



Yes Please

Amy Poehler

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#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Do you want to get to know the woman we first came to love on Comedy Central's *Upright Citizens Brigade*? Do you want to spend some time with the lady who made you howl with laughter on *Saturday Night Live*, and in movies like *Baby Mama*, *Blades of Glory*, and *They Came Together*? Do you find yourself daydreaming about hanging out with the actor behind the brilliant Leslie Knope on *Parks and Recreation*? Did you wish you were in the audience at the last two *Golden Globes* ceremonies, so you could bask in the hilarity of Amy's one-liners?

If your answer to these questions is "Yes Please!" then you are in luck. In her first book, one of our most beloved funny folk delivers a smart, pointed, and ultimately inspirational read. Full of the comedic skill that makes us all love Amy, *Yes Please* is a rich and varied collection of stories, lists, poetry (Plastic Surgery Haiku, to be specific), photographs, mantras and advice. With chapters like "Treat Your Career Like a Bad Boyfriend," "Plain Girl Versus the Demon" and "The Robots Will Kill Us All" *Yes Please* will make you think as much as it will make you laugh. Honest, personal, real, and righteous, *Yes Please* is full of words to live by.

Yes Please Details

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From Reader Review Yes Please for online ebook

lp says

Disappointing! Poehler complains about how hard it is to write a book many times, which is annoying, but I can't see how it would be hard to write a *bad* book. It's so obvious she was forced to do this, it's written from a bad place and I felt that bad place the whole time I was reading it. Poehler basically links lazy (she frequently says "I'll tell you about that later" which means she doesn't know how to tell a story) and shallow ("I don't remember anything about SNL so I'm not going to write anything") anecdotes with terrible filler. Her advice is painfully obvious. You would think with a title like *Yes Please* Poehler would make a statement of some sort. But I didn't really take anything away. She shoots off lists of details about people she's worked with in the most thoughtless, uninteresting way I could possibly imagine. I almost thought, "are you mad at Tina Fey? Because she wrote so much about you, and you've done a half-assed job paying any respect to her."

I enjoyed Poehler's childhood stories, sometimes. (She goes on for like 10 pages about this one time her friend and her handcuffed each other in school one day.) And every so often, she reveals beautiful moments when she actually slows down and stops name-dropping and barfing on the pages. Those moments... watching the moon with her sons, "time travel," and the occasionally perfectly plucked set of words to describe a scene, make the book bearable? Maybe not. I wanted so much more from this book.

Amy Poehler told us she did not have time to write a book, and she clearly did not. Nobody should have made her.

Maureen says

After having this on my shelf for like two years I finally got around to it and it was great! I just love Amy Poehler so much guys.

I listened to the audiobook as recommended by most people (while flipping though the physical book for occasional pictures) and MAN would I say if you at all can access the audiobook, listen to that! Not only are there special guest speakers, but some parts have actual audio from the things she is talking about (like scenes from parks & rec)

Amy just seems like a very funny, honest, open person and like someone you would want to be best friends with. She talked about a lot of hard things but didn't go too in depth into any of them, but enough to give perspective.

Overall a pretty fantastic book by a pretty great lady that I would definitely recommend.

Sarah Hyatt says

No, thank you.

I was supposed to love this book and as I always do when I find myself super disappointed, I looked back through other reviews to see if I was alone. I don't think I am alone, but no one is expressing my disappointment quite how I need it to be expressed, so I get to do that myself this time around.

I just kept waiting... and waiting... and waiting. The moment it was going to get good and awesome had to be right around the corner! Soon I would get past all the filler and all the fluff and dig into the heart of the book! It would be so great! I was so excited!

And then I realized I had under fifty pages left.

In the book, I waded through:

A lot of celebrity name dropping I never figured out if it was supposed to be ironic, sarcastic, cute... I'm not sure. There is no way to do this that isn't obnoxious. Even with a disclaimer about it being obnoxious, it is still obnoxious. If you genuinely, really need to tell a story about your friend who happens to be a famous celebrity person, and they are really a part of the story, by all means, please tell it. But if there is no story, or one that is only half-told or glossed over.... There is no point.

A lot of filler. Her parents wrote parts of it. And then some other dude wrote part of it. And then there was a chapter of footnotes as a joke, which was super funny back in 1990 something, but which really just take up space and make reading difficult. Lists! Copy pasted emails! There was a lot of writing about writing a book. Hey, Amy? JUST DO THE THING.

A lot of confusion: Stories started and stopped. Kindergarten, mid-twenties, what? Are we going back to kindergarten? Did I miss something? Is that thread going to be picked up again? How does this connect? TRANSITION SENTENCES WOULD HELP.

A lot of trying to be funny... and not being funny. Which is weird because I think Amy is a very funny person. But the book comes off as cloying, it's too much "THIS IS FUNNY" and not enough content. It feels like trying (and also not trying at the same time. Maybe this book is better than I thought because that really is a momentous feat). Maybe it just didn't translate well to print. I don't know.

The highlight of the book for me was the mention of Gavin de Becker's *The Gift of Fear*. Because that book is fantastic and true. I like that Amy pointed out exactly why it is awesome and why the situation with the producer was uncomfortable (she said no, he kept asking). De Becker has helped me to identify these little things that feel "off" to me and allowed me to pinpoint why, so I appreciate this type of thing. But now, I'm reviewing *The Gift of Fear* instead of this book. And if that's my main takeaway, something is wrong.

