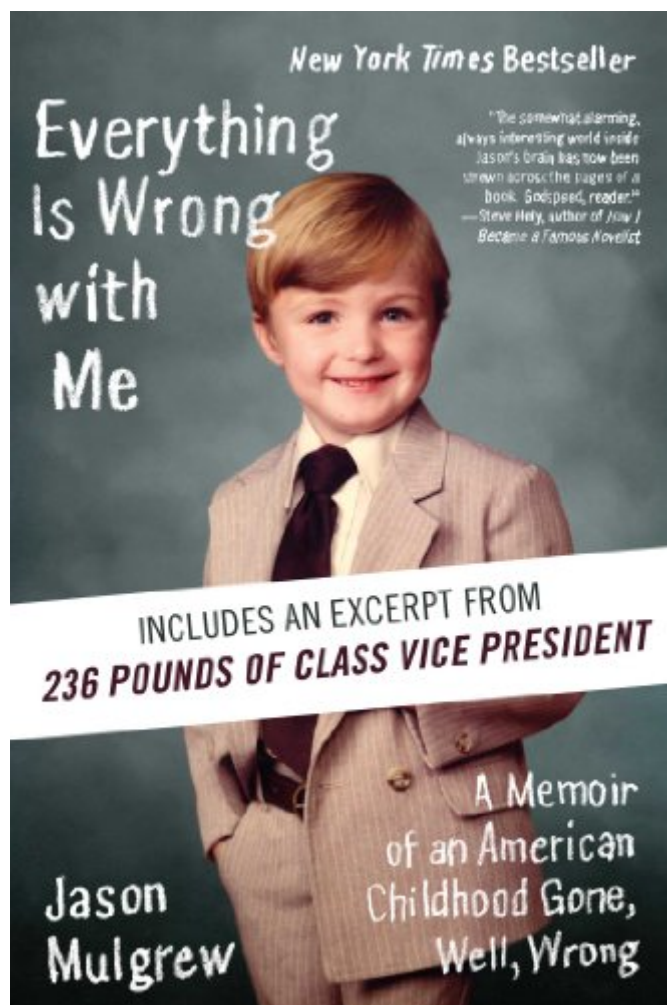


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Everything Is Wrong With Me: A Memoir Of An American Childhood Gone, Well, Wrong



Synopsis

“People who grow up like this tend to become agoraphobics, serial killers, or really funny writers. Mulgrew, I think “hope?” is the last of these three things. His stories of childhood made me laugh out loud.” Rob McElhenney, star, creator, and producer of It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia “The somewhat alarming, always interesting world inside Jason’s brain has now been strewn across the pages of a book. Godspeed, reader.” Steve Hely, author of How I Became a Famous Novelist Jason Mulgrew’s wildly popular blog “Everything Is Wrong With Me: 30, Bipolar and Hungry,” gives rise to a memoir of startling insight, comedy, and irreversible, unconscionable stupidity.

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Customer Reviews

I’ll preface my review with the fact that I was skeptical about another blogger’s first effort as a published novelist, especially a memoir. Having been a regular reader of JasonMulgrew.com and really enjoying it for years, I figured this purchase was like payback for all the hilarious stories that have been a welcome respite from life’s day to day, mundane moments.Ok, so now onto the book.

Wow! I am happily surprised and very impressed with Jason's storytelling, subject matter, fantastic humor and the fact that this is not just a replication of his blog posts over the years. Although I do think that could have potentially worked. I highly urge readers both familiar and especially unfamiliar with his writing style to give this book a well deserved read. Readers will really definitely enjoy his take on youth and many should appreciate the subject matter, which is highly reliant on a son's relationship with his father. As a fan of Jonathan Ames novels, *A Confederacy of Dunces* and anything that shows humorous worldviews, I welcome this writing effort which shows an underreported slice of Philly. I believe this first effort will likely not be the last we hear from Jason. An update to this will likely occur as afterthoughts of this book occur to me. Also, I'd appreciate any recommendations of similar reads to this, which will satisfy my need for well written humor. Enjoy!

Like most other reviewers, I am a fan of Jason's blog, mostly because of his completely inappropriate over-sharing and willingness to discuss his bird. I also enjoy stories of ludicrously dysfunctional families and those who survive them (having done so myself) so I was really looking forward to the book. I got it and tore through it in short order. I was disappointed to realize I was really disappointed. I even re-read a few chapters to be sure it wasn't simply me having overly high expectations, but the stories still fell flat. I couldn't figure out why. It's been a few weeks now and I think I've figured it out: Either he's too young or I'm too old. Or both. I am convinced Jason -- at the ripe old age of 30 -- is still too close to his past to get a really meaningful perspective on it. He almost gets there a few times, but overall the project is missing some crucial things; time, distance, and another couple hundred whacks upside the head by the Baseball Bat of Life. Even another ten years would have helped. Twenty probably would have been perfect. As for me being too old (yeah, I'm 50) I'm thinking I'm too old to appreciate Jason's limited perspective on his youth. He's still too close to it to have gained the insight necessary to give the stories their full measure of... ridiculousness. Also, I am not sure if he really did bang this thing out right at the deadline as he said, but it did kind of read like it. Another couple of drafts (of the book, not beers) might also have helped. So even though this book just didn't get me there, I think he's funny as hell and I hope he tries again in a couple of decades.

...but it was just a giant, stinking literary turd. Having really enjoyed Jason's blog in the past, I bought this book as a gift for my husband, who deemed it "unreadable" after the first two chapters. I wish I had given up so quickly myself, because I now mourn those hours of my life that I can never get back. Clearly the author does not realize that the primary (and let's face it, only) appeal of his

blog is the poop/excessive drinking/micropenis jokes, which are scarce in the book. Jason Mulgrew tells a mean small bird joke, but he is otherwise just a terrible writer. His attempts to write with insight about religion, class, family, etc. just fall flat. Truly, this is the worst book I have read without "Sweet Valley" in the title.

When you look back on your childhood as an adult, things are often much funnier than they were when you were growing up. And if you have the type of childhood that Jason Mulgrew had, a) you have the makings of one hell of a memoir, and b) you're probably lucky you survived. In his funny and immensely self-deprecating memoir, *Everything is Wrong with Me*, humorist Jason Mulgrew recounts his childhood growing up in working class Philadelphia in the 1970s and 1980s. From the auspicious beginning of how his parents met (his mother saw his costumed father marching in a Mummers parade while he was bleeding from a stab wound) to his experiences as a non-athletic child playing Little League baseball or being used as a decoy by his numbers-running grandfather, Mulgrew finds humor both in the ordinary situations he lived through as well as the hard-to-believe ones. And from his anecdotes about his adult life, it sounds as if he didn't learn much from his childhood! There were a number of times I laughed out loud during this book, but at the same time, I felt as if Mulgrew tried a little too hard at times. And while his constant self-deprecation was funny at the start, by the end of the book you wondered whether his self esteem was really that low or if he thought it would make his story more appealing to readers. But those foibles notwithstanding, this book certainly stands alongside David Sedaris or Augusten Burroughs in chronicling dysfunctional family life, although this book is a bit cruder (and, much like the pre-teen and teenage boy it follows, a little more sex-obsessed). Good fun.

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