



What Would Susie Say?: Bullsh*t Wisdom About Love, Life and Comedy

Susie Essman

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IN WHAT WOULD SUSIE SAY?, Susie Essman sheds the crasser layers to reveal how she went from an anxiety-ridden, struggling stand-up comic to being one of the funniest women on television, playing Susie Greene on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Emerging as one of the most successful performers in her field, Essman goes behind the scenes of a life in comedy with her funny cohorts, including Joy Behar, Rodney Dangerfield, and, of course, Jeff Garlin and Larry David, while also providing sidesplittingly funny wisdom on a range of topics that she's highly unqualified to expound upon, including men, sports, hypochondria, and stepparenthood.

WHAT WOULD SUSIE SAY ABOUT...

MARRIAGE?

"It took me a long time to find the man I was willing to commit myself to. Even the word *commit* is troublesome. One is committed to a mental institution."

MEN WITH DOGS?

"As a dog lover, I've researched many different breeds and I've begun to realize that you can tell a lot about a person by what breed of dog they choose to associate with. A bit self-conscious about your cellulite? A guy with a shar-pei is for you. They're hard to find, but cheaper than lipo."

THE BEAUTY OF MENOPAUSE?

"I guess I just have to accept the fact that I'm going to end up a bald, fat, sweaty, irritable woman with a dry vagina and a full beard who never sleeps and has memory loss so I won't even be able to remember how hot I used to look!"

STEPPARENTHOOD?

"My mother used to tell me 'you can't buy your kids' love.' Bullshit. You can, and it's exponential. They're like Russian mail-order brides -- the more you spend, the more they love you."

WHAT WOULD SUSIE SAY? is Essman's irreverent, refreshingly candid, and hilarious retort to the dubious facts of life that we all face.

What Would Susie Say?: Bullsh*t Wisdom About Love, Life and Comedy Details

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John Scharf says

Until now, I've never read a celebrity book. Mostly because there are so many other books I'd rather read and I really don't give a shit about celebrities political opinions or personal lives. So why did I read this celebrity book?

Believe it or not, Susie Essman is actually our neighbor. My wife loves that a celebrity lives on our street and I tease her saying that she stalks Susie. So I guess I read this book for a few reasons:

1. Susie Essman is a hilarious, seasoned comic and actress (she's in her seventh season on Larry David's Curb Your Enthusiasm on HBO). I've seen her stand up routine on Comedy Central and on the occasional Celebrity Roast... she's a riot.
2. Like I said, Susie's our neighbor so her take on parenthood and living in the suburbs hits close to home (literally), and if I bump into her, I want to be able to say, "Hey Susie... I read your book... it was great!" (and say it with honesty).
3. My wife met Susie at a local book signing, bought the book, got her autograph and photo taken with her and also read the book.

I have to admit that there were several moments that I literally laughed out loud while reading this book. Like all good comedians, Susie instinctively knows what's funny... the book is a culmination of her comedic life experiences, observations and pearls of wisdom.

To me, the best part of the book was learning more about the behind-the-scenes action of HBO's Curb Your Enthusiasm.

All in all, I have to say, "SUSIE... BIG FAN!"

Shelly says

not as funny as I'd hoped it would be...

Lisa says

the last couple chapters were the best.. I loved when she was talking about Curb and Larry David and how that show operates. after all, that is why we love her! the rest of the book was interesting but certainly not riveting and it could've probably been done jb half the space. I picked it up cheap at Borders when it was going out of business so I was satisfied with what I got.

Lanier says

2-18-10

Page 100

Pretty funny S****s! It reads well, like having Susie YELLING obscenities in your ear while you're trying to find thespot! Need I say more?

She's hilarious on "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and she's almost as good in bed!

3-6-10

What would Susie Say? BS Wisdom About Love, Life and Comedy, by Susie Essman

I had to pick up something much lighter and more truthful after trying to feel for Pelzer pact of lies, A Boy Called 'It'!

