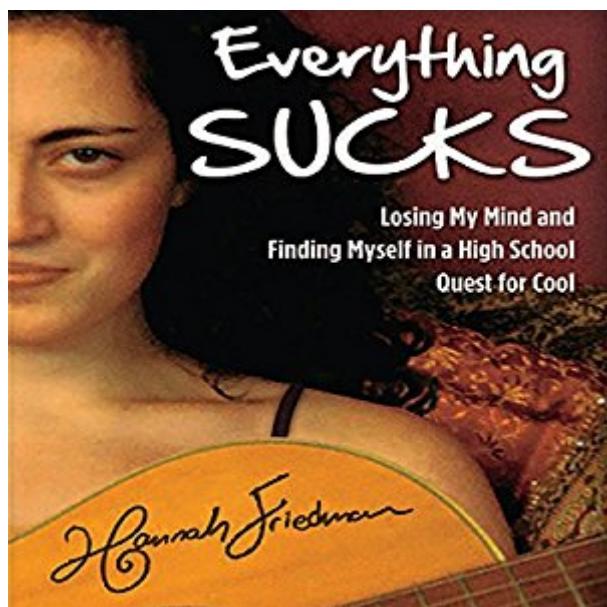


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Everything Sucks: Losing My Mind And Finding Myself In A High School Quest For Cool



Synopsis

When everything sucks, change everything...and that's exactly what Hannah Friedman set out to do in an ambitious attempt to bust out of a life of obscurity and absurdity and into an alternate world of glamour, wealth, and popularity. Being dubbed "That Monkey Girl" by middle-school bullies and being pulled out of sixth grade to live on a tour bus with her agoraphobic mother, her smelly little brother, and her father's hippie bandmates convinces Hannah that she is destined for a life of freakdom. But when she enters one of the country's most prestigious boarding schools on scholarship, Hannah transforms herself into everything she is not: cool. By senior year, she has a perfect millionaire boyfriend, a perfect GPA, a perfect designer wardrobe, and is part of the most popular clique in school, but somehow everything begins to suck far worse than when she first started. Her newfound costly drug habit, eating disorder, identity crisis, and Queen-Bee attitude lead to the unraveling of Hannah's very unusual life. Putting her life back together will take more than a few clicks of her heels, or the perfect fit of a glass slipper, in this not-so-fairy tale of going from rock bottom to head of the class and back again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Everything Sucks is a brutally funny and honest look of the prep school career of Hannah Friedman, who is attending the tony school as a scholarship student. There are seventeen chapters of "things that suck," including family, mean girls, friends, high school, diets, love, sex, education, home college, drugs, and well, everything, including epilogues! Some of the funniest parts of Hannah's

memoir are those about her family. Amelia, a monkey is Hannah's oldest "sister" and was adopted by Hannah's mom, who trained monkeys to assist paraplegics. Hannah's dad is a talented singer-songwriter proficient in a variety of musical instruments. During one chapter, Hannah's family (plus her brother Sam, minus Amelia) and her father's entire band jam into a small van/bus for a concert tour in England. The tour inflicts a variety of humiliations on Hannah including home schooling, tight quarters, dwindling audience interest, a nearly catastrophic accident followed by an equally mortifying and hysterical experience in a convenience store. The chapters about Hannah's experience at Danforth Academy are an insider's view of teen-age popularity, casual cruelty, and the stress of achieving academic success in the midst of experiencing her first love, drugs, sex, and death of a friend. Anyone who attended high school in the US will be able to relate to Hannah's clear depiction of peer pressure, the desire to belong, and clueless adults. Reading *Everything Sucks* is like talking with an older sister about high school and having her share her swings between cool and uncool, lost and found. Hopefully is the first of many books by a talented new writer.

Hannah Friedman navigated the trials and tribulations of middle school and high school in "Everything Sucks" to find her true self - an incredibly gifted writer and creative spirit. The book was humorous, honest, and revealing. The book is not some stuffy memoir or sisterly advice on how to grow up in high school. Hannah does not take herself too seriously, in fact, Hannah is open about all of her flaws and experiments with sex, drugs, self-esteem, and her drive to become part of the "in" crowd. Her family, for example, (musician father, paranoid mother, and monkey sibling) is oddly funny to begin with, but Hannah gives life to some of her most embarrassing situations in a way that made me laugh out loud. I also enjoyed the revelations of what went on behind the scenes of one of the nation's top private schools and daddy's credit card. Her core strength though, is in characterization. Whenever she would describe a high school classmate or teacher, I would think to myself, "In my life, who would this character be?" Sure enough, a name and a face floated to the surface backed with a flood of secondary school emotions. Only a true writer can do that to a reader. I flew through the book in two days; always wondering what Hannah would do next. Great job. Please publish again soon!-E

Hannah Friedman, is hilariously witty and isn't afraid to admit her embarrassing moments growing up. Her life is definitely eccentric, she grew up in a home with her parents, her brother Sam and Amelia, which is a monkey. Yes, I did say monkey. Is that even legal? She always felt like an outcast in high school, however she did eventually find some people to click with. It's a fast paced

book and I sometimes forgot that it was a memoir, I connected with all the characters and understood their personalities. Most of the time the writing was funny and sarcastic, but around the last 60 pages or so, the mood shifted. When Hannah starts using drugs you experience a more serious tone compared to the other chapters. I felt her pain and wanted Hannah to overcome her issues, which she eventually did. I truly enjoyed reading it, it was lighthearted and kept me smiling. I recommend it if you want to read something funny and definitely relatable with the whole high school scene....especially students who feel the pressure about getting into a prestige college.

Ah, Hannah Friedman. Ever since reading *Everything Sucks*, I have been absolutely enthralled with her. She is not much younger than me which is so impressive -- I could only hope to be able to write such a compelling and honest memoir when I am older, and here she is doing it at 22 years old. While I was able to relate to many of Hannah's issues, I was also fascinated to learn from an insider about the rich kid prep school scene. I went to a large public high school where everyone was anonymous, no one was popular and no one cared what college you got in to, so this was of particular interest to me. And I have to say I am especially grateful for my high school after reading about the girls in this book. Hannah opened herself up in describing serious issues that many teenagers deal with, without holding back at all. She describes succumbing to peer pressure and then overcoming it. She is brutally honest and self-aware. Hannah is an incredibly gifted writer with a talent for dry wit and clever observation.

OK, so I am only half-way thru (work keeps getting in the way!), but I feel secure enough in what I have already read to say, read this book. It has been a little over 2 decades since I left high school, but some wounds from those days remain rather fresh. Laughter really is the best medicine and this book will have you healed in no time. Smartly written, the humour just flows in a way you wish you could have seen it and expressed yourself "back then." It's sort of comforting to know, pet monkeys aside, that the high school experience is still the same sort of crazy ride after all these years. I envy Hannah Friedman for having the guts to do this at her young age, and to do it so very well. She is an accomplished writer already and I look forward to what she has for us in the future. Now go read the book!

Honest and intelligent writing. A must-read for any high schooler. Also great for parents who want to get an inside look into the head and imagination of a teenager. Hannah's life seems like a tall tale, but the stories are impossible to make up!

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