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Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)



Synopsis

Mindy Kaling has lived many lives: the obedient child of immigrant professionals, a timid chubster afraid of her own bike, a Ben Affleck-impersonating Off-Broadway performer and playwright, and, finally, a comedy writer and actress prone to starting fights with her friends and coworkers with the sentence "Can I just say one last thing about this, and then I swear I'll shut up about it?" Perhaps you want to know what Mindy thinks makes a great best friend (someone who will fill your prescription in the middle of the night), or what makes a great guy (one who is aware of all elderly people in any room at any time and acts accordingly), or what is the perfect amount of fame (so famous you can never get convicted of murder in a court of law), or how to maintain a trim figure (you will not find that information in these pages). If so, you've come to the right book, mostly! In *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*, Mindy invites readers on a tour of her life and her unscientific observations on romance, friendship, and Hollywood, with several conveniently placed stopping points for you to run errands and make phone calls. Mindy Kaling really is just a Girl Next Door-not so much literally anywhere in the continental United States, but definitely if you live in India or Sri Lanka.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a fan of Mindy Kaling, and her book is a light and fun read. It is not especially profound, nor does it contain any groundbreaking words of wisdom, but then again she doesn't pretend that it will! My expectations were a little high after having read great reviews and watched her hilarious show, and while the book did not *quite* live up to the hype, it was very good in its own way. I recommend

it to women in their 20s and 30s because you might recognize a little bit of yourself in some of the thoughts and worries Kaling shares, in addition to having a few laughs!

I bought this expecting a celebrity memoir, and that's what I got! We tend to want these kinds of books so that we can read about the lives of people that we "know" from the media. This was light, funny, and interesting. I will definitely pick up the second one, as my biggest criticism of this one was wanting more. The anecdotes were well polished: it was clear that they had been condensed into just the pertinent and interesting parts, and that Ms. Kaling spent a lot of time thinking about what to put in the book, and how to explain the way things like childhood friendships, parental expectations, and creative failures affected her. I recommend this book to fans of the celebrity memoir genre and fans of Ms. Kaling.

Mindy is legit funny. Not quite as biting or "deep" as Tina Fey's "Bossypants" was, but there is plenty here for a good time and really, there isn't a lot of trying to be more or less beyond the self-deprecation and what that means for Mindy and potential audience. There *was more than I thought there would be about dating, boys, wanting love, wanting to date, etc. So like really obviously meant as self-effacing a lot of the time, but also gets a little repetitive. Like, super...well...hetero? Not sure what else to say. I guess "normative" is better word. I've never felt that reading/watching Bossypants, 30 Rock, Parks and Rec, the Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt... basically it just sticks out somehow more here for some reason out of all the comedic spaces I live in that seem to be related to Kaling's humor. It feels like a weird thing to write in a review for a comedic book but literally I was like "really?" during some instances of the book. Do we need to be Disney Princesses transported to modern times? Like I said, self-deprecating, but also, sometimes in a vaguely nefarious "it's a joke but also we all know the drill so sit and watch what you know happens." Can't explain it. I've seen parts of Mindy's show and thought it was funny. I'm going to check it out to see if I can pin-point what exactly I'm feeling.

Well I'm a HUGE Mindy fan so I suppose it's no brainer that I would love this book. She's cute, quirky, and has the same silly sense of humor. She's the girl next door you want to be best friends with. Unlike Chelsea Handler (who I enjoy as well), Mindy is relatable, yet funny. And like her, I like to create imaginary celebrity friendships in my head. Gwen Stefani, Pamela Anderson, and Amy Poehler to name a few. So far I've met 2 out of the 3. I'll let you figure out which ones. What's great about this book is that you can also give it to a young girl (think 12 and up) as well. Mindy's story is

inspiring to all aspiring artists and a good example of what hard work and a straight head and can achieve. A nice change from the Mileys and the Britanys, if you ask me. Her drive is admirable. The only thing I would say, as much as I love Mindy, it sometimes she comes across as being a teenager instead of a grown woman. Maybe it's because she barely addresses sex or other heavier issues, but there is something that makes me want to go Mindy grow up! But all in all I loved the book! If you're a fan, it's a must.

As a huge Mindy fan and avid Mindy Project watcher, I finally got around to reading Kaling's book! I was never the prettiest, skinniest, or most popular girl throughout growing up and it is such a relief to have a great female role model write about her own struggles with self acceptance and identity. Kaling bluntly talks about what it is like to be body shamed, finding herself, and what makes her happy. This is someone who should be a role model to all women, and I cannot wait for my step daughter to be old enough to read this book and learn that it doesn't matter if you are skinny, curvy, into comedy, seriously academic, etc. as long as you are happy with yourself and what you do!

I have to preface this review by saying I love Mindy Kaling--I watched her on The Office and loved the fact that she wrote for the show as well. When she created The Mindy Project, I followed right along. I find her humor funny. With that said, this book did not disappoint! It traces her childhood up through her career, and there are moments, many, many moments, where I laughed out loud. And it kept me up at night instead of sleeping--I had some tired work days until I finished the book! Because I've been a fan of hers and have seen her in her in so many sitcom episodes, I had her voice in my head as I was reading. The writing is natural and quick-paced, with short chapters that keep you turning the page to see what funny story she'll have to tell about her life next.

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