



# Every Brilliant Thing

*Duncan MacMillan*

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## **Every Brilliant Thing** Duncan MacMillan

You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's 'done something stupid'. She finds it hard to be happy.

So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for.

1. Ice Cream. 2. Kung Fu Movies. 3. Burning Things. 4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose 5. Construction cranes. 6. Me

You leave it on her pillow. You know she's read it because she's corrected your spelling. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own.

A new play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

## **Every Brilliant Thing Details**

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Author : Duncan MacMillan

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# From Reader Review Every Brilliant Thing for online ebook

## Jess Donn says

stunning

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## Evelyn says

I saw a production of this play and loved it so much I decided I needed a physical copy of the text. The play is a one-person show, with audience members drafted to play additional roles as needed, and the print edition includes lots of footnotes about ways these interactions played out in the initial run, which is a little bit like having the DVD commentary, and which would also be very helpful when staging a production. This is a wonderful story about hope and gratitude and joy (and also sorrow and loss and pain) and I am so glad it made its way into my life.

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## Pat Moran says

Without a doubt, this is one of the best plays I've read in ages. No hyperbole - this is absolutely worth a read.

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## Kelley says

Holy moly do I love this play.

I saw it onstage a few years ago, and finally decided to sit down and read the script as well. I love it even more now. Such a beautiful, poignant piece with a very interesting perspective and staging. With the right performer, this play shines so brightly and tells an amazing story. The world needs more media that looks at mental illness in this way.

Duncan MacMillan is quickly becoming a favourite playwright of mine.

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## Doug says

This was a re-read for me, after seeing the 'brilliant' HBO production, starring the incomparable Jonny Donahue. I wanted to revisit the text as it provides some nice footnotes detailing things which have happened in production that are not necessarily 'following the script'. Still one of the most fascinating 'audience participation' pieces I've ever read/seen performed ... and I can't praise it highly enough.

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## **Red says**

#1000001: *Every Brilliant Thing*

Gobsmacking play, couldn't have started 2019 better by reading this play.  
So, it should be #1000001 on the "narrator's" list ...^^

Must-Read-Play!

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## **Doug says**

Absofuckinglutely brilliant! Normally, I HATE any performance that requires audience interaction/participation, and this is probably the riskiest script I have ever read (since it depends to large extent on the audience members not only being cooperative, but also skilled at taking directions, improvising and being 'in the moment'). I don't envy the actor who is brave enough to undertake this, but would love to see it performed sometime.

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## **Andrea Hurt says**

I always marvel at short stories that create a complete universe in so few words. It's hard to say if I loved this script so much as I had seem the play performed earlier in the year. Reading the words I was taken back to that evening at the Malthouse where I laughed and moments later bit the inside of my lip to stop myself from sobbing. Perhaps it was because there was an empty seat next to me where my husband was to sit. But he was home curled under the covers unable to make it outside the front door. Perhaps the play about depression and suicide was a little too raw for me that night.

But the script captures all the wonderful heartfelt beauty that the play evoked. I found the footnotes (describing details about alternatives and directions in the play - as it includes improvised moments with the audience) distracting and I thought it best to read them at a later date. A date when I didn't want to escape into the memory of that evening.

I loved the play and I loved reading the script. Able to savour the words and be reacquainted with the list of every brilliant thing, including all the music references. I'm sure everyone who reads it will agree that number 1 million and 1 on the list is the play 'Every Brilliant Thing'.

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## **Satindra Ahluwalia says**

It is theatre at its best.

Sensible treatment of an extremely sensitive subject.

It touches the core of your heart and compels you to live a full llife.

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**Mike Schuh says**

Read for possible show. A great play about depression that is poignant and funny! Made to be seen live-interaction with audience

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**Kristina says**

1000001. This play. Utterly brilliant and beautiful.

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**Jack says**

"I made a list. Everything that's brilliant about the world."

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**Nick K says**

The saying goes that someone can not truly understand something until it touches their heart and this play helps with that. With actual audience participation, this play places us right in the moment. I wonderful script and idea.

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**Deirdre says**

Reading it doesn't really capture the experience of seeing it live--if you ever have the opportunity, absolutely see this play.

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**jaime ?? says**

sorry but I'm crying

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