

Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened

By Allie Brosh



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#1 New York Times Bestseller

“Funny and smart as hell” (Bill Gates), Allie Brosh’s *Hyperbole and a Half* showcases her unique voice, leaping wit, and her ability to capture complex emotions with deceptively simple illustrations.

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Every time Allie Brosh posts something new on her hugely popular blog *Hyperbole and a Half* the internet rejoices.

This full-color, beautifully illustrated edition features more than fifty percent new content, with ten never-before-seen essays and one wholly revised and expanded piece as well as classics from the website like, “The God of Cake,” “Dogs Don’t Understand Basic Concepts Like Moving,” and her astonishing, “Adventures in Depression,” and “Depression Part Two,” which have been hailed as some of the most insightful meditations on the disease ever written.

Brosh’s debut marks the launch of a major new American humorist who will surely make even the biggest scrooge or snob laugh. We dare you not to.

FROM THE AUTHOR:

This is a book I wrote. Because I wrote it, I had to figure out what to put on the back cover to explain what it is. I tried to write a long, third-person summary that would imply how great the book is and also sound vaguely authoritative—like maybe someone who isn’t me wrote it—but I soon discovered that I’m not sneaky enough to pull it off convincingly. So I decided to just make a list of things that are in the book:

Pictures

Words

Stories about things that happened to me

Stories about things that happened to other people because of me

Eight billion dollars*

Stories about dogs

The secret to eternal happiness*

*These are lies. Perhaps I have underestimated my sneakiness!

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Things That Happened By Allie Brosh Bibliography

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- Binding: Paperback
- 369 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, November 2013: Who among us has not, in moments that sometimes bleed through years, even decades, felt weird, desperate, and absurd--wishing we could turn all the lamest, most shameful episodes in our lives into hilarious illustrated anecdotes? If you're one of the millions hanging on Allie Brosh's every blog post, you already know you'll love *Hyperbole and a Half* in book form, especially since half its hyperboles are new. If you're suspicious of books because you live in a world of the INTERNET FOREVER, this is where you make an exception. If you just stumbled across Brosh and can't yet grasp the allure of a Web comic illustrated by rudimentary MS Paint figures, believe the hype. Brosh has a genius for allowing us to channel her weird childhood and the fits and starts of her adulthood through the manic eyes, gaping mouths, and stick-like arms in the panels that masterfully advance her stories, and she delivers her relentless commentary with deadpan hilarity. Neurosis has rarely been so relatable and entertaining. --*Mari Malcolm*

Guest Review of *Hyperbole and a Half*

By Bill Gates



Bill Gates is a technologist, business leader, and philanthropist. He grew up in Seattle, Washington, with an amazing and supportive family who encouraged his interest in computers at an early age. He dropped out of college to start Microsoft with his childhood friend Paul Allen. He married Melinda French in 1994 and they have three children. Today, Bill and Melinda Gates co-chair the charitable foundation bearing their names and are working together to give their wealth back to society. This review originally appeared on Bill's personal blog the Gates Notes on May 19th, 2015.

Some of the books I've recommended as summer reads really aren't. They're long nonfiction books that might look a little out of place beside the pool or on the beach.

But *Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things that Happened*, by Allie Brosh, is an honest-to-goodness summer read. You will rip through it in three hours, tops. But you'll wish it went on longer, because it's funny and smart as hell. I must have interrupted Melinda a dozen times to read to her passages that made me laugh out loud.

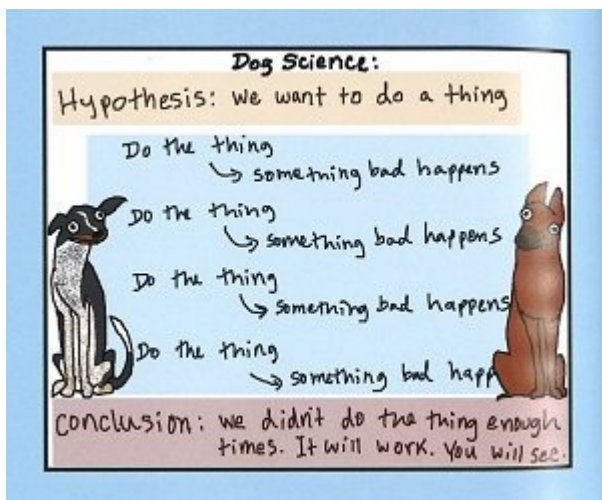
The book consists of brief vignettes and comic (in both senses of the word) drawings about Brosh's young life (she's in her late 20s). It's based on her wildly popular website.

Brosh has quietly earned a big following even though, as her official bio puts it, she "lives as a recluse in her bedroom in Bend, Oregon." The adventures she recounts are mostly inside her head, where we hear and see the kind of inner thoughts most of us are too timid to let out in public. Despite her book's title, Brosh's stories feel incredibly—and sometimes brutally—real.

I don't mean to suggest that giving an outlet to our often-despicable me is a novel form of humor, but she is really good at it. Her timing and tone are consistently spot on. And so is her artwork. I'm amazed at how expressive and effective her intentionally crude drawings are.

