

## A Georgia Minute

# 60 Seconds with Laretta Hannon

**F**ans of storyteller-humorist Laretta Hannon know her as the Cracker Queen. We're calling her the funniest woman in Georgia. This year the frequent NPR's *All Things Considered* contributor published *The Cracker Queen: A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life* (Gotham, \$24). Now, the Powder Springs resident is traveling the South telling tales about the best BLT ever, why women need to calm down, and how bugs can cure Georgia's woes. Here's what she had to say.

### What three words best describe you?

Exuberant, funny, human-chihuahua.

### Who is your favorite person?

My dog, Boots.

### Who's the funniest person alive?

Mama. She posts original sayings on her fridge. My favorite: "Money isn't everything, but it sure quiets the nerves."

### Why do you love living where you do?

Because that's where my man is. I also have a great front porch.

### If you had a superpower, what would it be?

I'd rid the world of polyester, bad jazz, and cornbread made with sugar.

### What is your perfect meal?

This sounds like a death row inmate's last request: homemade potato chips from the old Crystal Beer Parlor in Savannah; a BLT from Nu-Way in Macon; and sweet tea and lemon icebox pie from The Silver Skillet in Atlanta.

### What's your strangest childhood memory?

It's a tie between buying boiled peanuts from a leper and meeting my Uncle Buddy on the chain gang.



### What about men drives you crazy?

Everything about men drives me crazy—in a good way. I had a fantastic relationship with my Daddy.

### What about women drives you crazy?

Our obsessions with things that don't matter.

### Does humor ever get you out of trouble?

Always. A sense of humor saves me every time.

### What would you change about your home state?

More lightning bugs, less Atlanta.

### What's next?

A darkly comic novel set in the place that fuels my imagination most: Middle Georgia. \*



To read an excerpt from *The Cracker Queen*, visit our blog: [southernliving.com/talesfromtheroad](http://southernliving.com/talesfromtheroad). Great inspiration for your next book club meeting.