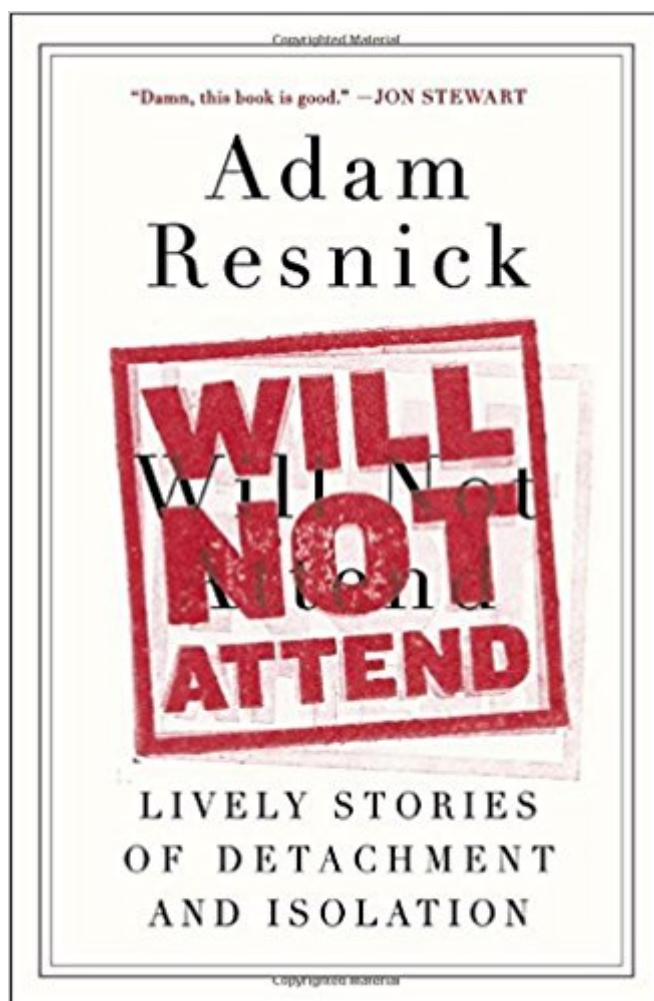


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# Will Not Attend: Lively Stories Of Detachment And Isolation



## Synopsis

“Damn, this book is good.” •Jon Stewart Emmy Award-winning writer Adam Resnick began his career at Late Night with David Letterman before honing his chops in movies and cable television, including HBO’s The Larry Sanders Show. While courageously admitting to being “euphorically antisocial,” Resnick plunges readers deep into his troubled psyche in this uproarious memoir-in-essays. Shaped by such touchstone events as a traumatic Easter egg hunt and overwrought by obsessions, he refuses to be burdened by chores like basic social obligation and personal growth. Resnick is cut from the same strange cloth as Louis C.K., and Will Not Attend showcases his writing at its brazenly hilarious best.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Beginning when he was in elementary school and jumping around through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, these 15 essays by the Emmy Award-winning Resnick provide a loose commentary on his life. His self-deprecating humor quite often lashes out at other people, such as his family, teachers, neighbors, and people he sees on the street. Resnick has a way of looking at life that will provoke lots of laughter, shame in the reader for laughing, and acute appreciation of Resnick’s OCD-fueled exaggerations. The essays reveal the potty-mouthed, definitely not politically correct, and totally opinionated author at the top of his game. He takes on Disneyland and the Disney philosophy with gusto while on the side using a family trip to destroy the relationship with his sister-in-law. His take on junk food is priceless (“Only a narcissistic asshole would

consider his body a temple (•). Readers will relish this book. Buy plenty. --Ellen Loughran  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

My pal Adam's FUNNIEST MEMOIR ever, came out TODAY. D'ja get it yet? My fist to God - it's hilarious! (•) Bob Odenkirk (@mrbobodenkirk) (•) "Adam Resnick doesn't merely summon the jaundice and surprise of early David Sedaris, his mini memoirs are unpretentious reminders of John Updike's everyman absurdities and Richard Ford's bewildered strivers. A biting, darkly hilarious collection of personal essays that begs to be read aloud. (•) Chicago Tribune (A Best Book of the Year, 2014) (•) [A] gruff, wry paean to life's indignities...essays here aren't just stand-up skits but have actual plots in which things go horrifically, uproariously wrong | Anyone who watches Larry David will be familiar with Resnick's hearty style of tell-it-like-it-is meanness. (•) Lisa Zeidner, The Washington Post "An anti-social work of art." (•) RollingStone.com (•) [A] dark, hilarious first book | Resnick is a guy thoroughly uncomfortable in his own skin, and he knows how to wring laughs and pathos out of that fact...[he] delivers his sad little histories with wit, insight and hilarious detail. (•) [Like] kindred spirits Louis C.K. and Larry David, he just wants the rest of the world to see how stupid it all is. (•) Josh Modell, AV Club (A Favorite Book of the Year, 2014) (•) "A streak of self-loathing runs through these stories with the anti-social Resnick repeatedly finding himself struggling through a humiliating or deeply irritating experience. However, that trenchant quality is occasionally undercut by an almost subliminal level of sweetness | Resnick's cynical sensibilities are surprisingly raw and consistently hilarious | Will Not Attend could very well be one of the funniest books released this year. (•) Splitsider (•) "The essays reveal the potty-mouthed, definitely not politically correct, and totally opinionated author at the top of his game. He takes on Disneyland and the Disney philosophy with gusto while on the side using a family trip to destroy the relationship with his sister-in-law. His take on junk food is priceless (•) "Only a narcissistic asshole would consider his body a temple (•). Readers will relish this book. Buy plenty. (•) Booklist (•) "The writing is sharp and sharp-tongued | the book is not for readers who are easily offended. The author's aversion to just about everything paints him as nihilistic and cynical, but the subtle moments of genuine vulnerability remain the heart of every story. These moments prove redemptive for a character who sometimes feels beyond saving and shed light on how he developed such comically twisted viewpoints. A neurotic, unapologetic, hilarious collection. (•) Kirkus (•) "Writing a collection of short

