

Glenwood Middle School
Glenwood, Iowa

Steve Martin,

Cruel Shoes really made me think “life’s too short, not to have any fun.” After I read it, I immediately wanted to go out have some fun. It made me realize how short and unpredictable life is, and how we never know when it’s going to end.

Your book also made me think about how I might want to be a writer someday. Before I read your book, I’d always pictured myself being a doctor scientist, or pro sports player. If I became a writer, I would never want to write any long, boring novels. I want to write funny short stories like the ones in your book. I wondered how you were able to just let your crazy ideas become a good book and whether it would be possible for me to let my feelings and ideas take shape into a book. Maybe it was because of all the crazy and wild stories that were in your book, or maybe it was because I laughed so hard as I read it.

Your story, “How to Fold Soup,” made me think about society today. I don’t know if you meant for it to have a meaning, or just be funny, but it made me think about how insane some people are about fashion. In our society, some people spend unbelievable amounts of time and money to shop and buy stuff to look cool. I just hope I never try to be “fashionable” like that.

Another story that made me laugh was “The bored Leading the Bored.” It reminded me of myself during the school day, because when the teacher says something to me, it is sometimes like when Dr. Walker (in your book) said something that confused everyone “to death.”

I felt that the truest of any of your stories was “When Men Shop.” It made me laugh out loud, because my dad does exactly what the guys do in the book. He can go to Bass Pro Shop for a case of shells and come back with a truck load of stuff and \$500 less than what he had when he left home.

Your story “Dr. Fitzkee’s Lucky Astrology Diet” reminded me of how people are constantly dieting and trying new ways to lose weight...and some of the extremes they will go to in order to lose it. As in your story, where people nearly starved themselves or chopped off body limbs, it is crazy how obsessed people become to reach their goal. I would never consider going to such crazy extremes.

Although your book was mere ink on paper, it made me want to live my life to the fullest and just have fun. It also made me consider being a writer, which is something I had never considered before reading Cruel Shoes. Thank you for writing this book...it changed my view on a lot of things.

Sincerely,

Johnny H. Fuller

