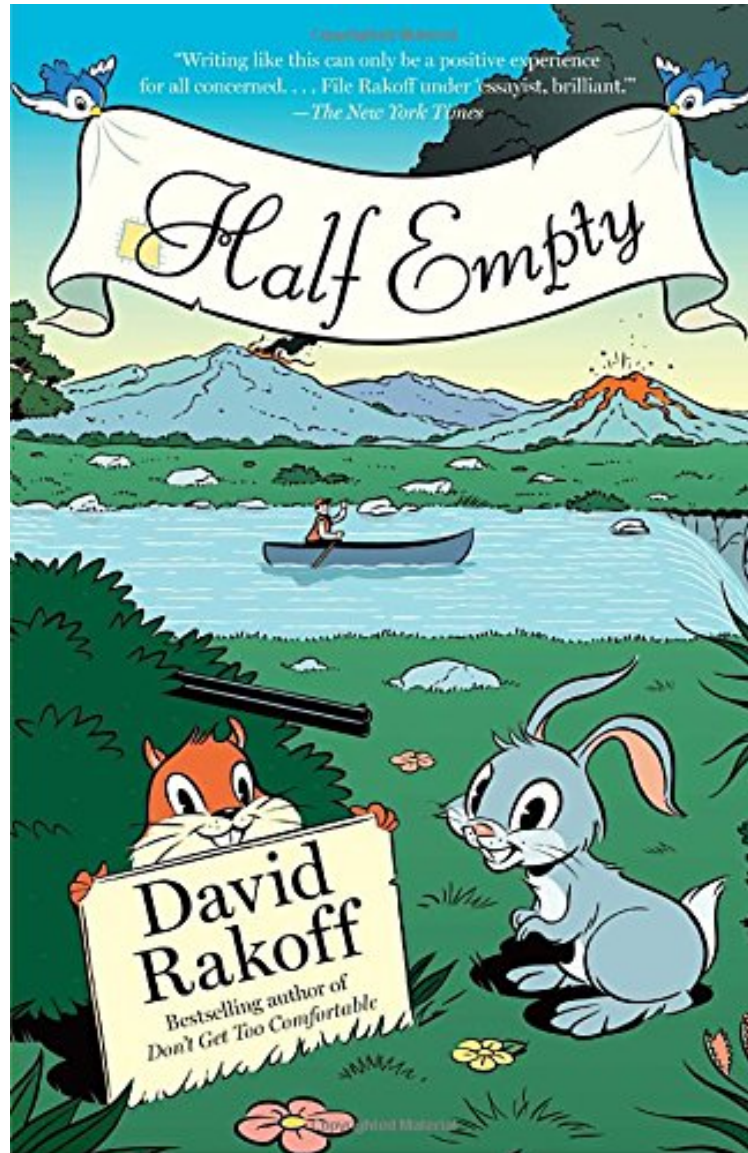


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Half Empty

David Rakoff

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#150533 in Books Anchor 2011-09-06 2011-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.96 x .77 x 5.151, .53

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David Rakoff : Half Empty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Half Empty:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this book! Every Essay in this book is Perfect. By J.R. Stayer David Rakoff sadly isn't with us anymore and what he's left behind is not only a window into his own life, but a collection of stories that everyone can relate to. This book aptly titled "Half Empty", is about pessimism and how it affects the author. Each "chapter" is a new story and each is better than the last. I believe during the time he was

writing this he was also battling cancer, which amazes me because if this is supposed to be a pessimistic book, him not quitting and pushing on is a clear tale of giving it your best and this just might be his best work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Behind the curveBy Crazy88Line CookDespite the fact that David Rakoff is a wonderful writer of darkly funny essays about a wide variety of topics;this collection was not the best of the three published so far. The first half of the book induces feelings of déjà-vu and has a dated feel to it. How relevant is a trip to Disney to visit a house of the future? How relevant is an essay on Jewish people who love to eat pork and shellfish? In light of current events; not very meaningful, insightful or even interesting. The numerous asides included, though meant to engage the reader, are actually annoying. Until the subject of his own illness is broached there is not much to recommend here. Perhaps there is truth in advertising though because of the clever disclaimer that appears on the cartoonish cover art. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. pretty near perfectBy Sara BellumI recently discovered Rakoff's books and articles and I can't get enough. He is fabulous, and I am terribly sad to learn he passed away much too young. Rest in peace, and thanks for such amazing contributions.