Jessica says

A book by Amy Poehler? Yes, please.

This was a little underwhelming, if I am totally honest. It had some funny moments, but didn't quite have the insight I was hoping for. I didn't walk away feeling like I had learned anything new about Amy Poehler, because she chose not to focus on stories of her background or comedy career so much as ditties on loving your flaws and the categories of books on divorce. That's fine, but left me kind of disappointed as I was more interested in learning more about how she formed UCB and got to SNL. I feel like life advice doled out in

celebrity memoirs is more meaningful when it's paired with clearer images of how they found success.

I love, love, love Amy Poehler and maybe my expectations were a little too high, but I thought the book was just okay. Probably a fun read for existing fans but nothing particularly earth stopping.

Maybe I should've listened to Amy's advice?

For what it's worth, it sounds like the audio book may have had more appeal, given that Amy herself reads the book and her narration is reportedly -- and unsurprisingly -- hysterical.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

Good Christ – just obtaining a library copy of this f*&^%\$g book was like going on an adventure. After my **third** trek down to the local bibliotheca, I finally had success.

Look at the happy!

You're probably asking yourself "if she's such a Poehler fangirl, why didn't she just go to the B&N and grab herself a copy?????" Well, you see ... I am cheap.

Yes Please also wasn't getting real stellar ratings and reviews so I decided to err on the side of caution. Turns out reading a synopsis can be *really* helpful sometimes. You see, the blip pretty much lays it right out there that this is a book containing "real life advice" and "words to live by." If you're expecting another *Bossy Pants* or *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*, you aren't going to find it here.

Yeah, I know. Here's some helpful advice from Amy herself:

It took me a loooooooooonnnnnng time (like half the book) to wrap my brain around the fact that the belly laughs were going to be few and far between, but once I did, I was able to enjoy *Yes Please* for what it was . . . a book of the dos and don'ts/successes and failures that made Amy Poehler who she is today.

If you're a young puppy whose experiences in the world of Poehler revolve around maybe seeing a couple of Weekend Update reruns or watching the Golden Globes, you're probably going to be super disappointed in this book and quickly realize this about Amy Poehler:

On the other hand, if you are a crazy fangirl who has followed her career since waaaay back in the days of the Upright Citizens Brigade and her break into fame in the comedy classic “Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigalow” (see first .gif above) like me, you’re still gonna like it.

Amy Poehler has been one of my imaginary BFFs for over 15 years now. She’s made me laugh ‘til I cried more times than I can count and brought constant funny to her term on SNL. She was she a breakout star from her first appearance

and continued to deliver until her final episode

(After which she left to make “Parks and Recreation” – a show I feel will go down in the history books as one of the best of all time).

Amy Poehler is who I want to be when I grow up. Not only has she performed in some of the funniest skits on television:

(she writes about this one in the book and just thinking about it made me almost wet myself.)

Not only does she have the **BEST** friends in the universe (Tina Fey and Seth Meyers in case you live under a bridge somewhere) and not only has she totally humped Justin Timberlake on stage, but she has proved time and again that

She offers simple yet awesome advice in *Yes Please*. Stuff like “***The talking about the thing isn’t the thing. The doing of the thing is the thing.***” She reminds us all that in order to achieve success, hard work should be expected, but also realizes how lucky she was to be one of the people whose career and passion were one and the same. For the rest of us who aren’t so lucky, Poehler encourages us to keep listening to that little voice inside ourselves that says “I like this. Do this again. You are good at it.”

Yes Please was one giant “love cookie” so I’m giving it 4 Stars (while realizing it would more than likely receive 2 Stars max were it not written by Amy Poehler). For those of you who end up not liking it, I think Amy would probably say

But if you do happen to find yourself more than a little disappointed in your feelings about *Yes Please*, might I recommend to drown your sorrows Leslie Knope style . . .

And if that doesn’t work, the surefire cure for any ailment is . . .

MORE COWBELL!

Darth J says

[As Will Ferrell impersonating James Lipton:] *"Amy, we remember seeing you in various things before you joined SNL in 2001. I'm sure this evoked the same feeling for our audience as most 90's kids felt when Kenan joined the cast, though we were saddened to learn that he divorced Kel due to Kel's orange soda addiction. You starred in such classics as Wet Hot American Summer, Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigalow, and Citizen Kane. From the Upright Citizens Brigade to The Office Spinoff, your career has always been about various stages.*

Offscreen, you and your first wife Tina Fey have had two children together: Archie and Bunker. Now you've given birth to yet another child, a **book baby.**"

I'll break character now to add my own thoughts about this book. Poehler's Yes Please is both a scrapbook of her life so far with plenty of pictures and advice, and oddly enough: time travel.

Whether playing Hillary Clinton,

Avril Lavigne,

or Amber (who is hypoglycemic, has a mad case of bed bugs, yet still manages to rock one leg...),

Amy kills it every time.

Although I've seen glimpses of Amy through other cast members' books such as Rachel Dratch and Tracy Morgan, I liked hearing the words right from Amy's mouth. Fine: "fingers"; you know what I mean. Don't give me that look.

