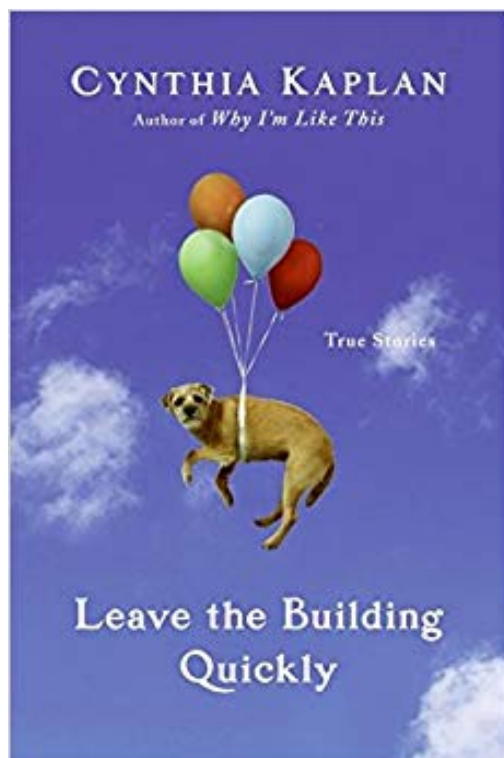


Leave the Building Quickly: True Stories *by* Cynthia Kaplan



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Do you know why a race-car driver wears epaulets despite the fact that epaulets would seem in every way contrary to the aesthetic of a race-car driver? It's so that in the event of a crash he may be pulled from the flaming wreckage of his car.

Yes, she's back. Cynthia Kaplan, acclaimed author of *Why I'm Like This*, once again invites us into her no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners world, casting her gimlet eye upon the current state of her affairs. Also of your affairs, and some other people's affairs, too. With her unique talent for wringing hilarity out of the most devastating situations (as well as, it must be admitted, the most trivial), Kaplan fearlessly takes on her family, intelligent design, Narnia, New England's deer population—all the important issues of the day.

Journey with her as she humiliates herself in a variety of locales—a dude ranch, a hospital, Mystic Seaport, the offices of Comedy Central. Cower beside her as she confronts her inner (and outer) most fears. No threat is too small—pajamas, schnauzers, Disney cruises. No subject is sacrosanct—God, sex, *The Nutcracker Suite*. Kaplan has a worst-case scenario planned for, well, every scenario, including high school reunions and vacationing with your mother-in-law, a subject not covered in any of today's popular guidebooks. You might want to take notes, because Kaplan has that rare ability to write about her own life in a way that makes you feel as though she is writing about yours.

Leave the Building Quickly is a raucously funny, moving, and honest look at the circumstances of our daily lives, the kind that inspire us to crouch in the linen closet at three in the morning. That's okay. Kaplan is there, too. And she's brought snacks.



Reviews of the **Leave the Building Quickly: True Stories** by Cynthia Kaplan

WUNDERKIND

This is a book of essays (unlike a novel, which I thought it was when I bought it). But, I read it as I had already bought it. As essays, they are amusing; not hilarious or funny as is described elsewhere, but just amusing. They do not have much substance; they did not make me think, or change my mind, or do anything except amuse me. If that's all you want, by all means, buy this. But do not expect to be greatly enlightened or have your thinking changed; Plato or Machiavelli are much better authors for those purposes.

In short, if you like essays about nothing in particular, you might want to consider this book. If you're expecting something else, forget it.

Mox

I loved this book. I thought it was witty and funny and a great read to relax with and just enjoy. I wish it were longer.. I didn't want to finish it.

Wizard

Very easy and quick read. I was laughing out loud the whole time. All the things you thought only you were thinking, wrong- Cynthia Kaplan is too!

Bajinn

Great book. Author reminds me of Anne Lamott but without the religion.

Eigonn

The author is my cousin. Of course I love the book! Alternately laughed and cried the whole way through. Enjoy!

Laizel

This book does have some very funny, laugh out loud parts but not enough. I never finished this book because I got bored with it.

Lightwind

I gave up after 4 chapters. There's no humor, or content worth reading. Very boring and pointless. If you want something entertaining read Laurie Notaro.

I think Cindy Kaplan is hilarious - her CD Fangry is one of the funniest things I've heard in a long time. So I bought this book with great anticipation... and was disappointed. The reviews may say "hilarious", but the only thing that brought even a chuckle in the book for me was the description of the typeface (see below). The rest - at best slightly amusing.

"In the late 1350s, while suffering under a repressive fiefdom, French blacksmith Gabriel Cloche-Brulee created a single copy of the alphabet for his young daughter, Clotilde, who could not attend school because one leg was slightly shorter than the other and shoes with lifts had not yet come to their village. For the project, Cloche-Brulee used only a one-by-five inch shred of parchment (which

was very expensive in those days), a horse shoe, and the blood-tinged mucous of his pneumocystic father-in-law. The modern-day version of this type, called Chevalier de Phlegm, has the same curved, footed letter c as the original."

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