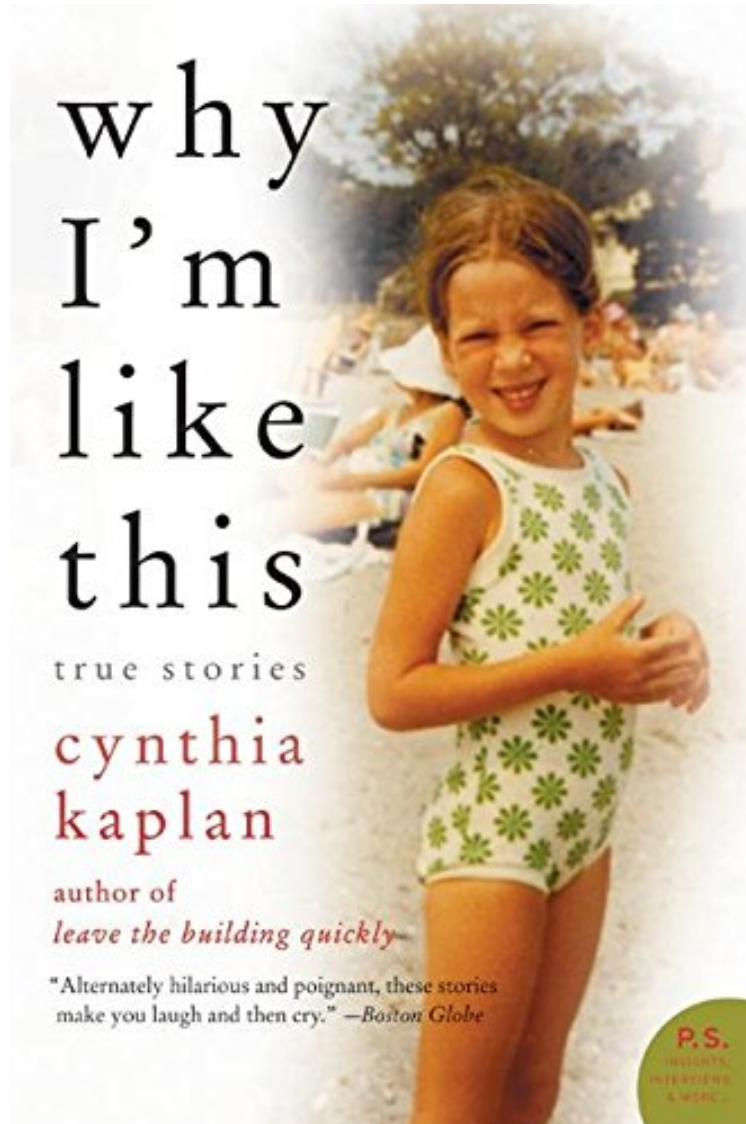


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Why I'm Like This: True Stories

Cynthia Kaplan

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Cynthia Kaplan : Why I'm Like This: True Stories before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why I'm Like This: True Stories:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FUNNY, SHORT STORIES - ENJOYABLE!!!By Elaine CheckleyFabulous little book, funny stories of life and growing up and the title stuck a cord with me. Most people kid me that "I'm a piece of work" guess because I'm honest and don't pull any punches and don't have time for drama or being pretentious, so I can appreciate Cynthia's sense of humor.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Why I'm Like ThisBy CassondraThese true stories touched my heart, made me laugh, made me cry and made me think

about life in general. Good read. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. quirky and amusingly neurotic, or creepy and clinically narcissistic? By Phillip Friday I really wanted to like this book and I'm surprised that I didn't because I'm usually a fan of the humour/essay/memoir musings genre, but I just found myself completely loathing this author and her constant self-congratulation on being a neurotic, self-obsessed young woman living in circumstances that read like she's a well-off New York girl growing up in a cushy life with little to challenge her except her own self-cultivated "kooky" personality. The editor needed to be more ruthless about what essays were not worth including in the book. It is a hazard of this genre, that when self-deemed creatives read the quality authors of the genre, they write their own boring life stories and think they have become major literary talent. This is what this book is to me; a hollow attempt at something that this author is just not capable of. Her life stories are just not that interesting and her observations and interpretations of events and characters are shallow. I agree with a previous reviewer, that this book reads more like a blog. And I just hope this genre isn't becoming that - a collection of blogs published as books - because it will distract publishers, and us, from the REAL authors.

Cynthia Kaplan takes us on a hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking journey through her unique, uncensored world—her bungled romantic encounters and unsung theatrical experiences; her gadget-obsessed father, her pill-popping therapist, and her eccentric grandmothers; her fearless husband, whom she engages in an ongoing battle over which of them is the most popular person in their apartment; and, of course, her vengeful, power-hungry one-year-old son. Kaplan's voice is a lot like the one in our heads—the one that most of us are only willing to listen to late at night . . . maybe while locked in a closet. What a relief it is that someone finally admits that she is afraid of nearly everything; that she is jealous even of people whose lives are on the verge of collapse; and that she has, at times, tried to pass for a gentile.

From Booklist From her opener--"There was always one girl at camp whom everyone hated"--to her conclusion about the inner lives of truffle pigs, actress-monologist Kaplan consistently amuses while cutting surprisingly deep. Never content to be merely clever, she probes, in these professed "true stories," the reasons why we manage to attach so much importance to self-justification without ever questioning it. Each story presents another element that in one way or another has shifted or reinforced Kaplan's view of people and their relationships. Whether observing the suffering of Alzheimer's, waiting tables, or trying a new therapist, Kaplan usually finds herself in the same place, wondering whether contentment with what one has or the aspiration for something more is the nobler state of mind. In the end, it seems, we are all truffle pigs, lauded for our keen senses of smell but never allowed to keep the ultimate prize for ourselves. Whether that is good or bad remains to be seen. Will Hickman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Quick-witted, neatly written and unapologetically grandiose...in the spirit of Dorothy Parker...[Kaplan] renders weird and rowdy scenarios with style." (New York Times Book) "This is a charming collection of essays in the spirit of David Sedaris..." (John Searles, The Early Show on CBS) "A fresh voice with a bright future." (Kirkus s) "Knee-slapping hilarious...Fans of David Sedaris or Anne Lamott will appreciate (Kaplan's) quirky way of looking at life's intricacies." (USA Today) "Funny, sweet, weirdly life-affirming and painfully true..." (Jerry Stahl, author of PERMANENT MIDNIGHT and PLAINCLOTHES NAKED) "Cynthia Kaplan's gift is her ability to take on life's absurdities and come out a winner." (Debra Ginsberg, author of WAITING and RAISING BLAZE) "Kaplan consistently amuses while cutting surprisingly deep." (Booklist) "When Kaplan is funny, she's very funny... Well worth reading." (New Orleans Times-Picayune) "One of downtown's coolest actors . . . you'll laugh until you can't breathe." (Time Out New York) "Cynthia Kaplan is very funny. These piece are very, very funny." (Laura Zigman, author of Animal Husbandry and Her) "WHY I'M LIKE THIS is an impressive debut and Kaplan has a wonderfully natural comedic style." (Detroit Free Press) "WHY I'M LIKE THIS is a collection of personal essays that are as funny as they are poignant." (Paper Magazine) About the Author Writer and actress Cynthia Kaplan's essays have been published in many newspapers, magazines, and anthologies, and she is the author of the collection Why I'm Like This. She has appeared in clubs, theaters, and on film, but never on Law Order. She lives in New York City with her husband and children.