I look forward to when this gets adapted into a movie called *Mosquitos Love Me: A Woman's Guide to Getting Her Funk On: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire*, with Dakota Fanning in the lead role (Kate Winslet, Katy Perry, and Katie Couric all passed on the project). I will watch this on my eyelid screen and mind camera.

In short, or "long" since this review is, I'll just say that this book had me giggling like Ron Swanson.

Oh, and Amy: *I'm so proud of you.*

Signed, your time-travel dad

Lindsey Rey says

HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE AUDIOBOOK! Amy Poehler is so genuine and awesome! On the audiobook she has special guests, a live audience for the final chapter, lots of random conversation, and all sorts of extra awesomeness! LOVED THIS! :D

Barry Pierce says

Another fun read from the subgenre I like to call, "Memoirs written by women who worked on SNL". It's overall a fun and humorous read. It may have needed some editing and could have lost a couple chapters but as a whole it's a memorable memoir. It's fun and that's all it needed to be.

Jason says

It breaks my heart to give this book one star.

I love Amy Poehler. In fact I love every member of that early two-thousands (the decade, not the century) female *Saturday Night Live* cast ensemble: Poehler, Fey, Rudolph, Dratch.

I often mentally include Kristen Wiig in the mix, too, because she's fantastic, but she was sort of late to the party, having joined *SNL* a year before Dratch and Fey left.

But as I was saying, I think highly of Poehler. I enjoy her comedy, her intelligence, her personality overall. But I didn't like this book.

To me, *Yes Please* reads more like a scatterbrained diary than the well-crafted memoir I had been hoping for. Very little of the book seems to have been composed with any forethought; it's as though Poehler were performing improv in "lit" form. Except while she may be a master of the art on a stage, her improvisational talent doesn't really migrate to the written page. Her stories meander along without any real segue between them, each having a very "oh and by the way" aspect to it. Maybe it was meant to be random and incoherent but it just didn't work for me.

At one point in the book Poehler mentions her addiction to self-googling, so in many ways I am hoping she doesn't stumble across this review because I'd hate to imagine her feelings being hurt by it, so maybe it's best that no one votes for it.

In other words, do what you guys normally do.

Kat O'Keeffe says

Fantastic! Amy Poehler is so funny and relatable and inspirational. I especially loved learning about how she

got into comedy and improv (as that's something I'm interested in myself) and just her general attitude and perspective is so refreshing and positive. I actually listened to the audiobook for half of this and it was brilliant--Amy's narration just makes this extra fun and hilarious. Overall, this was an awesome memoir! (And the Parks and Rec bit at the end just gave me so many FEELINGS, ugh it was painfully beautiful.)

Felicia says

Whelp, look for a flood of reviews coming in, cleaning out my bedroom/office before I go on the road for book tour! That also includes a lot of autobiographies I read as research/pleasure in the last year, preparing and writing my book that I need to add to Goodreads.

I had to cut myself off from reading books in this category, actually, because I started getting intimidated and comparing my structure/writing to other peoples' autobiography structure/writing which only served to paralyze me and make me play video games instead of getting my own draft done. So I binged a lot of books the last few months in this category because my book is done and almost out and I can now lift the comparison stuff from my thoughts. Er. Kinda.

Amy Poehler is a goddess to me, and since her company and my company are both owned by Legendary and we're in the same building, i always have this faint hope I'll see her and bump into her somewhere and be able to say, "Hey, my company is near your company, we're company buddies!" It hasn't happened. So this book is my conduit to her, and it is a pretty great one.

Her life is amazing, and especially her love of improv is something I share, so reading about how she built UCB with such a cool community was inspiring. How she's stuck to her guns a lot, how she got help in the writing because things were so crazy, with friends doing guest chapters and stuff. I loved the variety and the pictures (although the one thing I will say that's negative is this book is HEAVY! It's printed on like 1000lb paper so if an intruder enters your home, look to this as a defense weapon.) Anyway, if you are interested in Amy then this is a book worth getting. Also: Her hair is entirely on point in the cover. Jelly.

Emily says

YES REALLY. I almost gave this two stars, except it includes George Clooney and that would be a crime.

This book is *fine*. It didn't charm me. It actually took me about three or four days to read 288 pages, which is funny because a lot of those pages don't include any actual words (she's got a ton of photocopies and inspirational signs intermixed with the text). It just wasn't as fun to read as I anticipated.

The problem is that she spends most of the book talking about how hard it is to write a book, or how she struggles with her self perception, or how she doesn't like people knowing her business. (Incidentally, I think self-perception is an extremely valuable topic for women and teenagers, but perhaps not what I was interested in reading when I picked this up.) Sometimes she's able to turn the "I don't actually want to tell you anything about myself" into a pretty funny chapter, like when she writes out the descriptions of divorce self-help books she'd like to write. (Spoiler alert: she doesn't want to talk about her relationship with Will

Arnett at all, which is certainly her right.)

But this means that she skips over many of the periods of her life that I was most interested in, like the founding of UCB and her subsequent success. She goes through a lot of, "Then we got a bigger theater, and then a bigger one, and then I was hired at SNL." For most of the book, I felt like she was skipping over the truly interesting side stories. There are some anecdotes from SNL and Parks and Rec, but there are surprisingly few given how much time she's spent on both shows.

