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# Girl Walks Into A Bar...: Comedy Calamities, Dating Disasters, And A Midlife Miracle



## Synopsis

In this side-splitting memoir, the former Saturday Night Live star recounts the hilarious adventures and unexpected joy of dating and becoming a mother when she least expected it - at the age of 44. Anyone who saw an episode of Saturday Night Live between 1999 and 2006 knows Rachel Dratch. She was hilarious! So what happened to her? After a misbegotten part as Jenna on the pilot of 30 Rock, Dratch was only getting offered roles as "Lesbians. Secretaries. Sometimes secretaries who are lesbians." Her career at a low point, Dratch suddenly had time for yoga, dog-sitting, learning Spanish - and dating. After all, what did a forty-something single woman living in New York have to lose? Resigned to childlessness but still hoping for romance, Dratch was out for drinks with a friend when she met John. Handsome and funny, after only six months of dating long-distance, he became the inadvertent father of her wholly unplanned, undreamed-of child and moved to New York to be a dad. With riotous humor, Dratch recounts breaking the news to her bewildered parents, the awe of her single friends, and the awkwardness of a baby-care class where the instructor kept tossing out the f-word. Filled with great behind-the-scenes anecdotes from Dratch's time on SNL, *Girl Walks into a Bar* is a refreshing version of the "happily ever after" story that proves female comics - like best sellers Tina Fey and Chelsea Handler - are truly having their moment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If I had one word to describe this book it would be underwhelming. Rachel Dratch, known to many as Debbie Downer, is probably my favorite female cast member of SNL of all time. So I was

expecting to enjoy reading her book and like it more than some of the other female comedians who have come out with memoirs. Unfortunately, while I wouldn't say it's a bad book, there's just nothing really interesting about it either. I think part of the problem is the book mainly focused on her dating life and becoming a mother in her forties. There's certainly laughs sprinkled throughout the book but as a whole the stories are not that more interesting than the average joe or jane's dating life. I say this as a compliment, Rachel seems like a very normal and likable person who you would like to have as a friend, but in terms of reading about her life outside of show biz it just doesn't make for a good read. I would have loved to read more about her time on SNL and her career. One thing I did like about the book is she did address her firing from 30 Rock so it finally puts to rest some of the crazy rumors that were circulating at the time. So if you really love books about dating and motherhood than give this book a try. If you are looking for a hilarious celebrity memoir with a ton of behind the scenes gossip, give this book a pass.

I pretty much stopped watching SNL after the original cast, plus Bill Murray left, but I was vaguely aware of the performers that were on for years -- especially the women. Women used to have a hard time making it in comedy and no doubt still do. (In Chicago in the early 80's, I was told by some male improvisers that as a woman, I was basically a...insert crude name for prostitute... on stage because women weren't funny, but just a necessary evil. They said we were needed for scenes every once in a while. Never did see those particular guys make it in the business, unlike the talented male improvisers who were always supportive and complimentary. They did go on to see professional success.) Anyway, I love it when funny, smart women make it at Second City and SNL and elsewhere. Rachel Dratch is, based on this book, very smart and very funny. I enjoyed reading her memoir so much. It was like being with an old friend who you have a great rapport with and is always a lot of fun. She is a very good writer and naturally funny. She is entertaining and I loved her honesty. Loved her openness and experiences with "New Age" stuff like The Secret. The only reason I'm giving this a 4 1/2 instead of 5 stars is life after the baby kind of lost me and I skimmed. But women who've had children might love it. Highly recommended.

I hate when people review a book and say, "I couldn't put it down!" because 9 times out of 10 they put the book down multiple times and took several weeks to finish it. That being said, I can honestly say I couldn't put Rachel Dratch's book down. When it arrived I opened it to read the first page just to get a feel for her writing style. My husband was waiting for me to run a few errands with him at the time but he ended up doing them alone and I camped out on my comfy chair in the living room and

read the entire book. Given it is on the short end, I still couldn't put the thing down and read it in just a few hours on a perfectly beautiful, sunny day that probably should have been spent being productive. I am not a fan of Celebrity Memoirs. Most celebrities are terrible writers and have to have someone else write the thing for them. Also, most celebrities are incredibly boring people (this shouldn't surprise anyone, but will). Rachel is a comic and has been writing her own material since she was a child and I found her style very entertaining and engaging. I was drawn to her book, despite my hatred of celebrity memoirs, because Rachel doesn't pretend to be someone she isn't. Fame hasn't gone to her head, she's a normal person who just happened to be on SNL for 7 seasons and pops up in movies. She is honest and tells her story of how hard making it in show business is and "making it" doesn't mean you've made it forever - it's constant work to remain active in her field. The first half of Rachel's book mostly revolves around how she got started in the business, her time on SNL, what really went down with her starring role on 30 Rock, and her struggles with making it in film after leaving SNL. The second half of her book is about dating and searching for love? companionship? a baby daddy? she doesn't quite know, but the journey is one she takes anyway and is full of bumps, a jekyll and hyde dog, and humorous weirdos. This part of the book was especially raw and relatable - Rachel realizes for most of her life she has prevented herself from finding love by surrounding herself with her gay friends, marrieds, and work. I think some celebrity memoirs could get quite boring after the "juicy" showbiz part, but Rachel's got better with every page. I hope she continues to write because there's nothing like the feeling of falling in love with a book. I realize most reviewers refer to the author by last name, but I couldn't do that here. It seems too formal for someone that writes in a way that makes her reader her friend.

The first half is entertaining. It describes Rachel's "Moving up the ladder of success". There are genuine laughs to be had. The problem is the second half of the book. It focuses entirely on her meeting a guy, getting pregnant, wondering if the guy will stick around, doing baby showers, and then having her baby. There are a few laughs in the second half, but not enough to stave off boredom. I really loved Dratch on SNL (Saturday Night Live) and thought there would be more insights and stories she would share about her years on the show, but it's a short section. If you've never had a baby or been around a sibling or friend that's having their first baby, you might enjoy the second half of the book.

I've always thought Rachel Dratch was hilarious but never knew much about her or thought I needed to know a lot about her. However, this book was fun to read, and brought up some

surprising stories from her. It's not as dark as some of the other Saturday Night Live cast memoirs but it is a joy to read.

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