

**Publisher's Weekly Nov.28th, 06**

**Fired!: Tales of the Canned, Cancelled, Downsized, and Dismissed**

Gurwitch's popular Web site ([www.firedbyannabelgurwitch.com](http://www.firedbyannabelgurwitch.com)) entices people to turn in their best tales of their worst firings; the cream of that crop is gathered in this star-studded collection of misery. The book is divided into chapters with titles like "The Job So Terrible You Can Only Hope to Be Fired" and "The Time You Deserved to Be Fired," but mostly it's just tales of horrible things happening to funny people. Gurwitch's own piece - in which she's canned from her role in a play written and directed by an officious Woody Allen, who told her "You look retarded" - is par for the course, with its droll humor and dash of celebrity. Comedians Bill Maher, D.L. Hughley, Bob Saget and Andy Borowitz all get in their zingers, while Illeana Douglas composes a poem that ranges from getting fired as a coat check girl ("How is it/possible to be fired hanging coats?/I have arms. I know what coats are") to high farce with borderline psychotic filmmakers. The few noncelebrities invited to share their woes are generally less funny, though they tend to be more unpredictable, such as the ex-White House chef who provides a nice recipe for seared scallops. (Mar. 7)