Then again, back to George Clooney:

(view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

Perhaps if I'd listened to this as an audiobook, I might have enjoyed it more. When I went back to read some sentences over and consciously tried to hear her voice, I definitely thought some of it was funnier. But overall, I vacillated between two and three stars, and landed on three only because this is Amy Poehler's book. YES, REALLY.

Kaylin (The Re-Read Queen) says

4 Stars

"It takes years as a woman to unlearn what you have been taught to be sorry for. It takes years to find your voice and seize your real estate."

I don't watch a lot of TV.

Now before you roll your eyes, I'm not trying to earn hipster cred here before waxing poetic about the *wonders of the written word*... I'm just busy. And at one point my Netflix subscription lapsed and it was a month before I noticed.

So yeah, I don't watch a lot of TV. **But, I do own all the 'Parks and Recreation' box sets** and I could watch them over and over and over and over. (My friend circle casually refers to me as 'Leslie Knope' and I always laugh good-naturedly and try not to show how absurdly proud this makes me)

SO, even though I never read memoirs and I knew very little about Poehler outside of Parks and Rec, I snagged a download of the audiobook and **was pleasantly surprised by how fun and genuine this book is.**

First off, I highly recommend the audiobook. Poehler has a knack for storytelling and her laugh is infectious;

she'll completely pull you in. **She also pulls other big-names on stage as Patrick Stewart, Kathleen Turner, Seth Meyers, Carol Burnett, and Poehler's own parents take turns reading.** It's obvious everyone was having fun and that they want the readers to join along.

Instead of a linear narrative of her life so far, Poehler gives us snippets and tells stories like she's sharing coffee with a friend. **She doesn't leave out her mistakes, struggles and apologies. And instead remains real** Topics included drug usage, divorce, cheap living in NYC and post-partum depression. All were taken seriously while still being discussed with levity.

But my absolute favorite thing is how **acutely aware Poehler is of her own privilege.** She's very blunt about the opportunities she receives, her loving family, safety and comfort. So instead, **she uses her voice to raise up other women.** Every single chapter was filled with stories a smart, powerful woman Poehler knows and how proud she was of them. This female friendship was incredibly refreshing to read, and this sort of positive change is reflected in her 'Smart Girls' campaign and work with WWO.

Of course, some chapters are better than others, **and there isn't really an ending.** The book just sort of... stops? It felt a little abrupt and odd. There's also a few jokes that fall flat-- most notably the ones about how technology is making it more difficult for us to communicate. (Especially since I was using technology to listen?)

Overall:

An authentic and funny memoir; with enough girl-power I'm sure Leslie would be proud.

Catriona (LittleBookOwl) says

Inspired me to continue on watching Parks & Rec!

Very much enjoyed this, and I loved how Amy brought in others to help voice some sections of the book.

Whitney Atkinson says

4.5 Stars

I listened to this on audiobook, as I now will choose to do when reading memoirs or autobiographies, and this was a VERY enjoyable experience. The audiobook I got from my library is narrated by Amy, and it was such a joy to listen to her deliver these jokes and discuss her life. This was very lighthearted and informational while also delivering a lot of advice, which I thought balanced out nicely. It didn't read like a book that she wrote just because she knew it would sell— you could tell she put her heart into this and had her readers in mind, whereas I've read some memoirs from YouTubers and celebrities that just read like they're only doing it for another paycheck. This book was genuine and felt like I had a friend telling me about her life, which is another reason why I like listening to memoirs on audio.

She had a lot of guests in her audiobook narration, and it was very interesting because at some points, she and that other person would be in the recording studio together, and they would talk to each other casually. I don't know if this is in the physical format of the book—I'm guessing not, because all the jokes were about being in the recording booth—but it was such a candid and hilarious edition to the book that just highlighted

the fact that I felt like I was listening to Amy making a podcast about her life, complete with commentary from her friends.

I definitely liked the last half of this book more than the first half, just because I don't watch SNL or know much about improv, so I didn't connect to it as much. However, I did really enjoy the sections where she talked about her family, or when her parents narrated their sections. Although I #cantrelate to having kids or having gone through a divorce, it was touching to hear Amy discuss these more intimate details of her life, and it was somehow fitting in a story that also delivered comedy.

But since my purpose for reading this was because I love Parks & Rec so much, I really enjoyed the parts where she spoke about the cast. The little insights, backstories, and information about the actors was really fascinating. Particularly, the section where they go over the alternate last names they almost gave Leslie was hilarious, especially since they were both laughing really candidly. I would caution that this book does spoil a little bit of Parks & Rec, especially seasons 5 and 6. Sometimes, it actually plays audio clips from the show, which is awesome if you've seen it, you know what it's talking about, and are eager to learn some of the behind the scenes about it, but if you haven't watched it and don't want to be spoiled, then definitely finish the show first.

The last chapter is actually a recording of her reading her book live in front of an audience, which was by far the funniest chapter of the book to me because hearing the audience laugh at her jokes and the way that her delivery would shift in reaction to the audience was so much fun. I would highly recommend listening to the audiobook just for that experience.

This genuinely feels like it went by three times quickly than it actually was, and I listened to this on 1x speed. It was addicting. I love Amy, I love her life, I love her jokes, and I love her show Parks & Rec. Read this if you love Leslie Knope. That's all.

Madeline says

This is not a comedy book.

