, very good. In the end it was a little hit and miss, with some of the bits of bite-size satire more gimmicky than anything else. Worth reading for a few of the best though, including 'Dan Brown visits the cash dispenser', 'Charles Dickens has a shot at being concise', 'Henry James writes a stand-up joke' (my personal fave!), 'Sylvia Plath tells the story of Goldilocks', and 'William Shakespeare writes a speech for Basil Fawlty'.

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## **Poonam says**

It is spoof of another's work. None of the spoof is more than 2 pages long. Few examples, Martin Amis sends his lad to Hogwarts, Jane Austen steps out with American Psycho or Dan Brown visits the cash dispenser. Some of situations alone are funny. Sometimes complex writing on innocent subject as 'how to boil an egg' makes it funny (Updike). Though since I have never read Martin Amis, Philip Larkin, Chaucer or Updike - several of spoofs were lost on me or I couldn't appreciate their art completely. When I actually read these authors, I will come back to this book.

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## **Popup-ch says**

Snippets of literature as imagined by various famous authors, all exaggerated to 150%.  
this book contains Faulks first published attempts at imitating Ian Fleming and P.G. Wodehouse, both of whom he has since imitated in whole book-length oeuvres..

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## **Vishvapani says**

I enjoyed these pieces on The Write Stuff, but they don't stand up as more than momentary jokes, not proper parodies, which critique a writer by amplifying their weaknesses. The best are satires, which use the writer's style to critique contemporary mores. The Pope and Larkin pieces work well like that.

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## **Gillian says**

Hilarious. Absolutely worth the hour or two it took me to read through it all, then I had to find people to read my favourites to. Incredibly spot on prose imitations. Loved the Chaucer poem about Geri Halliwell.

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