In this deeply smart and sneakily poignant collection of essays, the bestselling author of *Fraud and Don't Get Too Comfortable* makes an inspired case for always assuming the worst—because then you'll never be disappointed. Whether he's taking on pop culture phenomena with Oscar Wilde-worthy wit or dealing with personal tragedy, Rakoff's sharp observations and humorist's flair for the absurd will have you positively reveling in the untapped power of negativity.

From Publishers Weekly
In this sardonic collection of essays, Rakoff (*Don't Get Too Comfortable*) plays the role of a naysayer who tries to convince the reader, with humorous asides and sarcastic one-liners, that the world is going to hell in a hand-basket and the nerds and geeks will someday be the globe's financial and political tyrants. His topics are a hodge-podge lot that covers hopes and dreams, the meaning of a Jew who eats pork, optimism, a stunted childhood, and the New York City Exotic Erotic Ball and Expo. While his wise-cracking humor isn't always on target, he shines when discussing the acceptance of grief and mortality in "All The Time We Have," and "the bohemian myth" of artists and *Rent* creator Jonathan Larson's demise the day before his popular show opened, in "Isn't It Romantic?" Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
In this, his third, compilation of essays, Rakoff invites into the ring Positivity, that plucky, perennial champ, and takes down the old grinner one forlorn blow at a time. Maintaining his signature and singular charm (*Fraud*, 2001; *Don't Get Too Comfortable*, 2005), Rakoff analyzes the heck out of common- (and not-so-common-) place culture: the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Salt Lake City, a New York porn convention, to name names. Rakoff is so keenly observant and dead-on with his criticism, you get the impression most of our eyes would cross and cartoon birds fly above our heads before we could make it halfway to the elegant, smart conclusions he draws. Calling into question some of the institutions we hold closest to our hearts, and peppered with guilty, nose-crinkling laughs, this is a verbose, grandiose stockpile of sour grapes—a writerly collection to make giddy even the most erudite lover of words. An undisputed KO for negative thinking. --Annie Bostrom "Writing like this can only be a positive experience for all concerned. . . . File Rakoff under 'essayist, brilliant.'" —The New York Times "Some people believe in the power of positive thinking. The rest of us believe in David Rakoff." —Daily Candy "Tough, suave, dry, and very funny." —The Paris "Rakoff wanders among our cultural myths, piercing them with a finely sharpened sarcasm. . . . As Rakoff tenderly probes his fears, he makes clear that for all his detachment, he is part of our tribe. He's just funnier than most of us." —The Miami Herald "A pure pleasure to read." —The Observer's Very Short List "One of our funniest writers." —People "Right now, this country is brimming over with kindness—some real, some feigned. It is wit, unfeigned, that is gasping for air. . . . For the sake of the future, come back soon, David Rakoff." —San Francisco Chronicle "Full of wit." —NPR, "Fresh Air" "Rakoff can issue a withering snark with the best of them. But once his rapier wit has sliced the buttons off his target's clothing, revealing the quivering, vulnerable mass within, his fundamental sense of decency gets the best of him." —Salon "Half Empty balances its darker aspects with wickedly amusing takes on a variety of subjects." —The Toronto Star "If you love the personal essay, you'll love David Rakoff's musings." —The Baltimore Sun "Rakoff is so keenly observant and dead-on with his criticism, you get the impression most of our eyes would cross and cartoon birds fly above our heads before we could make it halfway to the elegant, smart conclusions he draws. . . . A writerly collection to make giddy even the most erudite lover of words. An undisputed KO for negative thinking." —Booklist "Rakoff manages to make pessimism sexy. . . . While Rakoff seems to revel in his role as a modern-day Thomas Hobbes, it's evident that he remains responsible in his critique, never trouncing a subject without provocation while simultaneously opening the reader's eyes to everyday lunacy." —Kirkus