I mean, it's funny. Amy Poehler can't write a book and not be funny, because she's Amy fuckin' Poehler. But (and this is not the first time I'm going to compare the two memoirs) where Tina Fey's *Bossypants* contained humorous essays written specifically for the purpose of being funny, Poehler's does not. Everything is presented in a straightforward, matter-of-fact, fashion, and although a lot of the book is very, very funny, it never seems like this was the specific goal behind the essays.

This is also not a book *about* comedy.

Although Amy Poehler discusses her time on improv groups in Chicago and New York, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Parks and Recreation*, she never gets more in-depth than "then we moved to New York and started working at this theater." Her time on *SNL* is reduced to a chapter of brief (but fantastic) anecdotes. Amy Poehler is renowned for her ability to play vastly different characters - somewhere on the internet is a photo gallery of all her Second City characters - but she never discusses what goes into each character. The closest we get is this description of her preparing her Hillary Clinton imitation and finally getting a bead on the character by playing her as someone who is tired of always being the smartest person in the room.

Okay, so it's not a comedy book, and it's not a book about comedy, and it's really not even much of a memoir - Poehler does not discuss her divorce because "it is too sad and too personal. I also don't like people knowing my shit." So what, exactly, is *Yes Please*?

It feels weird to classify this book as a self-help book. But that's what I got out of it. Maybe your experience with Poehler's book will be different, but as I was reading it, the parts that left the greatest impressions on me are the ones where she is demonstrating how to be a good person. The title itself references this - Poehler spends some time discussing how the improv rule of always replying with "yes, and..." is also a good rule for life, and how she tacks "please" onto that because Amy Poehler is truly, genuinely, wonderfully *nice*, and that's always refreshing. But lest you think she's some kind of pushover, rest assured that Amy Poehler is also a badass who gets what she wants, and if you pay attention, she can teach you how to do that:

"When someone is being rude, abusing their power, or not respecting you, just call them out in a really obvious way. Say, 'I can't understand why you are being rude because you are the concierge and this is the part of the evening where the concierge helps me.' Act like they are an actor who has forgotten what part they are playing. It brings the attention back to them and gives you a minute to calm down so you don't do something silly like burst into tears or break their stupid fucking glasses."

She also teaches you how to be good at what you do, in a very good essay called "Treat Your Career Like a Bad Boyfriend":

"Now, before I extend this metaphor, let me make a distinction between career and creativity. Creativity is connected to your passion, that light inside you that drives you. That joy that comes when you do something you love. That small voice that tells you, 'I like this. Do this again. You are good at it. Keep going.' That is the juicy stuff that lubricates our lives and helps us feel less alone in the world. Your creativity is not a bad boyfriend.

...You have to care about your work but not about the result. You have to care about how good you are and how good you feel, but not about how good people think you are or how good people think you look."

I don't want to imply that this is all heavy, here's-how-to-be-a-successful-person stuff. There's lightness in this book, and like I said, it's funny and fluffy, but there's a solid gold center deep within this seemingly light read that makes it stand out from other comedy memoirs I've read. I treated this book as a manual on how to become Amy Poehler, and there are worse things we could be.

Have I mentioned that Amy Poehler is nice? She's so nice. She does the same thing Tina Fey did in her book where she lists a lot of the people who work on her TV show with her and it's basically an excuse for her to gush over how much she likes the people she works with (she calls Aubrey Plaza "a big-hearted warrior"). She spends a long chapter talking about her sons and how much she loves them. Tina Fey's book featured a chapter called "We Don't Care if You Like It (One in a Series of Love Letters to Amy Poehler)." Amy Poehler's book returns the favor by including an acrostic poem about Tina Fey, which might seem disingenuous, but it's clear on every page how much these two great people love each other:

"Sometimes Tina is like a very talented bungee-jumping expert. All it takes is for Tina to softly say, 'We can do this, right?' and I suddenly feel like I can jump off a bridge."

I don't know how you guys reacted to that line, but when I read it I had to put the book down and immediately send a text to my best friend telling her I loved her. That's the effect Amy Poehler's book had on me: it taught me how to do what I wanted, how to feel good about myself, how to deal with whatever terrible things life throws at you, and it reminded me to be kind.

And it's pretty fucking funny, so there's that.

Carmen says

Once a woman turns 40 she has to start dealing with two things: younger men telling her they are proud of her and older men letting her know they would have sex with her. Both of these things are supposed to be compliments but can often end up making this particular woman angry. I don't think a man who is 15 years younger than me should tell me he is proud of me unless he is my sober coach or my time-travel dad. Older men can be sexy and powerful, but when a thrice-divorced entertainment attorney puts his bony hand on my knee, I want to whisper in his ear, "You're crazy, old man."

I did not expect to like this book. One, I am no fan girl of Poehler's. I have never seen *Parks and Recreation*. Actually, I'm pretty sure the only thing I've seen her in is *Mean Girls*.

However, the book surprised me. When Poehler is good, she is really, really good.

THE GOOD

1.) Feminism.

I don't like it when bratty, privileged old white guys speak to me like I am their mouthy niece. I got that amazing feeling you get when you know you're going to lose it in the best, most self-righteous way. I just leaned back and yelled, "FUUUUUUUUUUUUCK YOU." Then I chased him as he tried to get away from me.

"You rich motherfucker! Who do you think you are? You're not better than me. Fuck you and your fucking opinions, you piece of shit."

