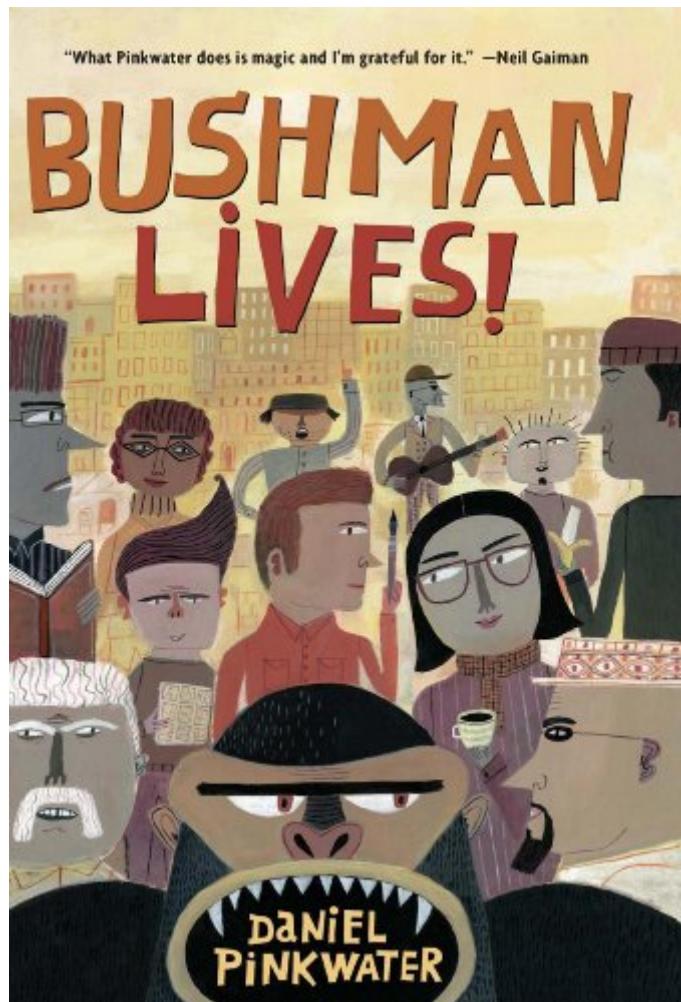


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# Bushman Lives!



## Synopsis

“What Pinkwater does is magic, and I’m grateful for it.” Neil Gaiman (about *The Neddiad*) Is Bushman the gorilla alive? According to the papers, he died a long time ago. Why is he so important to the high school senior and aspiring Great Artist Harold Knishke? It’s a hot summer in 1960s Chicago, and people are on the streets late at night, including the Chicken Man and Molly the dwerg. While reading this hilarious young adult novel (with illustrations by Calef Brown!) teens will ask themselves, “Why am I reading this?” and “Is Harold about to embark on a voyage of great adventure?” He is. This ebook includes a sample chapter of *ADVENTURES OF A CAT-WHISKERED GIRL*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The gnus were sort of challenging, because they don't make sense in the way they look--I mean, they aren't exactly rational in the way they're designed, so you have to look hard and not assume

anything about the way they're put together."Harold Knishke, whom you might know from the famous folk ballad, takes up drawing and makes this observation about ungulates. And it's all too easy too easy to see it as Pinkwater cracking wise about his own books, which are not exactly rational in the way they're designed, and readers must look equally hard and abandon all assumptions, ye who enter here. This one is a good throwback book for those of us who've been reading Big P for thirty-odd years -- the quintessential Pinkwater hero, the urban adventures and eccentric cast, and (of course) the Chicken Man. But this feels like the most reflective of Pinkwater's books, with sustained meditations, jokes about art and writing, and knowing winks to longtime fans. Here's the thing: when you're a brainy, slightly weird kid you find plenty of books about brainy, slightly weird kids: books that will break your heart, or books about brainy, slightly weird kids who have magical adventures that you, the reader, know you will never have. Pinkwater's books tell brainy, slightly weird kids that being brainy and slightly weird is awesome, and (better yet) that the world is a fantastic place with unexpected friends and adventures around every turn. A kid steeped in Pinkwater will learn that old records, old movies, art museums, lesser-known vegetables and crazy street people are all marvelous and worth learning more about. A kid steeped in Pinkwater will learn that you don't need to wait for a Hogwarts letter that never comes, you can be the hero of a fantastical adventure if you're just curious and unafraid and go outside. Pinkwater might be the only writer who delivers the goods so ably to brainy, slightly weird kids: no heavy tone, no wishful fantasy, but an actual escape plan from the doldrums of adolescence. *Bushman Lives!*

I love Daniel Pinkwater's novels. I have for about 35 years, so I am biased in his favor, but *Bushman Lives!*, his latest offering, continues the streak of clever and enlightening period pieces that touch on themes of other worlds, art, making friends, and finding your place in the world and your method of dealing with it. Starting with the *Neddiad*, and continuing through the *Yggyssey*, *Adventures Of A Cat-Whiskered Girl*, and now *Bushman Lives!*, Pinkwater has presented a group of novels that share characters of an offbeat mid twentieth century slightly bohemian USA. Newcomers can jump right in anywhere. Any of these books stands on its own. Longtime Pinkwater fans will delight in the occasional places and characters that populate his older works making cameos and providing backgrounds to the action. Harold, the protagonist, is on the verge of changes in his life. He finds art and culture and mystery in Chicago just by being himself and hanging out with friends old and new. Pinkwater is very good at showing how even big adventures and big adventurers start off as regular people doing what they find interesting. If you're young and unsure about anything in your world or exploring new territory, you'll be able to relate.

Readers of this novel are transported to Chicago in the 1950's, when there had been a real gorilla named Bushman in a zoo. Beyond that, nothing is for sure. Fans of Daniel Pinkwater suspect it's the magical recollections of himself as a young artist, although the name has been changed to protect his innocence. I would describe the novel as picaresque, although the young protagonist isn't much of a rogue... He does have adventures, it is episodic, and the ending leaves this reader hoping it's part of a trilogy... Sometimes the road is the story--among his works this one most resembles *Borgel* that way... It's also of the free improvisational riffs of plotting of his last trilogy, the *Neddiad*, the *Yggsey*, and *Adventures of a Cat Whiskered Girl*, which are also uplifting to the blithe spirit. I got the hardback copy even though I have a Kindle--it's easier to pass it on to loved ones that way...

I love Pinkwater's work. I never quit reading him, and I'm now in middle age. He did these stories and theme so much better in *CHICAGO DAYS*, *HOBOKEN NIGHTS* and his other fiction. It's not bad. It's just not really good.

A blast, like all the other books in this series. Ave Pinkwater!

Enjoyable read in general. The ending seemed abrupt. Probably a good read for Jr. High age kids. I liked the Geets character.

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