



It Looked Different on the Model: Epic Tales of Impending Shame and Infamy

Laurie Notaro

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#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Everyone's favorite **Idiot Girl**, Laurie Notaro, is just trying to find the right fit, whether it's in the adorable blouse that looks charming on the mannequin but leaves her in a literal bind or in her neighborhood after she's shamefully exposed at a holiday party by delivering a low-quality rendition of "Jingle Bells." Notaro makes misstep after riotous misstep as she shares tales of marriage and family, including stories about the dog-bark translator that deciphers Notaro's and her husband's own "woofs" a little too accurately, the emails from her mother with "FWD" in the subject line ("which in email code means Forecasting World Destruction"), and the dead-of-night shopping sprees and Devil Dog-devouring monkeyshines of a creature known as "Ambien Laurie." At every turn, Notaro's pluck and irresistible candor set the *New York Times* bestselling author on a journey that's laugh-out-loud funny and utterly unforgettable.

It Looked Different on the Model: Epic Tales of Impending Shame and Infamy Details

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From Reader Review It Looked Different on the Model: Epic Tales of Impending Shame and Infamy for online ebook

librarian90 says

There are few things worse than reading a review that makes a book sound amazing and laugh-out-loud funny, wait for weeks until it's actually in the system, wait all day until there's time to curl up and start reading said hilarious book, and don't laugh. Not even a slight smile. The author's sense of humor is not mine and I'm still trying to find humor in getting stuck in shirt that was clearly marked as a size too small and getting blood on it. The only word that comes to mind is "whatever". Good thing I got it from the library and didn't waste any money!

Leah K says

It Looked Different on the Model: Epic Tales of Impending Shame and Infamy by Laurie Notaro

★★★★★ + ♥

I've pretty much read every Laurie Notaro book, and as usual, this one did not disappoint in the least. In fact, I would say that this is one of my favorite by her. She is hilarious. If you enjoy Jen Lancaster, this is no way you can't enjoy Notaro and vice versa.

The situations that Laurie gets herself into are too funny, I found myself laughing on several occasions while reading this book. They are also situations that one can see themselves getting into. For the most part, they aren't over top, making her very relatable. I would recommend this for anyone looking for some humor. It's a fun, quick read. I know I had trouble putting it down. I was even disappointed that sleep finally took over at several points (being super sick and on sleepy meds does that) because it meant putting down the book. I look forward to her next book being released this coming week (on 5/7/2013).

Jennifer says

This was the first book I have read by Laurie Notaro and I have to say I was pleasantly surprised! I laughed out loud at several parts- which was a bit awkward since I was at the Dentist Office waiting for my sons' teeth to be cleaned... Thoroughly enjoyed and totally got her humor! Love the picture at the end of the book - with Blu the Ox - as I have sons - I can totally see myself forcing them to do the same thing! Definitely recommended and am looking forward to reading more from this author!

Margaret says

I can't give a plot summary of this book because I didn't get past page 27. There are some books that don't grab my interest right away, but I keep reading to see if I am missing something; or I put it aside and come

back later when my mind is cleared. I want to give it a fair chance, and very often, I am glad I did. This book was a disaster for me.

At the beginning (and keep in mind, I didn't get much past that) Laurie finds herself stuck in an adorable blouse, marked down to a bargain price, but too small. Ok. I have had a zipper get stuck or I have had a pair of slacks that just didn't quite make it past my hips. It is frustrating, embarrassing, and disappointing. So that part seemed real and I could see the humor in the situation. The problem was, the escapade went on and on and long descriptive imaginary dialogue between her "nice voice" and her "mean voice". Laurie ends up buying the too small, by then bloody blouse due to her struggle and a too small slip as well to cover up for her battle in the dressing room.

Immediately following in chapter 2, Laurie becomes known as "Ambien Laurie". It seems that she takes Ambien as a sleep aid, wakes up in the night and becomes a serial internet shopper as well as a compulsive eater. She makes long phone calls to friends that she doesn't remember. The Ambien also causes her to have unbelievable dreams about Fart Charts. (Really??) and men covered in marsupial fur keeping cheeseburgers warm under their man boobs. (I can't get this picture out of my mind. Ewwwww.)

That was the end for me. I was prepared for a light, fun read. There have been many well-done stories about women and their struggles with their weight issues. I was hoping for an up-lifting positive story and this one may well have been just that, but I couldn't get past the rambling descriptions and the rather disgusting scenarios. I didn't understand after a few pages where this story was going, but I didn't want to stick with it to find out. Other reviews have raved about the quirky humor of Notaro, but she is just not the author for me.

Brian says

Dear Laurie Notaro,

I've loved most of your books, except your last fiction book. I was very excited that you were putting out another collection of humorous short stories. However, I felt that some of the stories in this book were a bit lacking. There were plenty of funny ones, sure, but a couple of them were very tough to follow and didn't make a lot of sense. I would give this book lower, but it gets three stars because it did have a few stories that made me chuckle.

Your sort of fan,

Brian

Barb says

WARNING: Do not read this book while you are in the doctor's office waiting room. You will either be laughing so hard that the receptionist will think you are having a seizure or you will be asked if everything is all right since you are crying.

The book is quite funny and trying to not laugh out loud is next to impossible. Everyone can relate to at least one chapter in the book. A great read when you are feeling overwhelmed with work, the economy, the kids,

etc.