Carmen is impressed This sounds like a more energetic version of myself. It also makes me REALLY like Poehler.

She is against plastic surgery and Botox. She laments the shit that comes with girls dating in high school.

Dating in high school was very different. Boys suddenly went up your shirt. Girls were expected to give blow jobs and be sexy. You had to be hot but not a slut. You had to be into sex but never have it, except when your boyfriend wanted it. If you had sex you had to keep it a secret but also be very good at it, except not too good, because this better be your first time.

She really tears into mom-on-mom hate.

There is an unspoken pact that women are supposed to follow. I am supposed to act like I constantly feel guilty about being away from my kids. (I don't. I love my job.) Mothers who stay at home are supposed to pretend they are bored and wish they were doing more corporate things. (They don't. They love their job.) If we all stick to the plan there will be less blood in the streets.

Poehler is a fierce and outspoken feminist, I like it. The best parts of the book, in my opinion, is her standing up for herself (even though it's hard!) and not taking shit from people.

"Relax" is a real tough one for me. Another tough one is "smile." "Smile" doesn't really work either. Telling me to relax or smile when I'm angry is like bringing a birthday cake into an ape sanctuary. You're just asking to get your nose and genitals bitten off.

2.) Aging.

This is what adults do. They demand or deny drugs on their own terms.

She also ties feminism in with aging. She talks a lot about how aging makes you better, more confident, stronger, and less likely to put up with shit.

"Yeesh, she's a handful." Luckily, that doesn't bother me the way it used to. That kind of feeling would have been hard to hold in my heart and stomach when I was in my twenties. It was hard to feel like somebody didn't like me. It felt like such a failure. I don't care as much now. It's really great. It's like I can finally eat spicy food without the gut ache later, or something similar. I have a stomach for people not stomaching me. Or at least I am working on it.

She thinks one should embrace aging rather than try desperately to fight it.

You know those exercise pools where the water comes at you strong and you have to swim against it to build up your strength? That's what the social pressure of staying young feels like. You can either exhaust yourself thrashing against it or turn around and let the pressure of it massage out your kinks. Fighting aging is like the War on Drugs. It's expensive, does more harm than good, and has been proven to never end.

3.) Sex.

Okay, Poehler's sex advice to women and her sex advice to men is SO GOOD that I really want to frame it and hang it on my wall. So true and so good. This section is amazing.

Here are some highlights:

I think sex is great. I love it and I am here to say I am good at it. ...

Try not to fake it... remember to allow yourself real pleasure and not worry about how long it takes....

Don't have sex with people you don't want to have sex with. Remember that no matter how old you are, every time you see that person the first thing you will think of is, "I had sex with you." ...

Don't get undressed and start pointing out your flaws or apologizing for things you think are wrong with your body. Men don't notice or care. They are about to get laid! They are so psyched...

Get better at dirty talk. Act like a bossy lady ordering at a deli. "I want the ham on rye and make sure you toast it!" If your guy is bad at dirty talk tell him to shut up. He might like that. ...

Don't make fun of men. Don't be mean to them or hurt their feelings. Try not to crush their dreams or their balls.

Her advice for men is on point, as well.

We don't want to remember your penis. We want to remember everything else but hopefully your penis is a just a wonderful blur of goodness. ...

Keep it sexy. Don't believe what you see in movies. ... Cool it on the porn and jerking off. We think porn is great and so is jerking off, but if we are going to have sex it may cause some problems. If you depend too heavily on the technical or the visual then you may not notice the real flesh-and-blood person in your bed.

I actually think Poehler PERFECTLY captures the line of a woman who likes and enjoys and uses porn, but STILL recognizes its dangers and how it can become a problem, and what the warning signs of it becoming a problem are. She talks about this quite a bit in the book and it made me happy. Her and I are in complete agreement about yet another thing!!!!

Be nice, tell your woman she is hot, never shame her, and never hurt her.

Work on your dirty talk... avoid the words 'climax, moist, and mom.' Don't speak in a fake accent. Or blaccent.

If you don't get an erection, we know it's usually not because of us. We look concerned because we are wondering if it will keep happening.

Stay away from orgies. They just take so much organizing and I feel like your time could be better spent.

IF YOU DON'T EAT PUSSY, KEEP WALKING.

Seriously, her sex chapter is succinct, to the point, and one of the most amazing sex advice chapters I have ever read. Serious props to Poehler here.

4.) Divorce

Divorce is *another* thing that Poehler gets exactly right. Her discussion of divorce is also one of the funniest parts in the whole book.

She doesn't talk about her divorce specifically, *I don't want to talk about my divorce because it is too sad and too personal. I also don't like people knowing my shit.* which is completely valid.

Instead, she talks about divorce in general and she *nails* it.

Here are some highlights:

This book will point to ways you can talk about your divorce without feeling like it's a fancy fur coat that people like to try on but then throw back at you in disgust because they would never wear something so vile.

...

Chapters include:

- *Divorce is not an option for me, but I am happy for you*
- *C'mon, who hasn't cheated?*
- *I just couldn't do that to my kids*

- *Maybe you guys just need to go to Ojai for a weekend.*

...

You will find tips on how to gently break it to women that you don't want to fuck their flabby baby-faced husbands.

LOL LOL LOL It's so accurate and so funny.