Essman's advice and recollections of coming up through the business was far more what I needed to be focusing my time upon. It's like she writes, in her letter to her four children: **“Gravitate toward people who like themselves. They won't suck the life out of you. They need less from you and therefore can see you more clearly. Surround yourself with people who make you feel good about yourself, and I don't mean ass kissers or sycophants. I mean people you are your best self with. People who like themselves are less self-involved and therefore have more to offer,”** (175). I particularly like when she continues by saying trust your gut feelings when someone make you feel “icky”. Run as fast as you can AWAY from these types of people. And before I even got 20 pages into Pelzer's I began to get an icky feeling that the text simply didn't ring true. I began to go research, learning how that particular author may have withheld documents that may BLOW HIS SPOT up. If you were abused, tell you tales, show the proof, should you have it and move on. What's there to hide? You've written not ONE, but three books on this topic and the accounts, according to those who wasted their time reading all of them—all the accounts change slightly with each fresh new telling? 'Nuf said about that glory-seeking d****bag!

Now, on the other hand, I can sympathize with Essman, trying to “connect” with her teenage kids when she blunders with, “Didn't Fergie used to be in the Black Eyed Chili Peppers?” Loooooong pause and then the ultimate sign I did something horribly wrong—eye rolling, eye rolling, eye rolling....I was the queen of the eye rollers. In fact, I was so good at it, you could actually hear me roll my eyes.” OK, so less than half the time to get that above “icky” feeling, we get this comfortable, “I hear you” feeling from Susie. We're buds, walking through Central Station, standing on the platform waiting for the dreaded 4 Train. Well, not quite that friendly, but she rings TRUTH. And, I lmao, for those of you tweens still reading. Lol :O

Page 8—living the uncommonly happy and carefree maxi-pad commercial life.

13—“I did some research on the teenage brain and learned that the cerebral frontal cortex (cfc) is not fully formed until the age of twenty-five.” This comes as no surprise to any teacher or social worker or anyone else in the human sciences. However, her take on this is standard Essman, and I won't blow the punchlines here, go out and get into her head as she's done mine! Likewise, her eight questions for trying to protect and warn her teenage daughter about the dangers and joys of sexual desire while they are extremely (cfc) deficient a few pages also shows how worried a mother, guardian or teacher truly gets for their kids.

Other pages I'll update later are 22, 31, 73, “my mother's been dying since 1963.” 83-6, and “dry vaginas”, 94-5 another “teaching moment” concerning her grandmother's motivations for learning not always modeled by all parents or adults in one's life. Page 98 and her love of walking the streets of NYC. I love her observations, as the majority of her insights about PAYING ATTENTION—page 129 and 110 completely different hilarious “geysers” of massive proportions.

You will laugh, you will learn and you'll want to hear more from this veteran of the Comedic Stage and

hopefully she'll be performing somewhere downtown soon.

Hedlun says

Impulse grab at the library. Susie does not offer a lot of new wisdom here, and some of the topics felt a bit worn out. It was interesting to learn about her life, though, and the process she went through to become a comic. She does not get to Curb Your Enthusiasm until the last couple of chapters, and the mere mention of Larry David made me chuckle, reminding me again why I picked this book up in the first place.

Heather says

I picked this up at the library and rolled my eyes, because I anticipated something on an obnoxious Kathy Griffin-scale. But I flipped it over and read a testimonial from Larry David saying that reading this book was the next best thing to having her tell you to fuck off in person. Nice! I was sold.

I am SO glad I read this book. Susie Essman is hilarious, insightful, practical, and brilliant. I want to be her best friend.

Dan Burt says

3.5 stars.

Christine says

Susie Essman is a character actress and an improvisational comedian. These two things do not make for a decent book. Considering Curb Your Enthusiasm is notorious because it has an outline of a story but not a script, she does well there.

