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Attempting Normal



Synopsis

People make a mess. Marc Maron was a parent-scarred, angst-filled, drug-dabbling, love-starved comedian who dreamed of a simple life: a wife, a home, a sitcom to call his own. But instead he woke up one day to find himself fired from his radio job, surrounded by feral cats, and emotionally and financially annihilated by a divorce from a woman he thought he loved. He tried to heal his broken heart through whatever means he could find - minor-league hoarding, Viagra addiction, accidental racial profiling, cat fancying, flying airplanes with his mind - but nothing seemed to work. It was only when he was stripped down to nothing that he found his way back. *Attempting Normal* is Marc Maron's journey through the wilderness of his own mind, a collection of explosively, painfully, addictively funny stories that add up to a moving tale of hope and hopelessness, of failing, flailing, and finding a way. From standup to television to his outrageously popular podcast, *WTF with Marc Maron*, Marc has always been a genuine original, a disarmingly honest, intensely smart, brutally open comic who finds wisdom in the strangest places. This is his story of the winding, potholed road from madness and obsession and failure to something like normal, the thrillingly comic journey of a sympathetic f---kup who's trying really hard to do better without making a bigger mess. Most of us will relate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's amazing how someone who has so much insight---wisdom, even---about his foibles and blind spots, enough to write an entire memoir about what went wrong in the past and why, can describe

himself as still struggling to overcome them on a daily basis. Based on what Maron shares about his upbringing it's not hard to understand why he's wrestled with demons or how his own choices for good and bad have allowed at least a few of them to go on living. Now sober but still a rage-a-holic, Maron's smart, fearless and funny. I don't see him going out the way other comedy greats like Greg Giraldo and Mitch Hedberg did, and that's a great relief. He has a way of being sincerely self-effacing (sometimes this borders on self-hate) while simultaneously egotistical, yet underneath everything he comes across as a relatable guy who's dealing with a lot of the same stuff most of us are, and just trying to handle it a little better each day. I was initially a little put off by Maron's own hard-edged, fast-talking, frenetic reading of the Audible audiobook, but I got over it pretty quickly. That's just who Maron is, and he's not afraid to reveal it to anyone interested enough to listen.

As a fan of the WTF podcast and Maron's comedy that came in around the 550th episode or so, this book allowed me to learn about some of the life experiences that Maron continuously alludes to in his work, ie. divorce, addiction, career trajectory, and even how he came to acquire his cats. After reading *Attempting Normal*, I found I had a better appreciation for WTF because a lot his references and points-of-view were re-framed by what I had discovered in the book. Consistently funny with a good blend of fun stories as well as key life events. Some celebrity autobiographies can drag on with "this happened, then this, then this, then this..." but not this one. By the end of it, like many of his podcast episodes, I felt like I had gotten there much too soon and wanted more.

I have been listening to Marc's podcast here and there for the last year. I started listening to him more on a regular basis in the last month or so because I figured his conversations were a lot more interesting than the conversations I was having at work. I became one of those "sit down at the desk, pop in the headphones and crunch through my busy work between appointments" type of people. I'm not too familiar with his standup acts but I absolutely love the way he describes his desire to connect with people. There's very little in common between Marc and me, but his intensity, emotional state, and hunger for acceptance is fascinating, hilarious and comforting. Some stories are graphic but not in a filthy way. He knows what he's done isn't admirable, but it's real and honest. I'm almost done with the book and I can't put it down. Any chance I have to sit and read, I flip this book open. His writing is so engaging that you feel like you've known him for years- and many of his fans have through his podcast. If you listen to him enough you can hear his voice while you read it. Highly recommend to anyone who's looking for a deep, dark, hopeful and funny read. Five stars!

Marc is a funny guy. Not in the usual 'laugh out loud' way but more but more like the free form flow of jazz - a lot of adventurous, unexpected turns that aren't only funny, but also philosophically profound. I've highlighted the hell out of 'Attempting Normal' The rise of the philosopher/comic. Another great thing about Marc is that he adheres to a strict policy of truth-telling and bulls*** avoidance as he deconstructs his life through words 'Self-obsessed', 'neurotic' and 'anger issues' are descriptors that come to mind. Obviously, this hasn't always been good for his career, but it sure makes for a hell of a book and one of the only podcasts that actually qualifies as essential listening. One of the best interviewers out there.

I have been listening to Marc Maron on his "WTF" podcast for a couple of years now , and I always find something new to like about it. Mr Maron is a smart , insightful person , a wonderful interviewer , and really gets the most from his interview subjects. I have also seen him live doing his standup act , and , I think he is one of the funniest , most honest comedians working today. His book is a funny , wickedly honest version about being Marc Maron , in all it's trials , tribulations and pain that he carries around with him . It was a good read , I found myself laughing out loud a few times. although , I had previously heard some of the chapters in some of his bits , either on TV , or in person , it didn't make reading them any less funny . He is an original voice , and I hope his current success with his new IFC show , and his other ventures continues.

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