5.) Beautiful book

Another pro to this book is its beautiful layout. Poehler has spared no expense: she has printed her memoir on this soft, glossy paper - in order to better showcase photos. It's in full color and it is fabulous.

She also breaks the book up with huge colored pages with quotes on them and huge pictures of her in costume.

It's great. And (although I'm not telling you to buy it) I have to note that the book is only (in paperback) \$16.99. I honestly expected it to be more expensive than that. So that is a plus.

6.) She loves her children and it really shines through the whole book.

7.) **Poehler talks about one time she really fucked up.** This is an amazing and hard-hitting chapter. She really goes into some self-exploration and she doesn't let herself off the hook. She really puts it all out there and it is touching, relatable, and brave. This is one of the best chapters in the book. Definitely worth reading.

THE BAD:

Alright. But the book isn't all awesome kickass feminism and witty wisdom. The book has plenty of flaws. Let's discuss them.

1.) I don't care.

She talks a lot about stuff I simply don't care about. There are chapters in here, chapters and chapters, where I just don't give a fuck. Her chapter on *Parks and Recreation*. Her chapter on her sleep apnea. The chapter she had Seth Meyers write. Completely pointless. (Then again, I have no idea who Seth Meyers is.)

I didn't care about the SNL stuff, but she sounds SO joyous and grateful and fun in her SNL chapter that I can't file it under the bad section. Kudos to her for this section. Even I was having fun reading it, and I don't give a fuck.

The whole story about her fake jokey birthing plans is worthless.

Perhaps this is the danger of any memoir or autobiography. *shrug*

2.) **She tends to start stories, veer off wildly, and then weirdly finish up at the end of a chapter.** She does this two or three times, and it's very annoying. She'll start a story at the beginning of a chapter, meander along around with completely different points, and then end the story at the end of the chapter.

The stories aren't even that good, and even if they WERE, I would find it hard to still care by the end of the chapter.

3.) **Sometimes I could literally not understand what Poehler was saying.** She has some really bizarre paragraphs in this book. Most of the stuff that I couldn't grasp was at the beginning.

Woodsworth also said that the best part of a person's life is "his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love." I look forward to reading a book one day in which someone lists mine. I feel like I may have failed to do so.

I don't understand anything about this or what she is trying to say here.

It's called Yes Please because it is the constant struggle and often the right answer. Can we figure out what we want, ask for it, and stop talking? Yes please. Is being vulnerable a power position? Yes please. Am I allowed to take up space? Yes please. Would you like to be left alone? Yes please.

This makes no fucking sense to me.

I also don't get when she calls people "open-faced sandwiches." I get that she's using it as a compliment, but I have NO idea what it means or what it implies about someone. Maybe it's an in-joke from a sketch or a show? I have no idea.

THE UGLY:

Poehler seems to genuinely believe she is an unattractive person.

I had already made a decision early on that I would be a plain girl with tons of personality, and accepting it made everything a lot easier. If you are lucky, there is a moment in your life when you have some say as to what your currency is going to be. I decided early on it was not going to be my looks. I have spent a lifetime coming to terms with this idea and I would say I am about 15 to 20 percent there.

She talks about being 'plain' a lot. Which is sad. She's not plain, she is vibrant and beautiful, but she obviously thinks she is not 'a pretty girl.'

My plain face was a perfect canvas for other people.

I wanted to tell her to stop this. I wanted to tell her she is fucking gorgeous.

I want to kill those fuckers who made her feel 'less than.'

Boys, who were going through their own battles started to point out things about me I hadn't yet noticed. One told me I looked like a frog. Some told me I smiled like a Muppet. A senior told me to stop looking at him with my "big, weird eyes." I looked in the mirror at my flat chest and my freckles and heard a sound.

Also, she really, truly believes that every woman hates their body and thinks they are ugly. And that every woman has a 'demon voice' inside her which berates her and will never go away.

The good news is there are ways to make it stop talking. The bad news is it never goes away. If you are

lucky, you can live a life where the demon is generally forgotten, relegated to a back shelf in a closet next to your old field hockey equipment.

And she acts like you can never get rid of it and that it will be constantly demanding your attention for the rest of your life.

Maybe a day comes when you are getting dressed for a fancy event and it whispers, "You aren't pretty," and you go, "I know, I know, now let me find my earrings." Sometimes you say, "Demon, I promise you I will let you remind me of my ugliness, but right now I am having hot sex so I will check in later."

I just don't agree with this reality. Hmmmm, I know what she is saying but I just don't agree with it. It may be a sad fact for a lot of people, but I don't think this is inescapable and incurable. Perhaps I'm naive.

Anyway, this whole section made me very sad.

Tl;dr - Wow. I was surprised by how awesome this book was. You have to realize I am not a Poehler fan (this doesn't mean I dislike her, I'm just unfamiliar with her work). My close friend IRL read this and she said it was "meh." So I came into this with pretty low expectations.

And for the most part, Poehler blew me away. Her fierce and determined feminism really speaks to me. Her chapter on sex and her chapter on divorce were *on point*. Her very honest and heartwrenching chapter on one time that she really fucked up was touching and human.

But the book isn't perfect. I really debated on whether to give this a four or a five, and I had to end up giving it a four.