This book is really random tidbits about her thoughts that quite frankly are rarely very funny. And she does not have significant enough thoughts to make it worth your time in my opinion. Read someone like Chelsea Handler who has more talent and can truly write, deliver and improv jokes.

Lainie says

Susie Essman rocks. You probably know her best as the fabulous Susie Greene on Curb Your Enthusiasm, but before that she was a hard working NYC comic. A female comic in NYC, did you get that? This woman has strength and dignity. The book is not a laugh riot, but you learn what it took for Ms. Essman to make it, and how she got the big break that has made her Curb character famous. For the Curb fans, there are some juicy stories here.

A fast fun read.

Shannon says

Susie had some funny one-liners in here. I liked that she was a 1st-time bride at 53 :)! Also, how interesting that her dad made the US Olympic team for fencing. I love that Larry David cracks up uncontrollably every time Susie Green screams & curses at him on set.

Her immigrant grandmother had a very hard life & Susie described her as having "survival-mode humor;" that really resonated with me & I think that really applies to life in general.

She identified types of men by the dogs they have: Terrier owners are premature ejaculators. LOL

Katie says

Got this from Border's Closing Sale if I'm not mistaken. I don't watch Curb, so I wasn't previously familiar with Susie, but I judged the book by its cover and it looked good for \$1.75, so it came home with me (thankfully I don't use the same method when choosing hookers). It reads like a collection of short stories rather than a thought out memoir, but it has its funny points, since she is a comedian. This worked out for me since I was reading it in between all 3 Hunger Games books, so I was able to pick it up at different points and not feel out of place. Good while reading it, but not super memorable. You'd probably enjoy it more if you were a fan of her previously or watch Curb Your Enthusiasm. Give it a try if you are, but if you're not read something else first.

Tiffany Day says

I listened to the audio book (as I usually always try to do when comedians write books - it's always so great to hear the words in their own voice). I really enjoyed it. Susie's funny, clever, and her "takes" on love, life, and performing are actually dead on.

I'd have given this 5 stars, but I knocked half off only because it was a little repetitive and at times the audio was a bit too "read-y," which was a little disappointing. 4 1/2 stars

Cierra says

If I was older I probably would have enjoyed this book (audiobook) a lot more. I couldn't relate to her issues with marriage and children or menopause, but it had some good moments. My favorite parts were her chapters on how/why she got into comedy and Curb Your Enthusiasm, which were the reasons I was interested in the book in the first place. I don't like self improvement books and this is what What Would Susie Say? mostly was. She talks about relationships, friendships, germs, health and so on. Most of her advice on relationships and kindness were just cliches, and a lot of the book was very redundant. Essman also pointed out the obvious, a lot, like if you're in an abusive relationship you should get out. Had I actually read this book instead of listening to it I probably would have liked it less, listening to the author tell her own

story definitely adds something to the book.

HeavyReader says

This book isn't what I thought it would be, which means it is only good and not great.

I had high, high hopes for a book by Susie Essman because Susie Essman is hilarious on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. (I crack up every time she calls her TV husband a "fat fuck!")

Maybe Essman is one of those people who are funnier in person than they are in writing.

I thought this book was an enjoyable read, but I was hoping for really, really funny, and it was only humorous.

That said, there was a lot I liked in this book. I liked the parts where Essman shared candidly about being sunk in the depths of depression. I liked it when she explained the patriarchal roots of common wedding traditions. I liked it when she questioned why anyone would want to be (or pretend be) a virgin when she got married. I appreciated her honesty at every turn.

I did enjoy this book and would recommend it to fans of Essman and to anyone who wants a perspective on stand-up comedy

Erin says

I am SUCH a fan of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and of the Susie Greene character. It was so much fun listening to this book, which was read by Susie herself. I had no idea that she had been in the business so long and it was fun to hear about her life before the show. However, my favorite part was the stuff she had to say about the show and her current life.