stories is a very difficult thing to do. These Adam Resnick stories are great. You read one and think, that was so well done maybe I'll read another. You think, the next one can't be as good, and it's even better. I hope you read this book. It's funny, smart and thoughtful; and it's funny, smart and thoughtful. I loved it. I think you will as well. Did I mention I loved it? Happy reading.

•Dave Letterman "Having worked with Adam Resnick many years ago, I can easily recall he was a little nuts, but I completely forgot he was this talented and funny. Damn, this book is good."

•Jon Stewart "Adam Resnick is one of the funniest writers I've ever known, and he proves it big-time in this acid-swaddled memoir. You will laugh reading this book, I swear to Christ Almighty. Adam comes by his misanthropy honestly and bravely and his continued existence is a tribute to the soul-nourishing qualities of an unrelenting, unforgiving, and hilarious outlook. I will be reading this again and again for the rest of my life like it's the goddamn bible."

•Bob Odenkirk "In the ideal film adaptation of *Will Not Attend*, second-grader Adam Resnick would be played by a four-foot-tall, fully adult homunculus Resnick, animated by a precocious despair, disdainful of cultural idiocy, and wearing the ever-present scowl of the perpetually put-upon. Undoubtedly, the child Resnick is father of the man Resnick. This is a very funny book, and I would pay decent money to see the movie version, or even to play it in the form of an extremely sad video game."

•Charlie Kaufman "Adam Resnick is like an artist keenly observing the subtleties of light and shadow in the world around us painting hilariously bleak portraits of the neighbors, friends, and family that we all know and love so dearly. He's basically our generation's Norman Rockwell, if Norman Rockwell had ever painted a woman sucking off a horse."

•Chris Elliott

This book was hysterical. It's rare that I laugh out loud when reading. Resnick is the ultimate introvert. He writes a series of short stories about growing up in Pennsylvania with a crazy family going all the way through to his life with his wife and daughter in New York City. He doesn't much like most people but still comes off as likable. My favorite was his story about buying a piano from the lady upstairs in his upper westside building. It reminded me so much of living in New York (I don't anymore). His descriptions were spot on. Smart, funny and super entertaining. I'm getting this book for a bunch of people for Christmas.

Being in my 40s I related well with these stories from the days of landlines and county fairs. Besides the humor, the common thread through the book is the page-turning suspense of how each chapter

unfolds. On the Blue Yodel No. 13 story I was really rooting for young Resnick to lose his virginity to the chain-smoking teenage runaway girl. And I was dying to know what kind of cereal his dad was eating in chapter 12. But I won't give anything away here. To find out what kind of cereal it was, you will just have to read the book!

I loved it and was upset when I turned the last page. Now what? Rarely do I delve so whole-heartedly into a book as I did this one. A quarter of the way through I was recommending it to everyone I knew and now that I finished it, I wasn't wrong. Resnick has such a bitter, cynical, perma-Eeyore persona but his set-up and delivery are brilliant, caustic and hysterically funny. And most importantly, no one is left unscathed including himself. Hidden amongst the wry wit and improbable adventure are little gems of poignancy for balance. Read the milkshake chapter and you'll never be the same again.

You CAN NOT read this as a bedtime book. You'll never get to sleep. You'll laugh so much your tears will run down your face and you'll forget to be sleepy! The funniest book I've ever read, bar none! RH

I saw Resnick on the Letterman show, and thought he was brilliant. A dry, wry, sarcastic humor which you have to love. After the Letterman show I went to download the book, and couldn't put it down. Stylistically it is what you would expect from someone who has worked with Letterman and in the genre of Seinfeld. It is just plain old storytelling at its best. Honest, neurotic, and oddly funny. Each page you read, you think "how ridiculous." And by the time you finish the story, you realize it isn't far off from everyday life. In a strange way it sounds like someone you know. A fun must read.

I was literally laughing out loud while reading it at Starbucks over the weekend. Mr. Resnick is one extremely talented raconteur. What I enjoyed most about the book was the cinematic quality in which the stories are told. One minute you're visualizing the author as a child at a neighborhood Easter party with a girl he has a crush on, and the next minute he's transformed into a young man fresh out of college learning the ins and outs of the insurance biz from a family friend who takes the young lad under his wing. The tales are all equally funny but in different ways some as others here have mentioned are extremely touching and told very sweetly. Highly recommend for a comical and poignant read.

I read this book after hearing Adam Resnick on Comedy Bang Bang. This book is really fun. There's even a cool "interactive" section at the end with coloring pages and word finds and stuff. The only complaint I have is that there was too much graphic detail about slaughter houses, but not even in a "slaughter houses are bad" kind of way... It was almost pro slaughterhouses, but it was still really gruesome and it was mentioned in almost every essay. Some of the connections seemed forced which made it worse. there was one story where Adam tells about this bag he got from a book store and he likens the way his belonging fit inside to "the warm, glove like feeling of hands breaking through worn down, bloated pig flesh." Awesome book though.

Very funny.. Interesting glimpse into childhood.. and seeing just where the comedy comes from.

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