Still, this is a book worth reading and I'm glad I read it. It's not very laugh-out-loud funny - I laughed more reading Anna Kendrick's book *Scrappy Little Nobody*, but Poehler makes up for it in sheer awesomeness.

Raeleen Lemay says

AMY IS INCREDIBLE. She is hilarious and down-to-earth and isn't afraid to admit her faults. I really enjoy her and I enjoyed this book.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

This was pretty good! ?

I have the paperback but I listened to it on audio. She read the book herself and I love that. You get all of the true feelings when they read their own work.

I loved looking at all of the pictures in the book as well. My copy is a small paperback and it has those soft

glossy pages that you love to sniff. ? And all bookaholics know what I mean. I actually sat down my phone to sniff the book again while reviewing. ?

The book is set up in different sections as well. I have to admit I have never watched Parks and Recreation but I did add it to my Netflix to see if I would like it.

There is this part in the book where she is talking about back in the day. I was like, OMG, I should get out my old pics! ?

The eighties were a strange time for teenage fashion. We wore silk blouses and shoulder pads, neon earrings and jodhpur pants. Come to think of it, our pants were especially weird. We also wore stirrup pants, parachute pants, and velvet knickers. It was a real experimental pant time. We curled our hair and sprayed it until it was crunchy and high. We wore jewel tones and too much makeup. With the exception of a few naturally beautiful girls who knew how to balance all of these elements, we looked ridiculous.

Overall, I enjoyed the book!

Mel ❤?

Nat says

I picked this up after having listened to Seriously... I'm Kidding on audio and feeling in the mood for something similar to cheer me up while having that damned cold. Also known as: part-two-of-feeling-terrible-and-wanting-an-audiobook-to-cheer-me-up-when-I-don't-have-the-energy-to-read-actual-words.

I don't why it took me so long to realize that listening to memoirs on audio is a genius move. It made me rethink a lot past choices of reading the book instead of listening to it...

I feel like if I'd read **Yes Please** by myself, I wouldn't have enjoyed it even one little bit.

But while I loved how the way the audiobook was constructed, I can't ignore that I didn't care for the contents of this book.

Amy Poehler is, of course, extremely privileged in numerous aspects, and I knew this going into her writing. However, it continually exasperated me how in one essay the author would address her privilege, but then completely disregard it in the next while complaining about her #whitepeopleproblems. I feel like she's the definition of a White Feminist™ and/ or problematic fave. Not my fave, but still.

I'd really recommend reading this incredible article that takes the time to discuss the ways white feminists are hurting feminism.

That's not to say that all the essays in **Yes Please** were bad--a number (two) of them weren't... mostly because they weren't focused on Amy Poehler. They just came off as extremely pretentious and high-key

offensive (I feel like she genuinely believes that white people experience racism.....they don't).

So I'd like to talk about the essays that made me think for awhile there that this book was going to go places:

Sorry, Sorry, Sorry:

By far, this was one of the most raw essays I read in this book. In **Sorry, Sorry, Sorry**, Poehler takes the time to discuss taking responsibility for past mistakes made. I was left truly speechless upon finishing it.

The funny thing is, before reaching this part, I was thinking of putting the book down; I wasn't feeling that invested in it. At the last minute something compelled me to put on the audiobook while waiting for a movie to load... long story long, that movie was forgotten about for a couple of hours.

Not going to lie, I loved getting to read about Amy Poehler owning up to her ignorance and mistakes in this essay. Even more so for the fact that instead of putting the focus on herself, she lifted up the voices of those she hurt and gave them the platform to discuss and be heard in this book read by thousands and thousands.

I particularly loved this next part that was taken from an email Anastasia Somoza, one of the kindest souls I've read about, sent in response to Amy's apology about the offensive SNL skit:

"That being said, Chris, Marianne, my family and I have worked tirelessly to make equal opportunity, the inclusion and positive portrayal of people with disabilities in society the norm rather than the exception. As such, I was upset more generally speaking, about the skit contributing to a severe lack of knowledge, awareness, understanding and empathy around disability. Too many people already fear, and are often disgusted or put off in other ways by disability and it saddened me to think of the impact the skit may have had in adding fuel to that fire."

Needless to say, Anastasia and Marianne completely shifted something inside of me. I'm eternally grateful that they were voiced in here.

Let's Build a Park:

The one essay I was most excited about that talked about everything in regards to *Parks and Recreation*. Also, I'VE NEVER SMILED SO MUCH WHILE READING AN ESSAY BEFORE. I loved how you could truly feel the passion and appreciation Poehler has for her character, Leslie Knope, and everyone that worked on the show.

I was also interested in finding out more about my favorite power couple: Donna Meagle and Tom Haverford. And I did, in moderation, but I still did.

If one thing, this made me realize a rewatch was in order. And maybe also picking up Aziz Ansari's **Modern Romance** very soon!

However, enjoying only two essays out of *twenty-seven* cannot save a whole book for me.

To be frank, I'm still a bit let down because I went into this with an open mind, but was reminded time and again how astoundingly obtuse the author could be. I mean, how can you spend twenty something minutes talking about something as important as supporting nonprofits, and then turn around and spend the last valuable minutes of your book talking about why you hate your phone and social media and how hard it is to

constantly be on in.....

I'm thankfully quickly getting to forget everything that was said in this book, which is kind of a blessing in disguise at this point.

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Yes Please** , just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

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