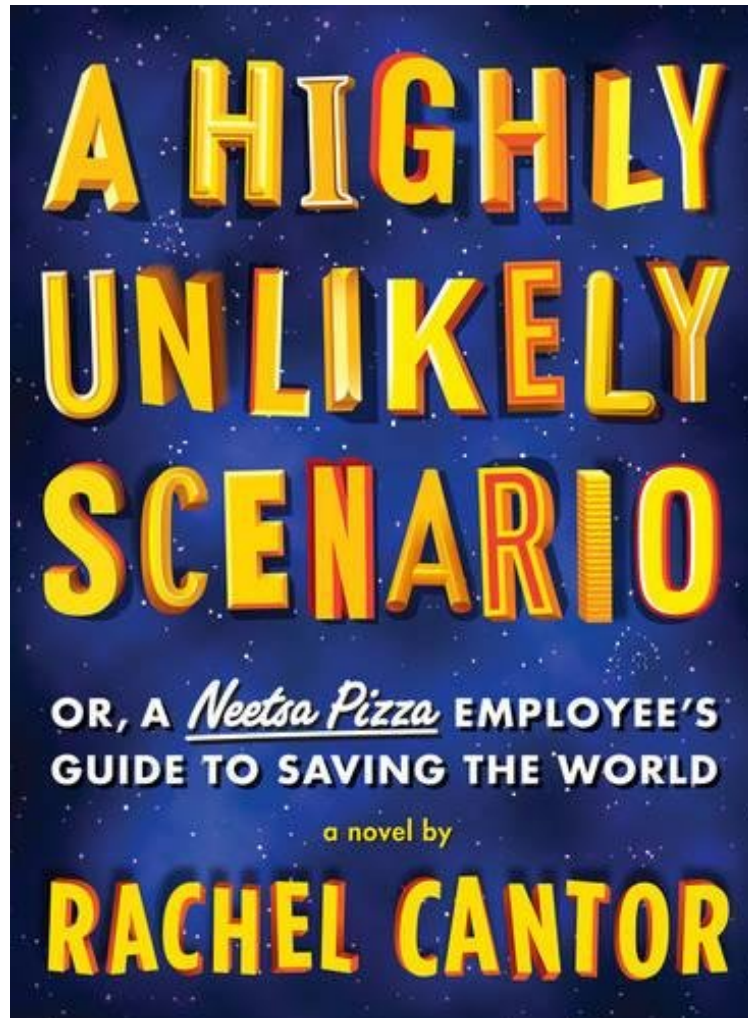


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A Highly Unlikely Scenario, or a Neetsa Pizza Employee's Guide to Saving the World

Rachel Cantor

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Rachel Cantor : A Highly Unlikely Scenario, or a Neetsa Pizza Employee's Guide to Saving the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Highly Unlikely Scenario, or a Neetsa Pizza Employee's Guide to Saving the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. No quotation marks? Really??By B. BishopIs the author too good for quotation marks? There are litterally more quotation marks on the cover of this book then that are between its pages. This book is just unreadable. It was unnessesarily hard to follow with it's lack of punctuation. It was like trying to read a story written by a teenager via text message.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Clever enoughBy Bob PondClever enough to encourage reading it all the way through...but the narrative is a little too

contrived....felt like the author had conceived and plotted all the dots of the picture she wanted to paint; then took a ruler and pencil to connect them neatly together, and finally picked up her set of watercolors to color in the various rectangles, ellipses and ovoids she had thus created.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. disjointed and boringBy Gregg ColvinI did not like this book. I could not even finish reading it. The book is disjointed and the characters are one dimensional. I suppose if I was a student of political philosophy it might resonate more, but it just comes across as pretentious for the uninited like myself. If you like the netherworld of ideologies it might be for you.

"Cosmic and comic, full of philosophy, mysticism and celestial whimsy. Both profoundly wild and wildly profound." Charles Yu, author of *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*In the not-too-distant future, competing giant fast food factions rule the world. Leonard works for Neetsa Pizza, the Pythagorean pizza chain, in a lonely but highly surveilled home office, answering calls on his complaints hotline. Its a boring job, but he likes ittheres a set answer for every scenario, and he never has to leave the house. Except then he starts getting calls from Marco, who claims to be a thirteenth-century explorer just returned from Cathay. And what do you say to a caller like that? Plus, Neetsa Pizza doesnt like it when you go off script. Meanwhile, Leonards sister keeps disappearing on secret missions with her book club, leaving him to take care of his nephew, which means Leonard has to go outside. And outside is where the trouble starts. A dazzling debut novel wherein medieval Kabbalists, rare book librarians, and Latter-Day Baconians skirmish for control over secret mystical knowledge, and one Neetsa Pizza employee discovers that you cant save the world with pizza coupons.

