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# This Is A Book



## Synopsis

From the renowned comedian, creator and star of Comedy Central's Important Things with Demetri Martin comes the paperback debut of his bold, original, New York Times best-selling humor book. THIS IS A BOOK was an instant and long-lasting New York Times best seller, and is the renowned comedian's hilarious foray into prose comedy. In these pages, Martin expands on the sensibility he's developed on stage as an award-winning stand-up comedian and on television as a writer-performer on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, and his own Comedy Central series, Important Things with Demetri Martin. Featuring narrative essays, short stories, and conceptual pieces (such as "Protagonists' Hospital," where doctors treat only the shoulder wounds of Hollywood action heroes) as well as Martin's signature drawings, absurdities, and one-liners, THIS IS A BOOK delivers sharp jokes, colorful characters, and interesting surprises. Martin takes readers to places as far-off as Ancient Greece ("Socrates's Publicist") and the distant future ("Robot Test," where everyone must take a test to prove that they are not robots). He recounts a lonely man's visit to a strip club in the form of a five-hundred-word palindrome ("Palindromes for Specific Occasions"). And he examines the human condition ("Human Cannonball Occupational Hazards") and the competing world-views of divergent groups ("Optimist, Pessimist, Contortionist"). Martin's material is varied, but his unique voice and brilliant mind will keep readers in stitches from beginning to end.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this collection of essays, musings, and drawings, Comedy Central host Martin (Important Things

with Demetri Martin) gently skewers contemporary social trends, conventions, and insecurities, taking on topics from social hotlines to family and relationships. With a gift for describing awkward situations, Martin challenges readers to recognize the human need for connection and recognition. The theme is seen in a panel in which a limousine displaying two flags on its hood is labeled "important

"This book embodies the essence of Demetri's comedy to perfection, which is a good thing since he wrote it. Silly but incredibly smart, it's exactly what puts me in awe of his work."-Will Ferrell  
"When I first saw Important Things With Demetri Martin, I said to myself, "this is the funniest thing ever." I was wrong. This Is A Book is better." -Malcolm Gladwell, author of Outliers: The Story of Success  
"This book is so funny I forgot to laugh. I know that sounds like a childish criticism, but I mean it literally: This book is so funny, I forgot a whole bunch of things--who I am, what I stand for, large chunks of my childhood, my sense of equilibrium, how to fall asleep, and when I'm supposed to laugh at things."-Chuck Klosterman  
"Demetri Martin has a very funny and original mind. If I could draw a graph explaining how funny and original he is, I would. But I don't do that. Demetri does that."-Conan O'Brien  
"Throughout, Martin jokes in many guises, silly one moment, barbed the next, and he achieves a satirical brilliance." -Publishers Weekly  
"The best [material] would be at home in one of Woody Allen's classic books...Martin has energy to burn." -Kirkus

This is one of the most brilliant, intelligent, and hilarious books I've read in a while. It shows Demetri's myriad creative talents. This is not something to read if you're just looking for a quick, cheap laugh. This makes you think and put the pieces together at times. The palindromes along with the massive poem were astounding. His art and drawings made me laugh each time. Fans may be caught off guard by some material in here. Don't think of it like a comedy standup; it's a book of creative writing and comic musings of different ideas spanning a myriad of eras from the past to future. Some of them are only one line, others are stories that take several pages. Some may even take the form of a short play! It's uplifting, funny, even dramatic and thought-provoking. It's not your standard comedy book. It's something fresh and different, and I'd highly recommend it to anyone.

I think that the best part about this book is how accurately he could write the way he talks and still make the book interesting enough to engage you beyond the first few pages. Initially I was skeptical as to whether it would actually be able to capture the essence he displays onstage, but each "sketch" in the book you can almost picture him acting it out on stage and putting together in a

cohesive and hilarious manner. awesome book.

Demetri Martin has been a long time favorite of mine. Coming into this book, I had high expectations of what he would present. Honestly what I found is better. Demetri doesn't simply give you one story, but he uses many different writing mediums (essays, quizzes, short stories, drawings) in order to deliver a joke. It's a dang good book. The flaw I found, like most comedy, its great the first time but no immediate desire to read again. I think it's a good read, and I'm happy to own it.

This book needs no review. If you like Demetri Martin, then its funny. A great item for a true fan. He is a unique comic.

It's poems, short story, and pictures and so fun to leaf through!!!!I'm enjoying it immensely.

This is a very silly and funny book. I loved it. This is the kind of book I'm always looking for but so rarely find--one chock-a-block full of smart silliness and intellectual goofiness. (It gave me the same joy as reading Woody Allen's *Without Feathers* or *Side Effects*.) It was love at first browse. I first saw the book at an airport book store. I thought to myself "Demetri Martin. Is that the guy from *The Daily Show*?" I picked up the book to see if it was (it was) and started paging through. From the very first page of the introduction called "How To Read This Book," I was hooked: If you're reading this sentence then you've pretty much got it. Good job. Just keep going the way you are. Flipping to the next page, I started reading the first essay called "Announcements." Thank you for coming to the show. Before tonight's performance begins there are a few announcements. Please pay attention. Flash photography is not permitted at any time during the show. Also, there is no recording of any kind allowed during the show. This includes both audio and video recording, as well as sketching, journaling, documenting, making mental notes, reminiscing, reviewing, or remembering anything at all with your mind. Any recording devices that we find will be taken away from you and juggled recklessly by the clown you see standing near the left exit. Too well trained by Mr. Jenners to buy the book for full price from an airport bookstore (sorry, Mr. Martin), I waited until I got home and ordered it from . It was fun from beginning to end. This is the kind of book that will either grab your funny bone or it won't. So, to give you a better idea of the kind things you'll find inside, here are a few excerpts. From "Palindroms For Specific Occasions" (Seriously, how can you not love a book that includes five full pages of palindromes?) GENTLY INFORMING A DJ THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE SOUND SYSTEM: No music is, um, on. THE HEAD BAKER AT A BAKERY

INSTRUCTING A NEW EMPLOYEE ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH CUSTOMERS AND THEN SUDDENLY NOTICING WHAT THE NEW BAKER HAS MADE: Snub no man. Nice cinnamon buns! A GUY EXPLAINING TO HIS FRIEND HOW HE FEELS ABOUT OPERAS AS HE ACCIDENTALLY RUNS INTO A BEEHIVE: See, bro, operas are poor--Bees! From Honors & Awards (for Which I Would Qualify) National Champion at being the ex-boyfriend who is most consistently awkward around his ex-girlfriend and/or anyone who is even a casual acquaintance of hers. A scholarship awards to Greek Americans who have done very little for the Greek American community but definitely look Greek American, no matter what outfit they are wearing. Top 40 people under 40 who live in my apartment building Award for Perfect Attendance on Earth for Whole Life So Far Nobel Prize for Chemistry with Very Cute Women Who Turn Out To Already Have Boyfriends! I could sit here and type excerpts that cracked me up all night long but that would be silly. Hopefully, you've gotten a feel for the book. (You could also watch him on The Daily Show or his stand-up comedy act.) But let me just share a few of the essay titles with you: Optimist, Pessimist, Contortionist; Frustrating Uses of Etc.; A Capella Group Freak Accidents; Confessions of a White Guy with Dreadlocks; Excerpts from My Often-True Autobiography. Plus there are funny drawings and charts included. So, to sum up, this is a very funny book and you should read it.

It's one of those books that you never tire of reading. Martin is a genius and this book will make you laugh continuously

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