Kelly says

Laurie Notaro is a gift to all our feminine insecurities. She gets to the heart of the matter, slices it to pieces and exposes it with raw humor. The next time I try on clothes at the boutique, I'm not going to leave feeling defeated because I left my best body years ago. I'm going to giggle, remembering Laurie's recollection of her dressing room experience.

I convulsed with laughter six pages in. Just a word of warning, pee before reading. That's how funny she is!

Chanda says

A friend of mine recommended another book by her, but it wasn't available at the time so I thought I'd give this one a try. My husband now thinks I'm a crazy person because I was laughing out loud, almost to the point of crying, while reading this book. I love her sarcastic sense of humor - right up my alley. Each chapter is a short story so it's great to read when you only have a few minutes, like waiting at the doctor's office or picking up kids from school. I will definitely read some of her other books.

Samantha says

I should start out by saying that I had never read a Laurie Notaro book before so I didn't have any grand expectations like some of the other reviews, but I can say just one thing if it's meant to be funny, it probably should be. The opening essay follows the author through the dressing room shame of not being able to fit into *GASP* a size medium shirt. Seriously, woman? A medium? That's where you lost me. The very first essay and I'm gone even as you're slitting yourself open and practically handing over said shirt soaked in blood like a maxi pad (which, by the way, is just gross, not particularly funny) to be paid for. My mind has already moved on to wonder--indeed PRAY--for when Jen Lancaster's next book is coming out because that woman, ladies, can bring the funny!

Dannielle Insalaco says

I'm going to say this one more time. Jenny Lawson had ruined me for any kind of female memoir book!

Kate says

3.5 stars

I love Laurie Notaro's unique sense of humor and her non-fiction books are so much better than her fictional ones because of the goofy stuff that happens to her on a daily basis. This book is a funny fast read that helped

get me through a trip to the DMV to change my address on my license (I was the only person having fun there), as well as, my daily commute this week.

The gems of this collection include:

- Fancy store shirt trapping
- Ambien Laurie (she's hilarious!)
- Getting banned from the post office aka "The Two-Cent Stamp Bandit"
- Jellyfish fever
- Touching Babe's Blue Balls
- Mom's emails where FWD = Forecasting World Destruction (Something I can totally relate to!)
- Oh and last but not least, the dog bark translator.

A must read for anyone with a wicked sense of humor.

Terry Southard says

One of the reviews I read said that Notaro has sledgehammer humor (or something to that effect). Nothing is treated subtly. I agree. But I think the problem with reviews like this is more the way the reader **read** the book, and not so much with how the author **wrote** the book. Here's what I mean: The book is not a novel. It is a series of humorous anecdotes and rants. If you read the book all at once, the way you'd read a novel, it **does** run together and get old. But I do not believe that's the way the book works best. It is meant to be dipped into, one little bite at a time, and then put down, to be picked up again a couple of days later. Read that way, Notaro's sarcastic humor is **funny** and not wearing.

At least to me.

Marla says

Pretty funny book. I had fun listening to it while I worked. I think people were wondering why I was laughing sometimes.

Meg says

Ambien shenanigans. Tweakers falling asleep on your front lawn. Getting into a fight with a size "M" shirt at a boutique store — and losing. All just moments in the life of Laurie Notaro, a humor writer transplanted from sunny Arizona to the hippie-laced suburbs of Oregon. And in her latest memoir, *It Looked Different On The Model*, Notaro welcomes us again into the zany world that is her no-holds-barred brain.

Notaro has been my hero for quite some time — and though I couldn't get into her recent novel, I'm still a huge fan of her true-to-life, hilarious stories. No one makes me giggle like Notaro, and some of her scenes in this one — especially those including "Ambien Laurie" — will forever be embedded in my brain. Her line

about a monkey rooting through purse trash? Comedy gold.

That being said, is this Notaro's finest work? Nope. Laurie is at her best when she's making fun of herself and relating stories of "impending shame and infamy," as her title suggests. The only problem here is that while a few of her recent tales had me in stitches, the vast majority just sort of . . . rambled along with no real goal or intention. Just between you and me, friends, I may have skimmed over a few. Like the open letter to her alleged iPhone thief? I mean, I love my phone — I really do. But page after page of that drivel? Eh.

But I still love you, Laurie — and I still desperately wish you could be my BFF. We'd make snarky comments about our neighbors and speculate over which crazy acquaintance is really a drug addict and gripe about our weight. It would be a grand old time.

I read this book quickly and recommend it — and her — to fans of Jen Lancaster and Valerie Frankel. If you're looking for laugh-out-loud memoirs that remind you we really are all human, Laurie Notaro could well be your girl. I recommend starting with *We Thought You Would Be Prettier*, my first experience with Notaro — but if you're a stickler for reading chronologically, first check out *The Idiot Girls' Action Adventure Club*. Laurie doesn't take herself too seriously, and that's what I love about her. She's a hilarious mess.

Amy says

Well, maybe I shouldn't say "read" because I didn't finish it. I keep looking for what I enjoyed in "The Idiot Girls' Action Adventure Club". Why can't I find it??? It makes me wonder if I was right about it after all. I did enjoy the first few stories in this one more than I have her last few books in total, but they weren't enough to keep me reading and I still felt a little let down. :(Bummer.