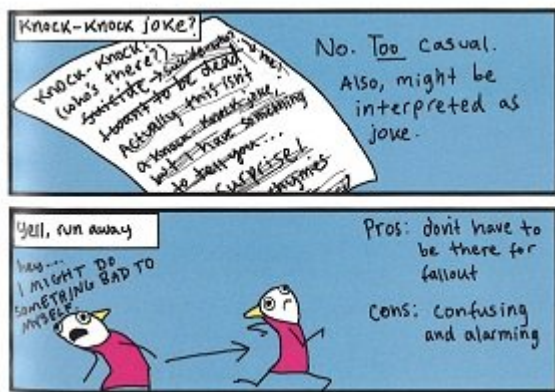
Some of Brosh's stories are funny without being particularly meaningful, such as her tales about her two dogs and their humorously illogical inner thoughts. Here's a typical snippet: "To the simple dog, throwing up was like some magical power that she never knew she possessed—the ability to create infinite food. I was less excited about the discovery because it turned my dog into a horrible, vomit-making perpetual-motion machine."

And here's a typical illustration:



But her best stuff is the deep stuff, especially the chapters about her battles with severe depression. There is a lot of self-revelation here but no self-pity. She brings the same wit to this subject as she does to her stories about her dogs—even if it makes the reader more likely to tear up than crack up.

Here's a typical snippet that follows a riff about feeling suicidal and not quite knowing how to let loved ones know about these feelings:



I suspect that anyone who has experienced depression would get a lot out of reading this book. The mental illness she describes is profoundly isolating: “When you have to spend every social interaction consciously manipulating your face into shapes that are only approximately the right ones, alienating people is inevitable.” It must be empowering for those who have struggled with depression to read this book, see themselves, and know they’re far from alone.

It might be even more valuable for those who have a friend, colleague, or family member who has experienced depression. *Hyperbole and a Half* gave me a new appreciation for what a depressed person is feeling and not feeling, and what’s helpful and not helpful. Here’s a good example: “People want to help. So they try harder to make you feel hopeful.... You explain it again, hoping they’ll try a less hope-centric approach, but re-explaining your total inability to experience joy inevitably sounds kind of negative, like maybe you WANT to be depressed. So the positivity starts coming out in a spray—a giant, desperate happiness sprinkler pointed directly at your face.”

I get why Brosh has become so popular. While she self-deprecatingly depicts herself in words and art as an odd outsider, we can all relate to her struggles. Rather than laughing at her, you laugh with her. It is no hyperbole to say I love her approach—looking, listening, and describing with the observational skills of a scientist, the creativity of an artist, and the wit of a comedian.

Review

"I must have interrupted Melinda a dozen times to read to her passages that made me laugh out loud. . . . The adventures she recounts are mostly inside her head, where we hear and see the kind of inner thoughts most of us are too timid to let out in public. Despite her book’s title, Brosh’s stories feel incredibly—and sometimes brutally—real. . . . It is no hyperbole to say I love her approach—looking, listening, and describing with the observational skills of a scientist, the creativity of an artist, and the wit of a comedian." (Bill Gates)

"Imagine if David Sedaris could draw . . . Enchanting." (*People* (4 stars, *People Pick*))

Winner of the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Humor Book of the Year

An NPR Best Book of the Year

A Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Memoirs (.)

“I would gladly pay to sit in a room full of people reading this book, merely to share the laughter.” (Philadelphia Inquirer)

"My wife, who rarely reads a book published after 1910 and who is difficult to make laugh, wept with pleasure while reading these comic illustrated essays from Ms. Brosh, who runs a popular web comic and

blog. I had to find out what the fuss was about. The subjects run from light (cakes, dogs) to dark (the author's own severe depression), and they foreground offbeat feeling and real intellect. Ms. Brosh's inquisitive mind won me over, too." (Dwight Garner *New York Times*)

"In a culture that encourages people to carry mental illness as a secret burden . . . Brosh's bracing honesty is a gift." (Chicago Tribune)

"Brosh captures humanity at its simultaneous worst and best with a razor wit that allows us to laugh at even our darkest of selves." (The Advocate (Baton Rouge))

"Will make you laugh until you sob, even when Brosh describes her struggle with depression." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"**This is the BOOK OF THE YEAR.**" (Elizabeth Gilbert)

"One of the best things I've ever read in my life." (Marc Maron)

"**This book made me laugh, cry, and leak. It was honest, poignant, and ridiculously silly in all the best ways and I'm better for having read it. Plus, doggies!**" (Jenny Lawson, *The Bloggess* and author of *Let's Pretend This Never Happened*)

"An Internet-era treasure, an unexpected wonder of the 21st century." (Cory Doctorow, *BoingBoing.com*)

"Brosh is a connoisseur of the human condition." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Brosh is an evocative writer who bares her foibles and shortcomings, from childhood to her present life, with a lack of vanity and a sense of catharsis that is palpable." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"Get this for the smart people who appreciate humor in your life, and they won't be disappointed." (*io9.com*)

"The whole blog is inspired." (Andrew Sullivan, *The Daily Dish* (*The Atlantic*))

"Anyone seeking an accessible look at someone suffering from depression or some really delightful dog drawings need search no further." (*Time Out New York*)

About the Author

Allie Brosh is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Hyperbole and a Half*, which was named the Goodreads Choice Award Winner for Best Humor Book of the Year. Brosh has also given herself many prestigious awards, including "fanciest horse drawing" and "most likely to succeed."
HyperboleandaHalf.blogspot.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Erin Kizer:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim as well as goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. These are

reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book if they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you should have this Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened.

Kenny Hardy:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information today can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened as your daily resource information.

Lila Johnson:

This book untitled Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book shop or you can order it through online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this e-book from your list.

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