From BooklistGlobal fast-food franchises rule the world, spawning contentious sects. Leonard, for instance, the hapless hero in first-time novelist Cantors rambunctiously smart, pun-spiked, and sweet dystopian romantic comedy, works for Neetsa Pizza fielding customer complaints and is, therefore, a Pythagorean. His sister, Carol, serves Scottish tapas at Jack-o-Bites, which means she should be a Jacobite. Instead, shes a neo-Maoist, always slipping off to book club, code for various revolutionary actions, leaving her gifted son, Felix, with doting Leonard. But once Leonard finds himself on the phone with Marco Polo, time, space, and the status quo begin to seriously warp. Soon Leonard, Felix, and Sally, a fetching Book Guide at the university library, are sent on an urgent, cosmic quest back to Marcos era, a mission involving two other thirteenth-century renegades, the English philosopher Roger Bacon and the prophetic Kabbalist Abraham Abulafia. Glimmering with signs and wonders and laced with satirical jabs at technological intrusiveness and deception, Cantors funny and charming metaphysical adventure and love story is a wily inquiry into questions of perception, knowledge, mystery, legacy, and love. --Donna Seaman A dystopian satire, a story about storytelling, believing and listeningA Highly Unlikely Scenario is ultimately a history of our own strange world.New York Times Book [A] dizzying fabulist debut.Washington PostUltimately, more than incantations and codes, its family Cantor cares about. A Highly Unlikely Scenario is about just that: Familial wisdom and love lost and found and shared anew, finally, conquering all.Daily BeastAn io9 pick for the Essential Science Fiction and Fantasy Books of 2014[Cantor's] imagination is exhilarating A Highly Unlikely Scenario will appeal to fans of sci-fi and people who just like to laugh.Cosmopolitans 10 Books by Women You Have to Read This SpringA treat for those who like zippy sci-fi paced like the stories of Kurt Vonnegut.Time Out New YorkRachel Cantor joins the ranks of authors who are able to turn philosophical concepts into whiz-bang plots, and make them funny as well. Throw in some family dysfunction, time travel, a librarian ingnue, and the possible destruction of the world, and youve got an adventure story replete with nerdy delights.TorThe books plot, which concerns a future where fast food corporations run the world, is deliciously weird enough to work in its own warped way, walking the line between straight fantasy and fiction.FlavorwireA Hall of Fame Bestseller in The MillionsOne of Liberty Hardy's (RiverRun Bookstore) Must-Read Books from Indie Presses for 2014, onBook RiotA heroic tale unlike any other: a novel that is not about a quest but about learning that the worldour worldis full of extraordinary, mysterious wonders."Kenyon This debut novel is a present to both sci-fi and humor fans alike.Barnes Noble Book Blog, January indie books roundupIn this roller-coaster debut, fast-food corporations rule the world and a peon customer-service worker has to save it... Cantor is in control of her material, and successful dystopian satire makes more sense while youre lost in it."Heeb, Best Books of the YearBrooklyn-based writer Rachel Cantor has created a whole new world in her debut novel a humorous and playful science fiction story.Brooklyn EagleDelightful The sense of excitement in Cantors prose, which propels this familiar story of a few silly, frightened people braving their way through a maddening, baffling world, is what compels us to keep reading.The RumpusA Book of the Week pick from WORD bookstore on Largehearted BoyAn intrepid debut.Kirkus sCantor suspends disbelief and creates a loony world entirely of her own, which is terrifically funny and effortlessly enjoyable Highly entertaining and adventurous.Publishers Weekly[A] rambunctiously smart, pun-spiked, and sweet dystopian romantic comedy Cantors funny and charming metaphysical adventure and love story is a wily inquiry into questions of perception, knowledge, mystery, legacy, and love.BooklistCantors novel will be a great hit for fans of Douglas Adamss Hitchhikers Guide to the Universe. Theres a lot going on here, and all of it is amusing.Library JournalThe great pleasure of such novels is the world-building, in which the author invents a new

universe while playfully commenting on our own. And what Cantor does of this is great, her impish prose and dry wit perfectly suited to the task. The Telegraph (UK) Its as if Kurt Vonnegut and Italo Calvino collaborated to write a comic book sci-fi adventure and persuaded Chagall to do the drawings. One of the freshest and mostly lively novels I have encountered for quite a while. Jim Crace, author of Harvest and The Pesthouse A Highly Unlikely Scenario is a joyful book, full of the energy of undiluted invention and the thoughtful imagination of a writer to watch. It's a wild ride and much more funny, intelligent and entirely pleasing." A.L. Kennedy, author of Day Cosmic and comic, full of philosophy, mysticism and celestial whimsy. A story of listening, of souls and bodies, that is at once both profoundly wild and wildly profound." Charles Yu, author of How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe Part Italo Calvino, part Ray Bradbury, in this extraordinary novel, Rachel Cantor explores questions of self-knowledge, true love and family, all while saving the world and winning readers in the past, present, and future. Hannah Tinti, author of The Good Thief A sharp, witty, and immensely entertaining debut... Cantor's skill in rendering complex and highly believable characters makes for an unexpectedly moving tale." Emily St. John Mandel, author of The Lola Quartet I didn't know I needed a mystical Jewish Douglas Adams in my life, but Rachel Cantor is it, and her Guide makes me shep naches every time I turn a page. Buy this book, bubeleh! It will surprise you in ways large and small, and it will fill you with delight." Emily Barton, author of Brookland About the Author RACHEL CANTOR was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and raised in Rome. She worked for jazz festivals in France and food festivals in Australia before getting degrees in international development and fiction writing. Her short stories have appeared in The Paris , One Story, Kenyon , Fence, and other publications. She has received fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Millay Colony, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and elsewhere, and has been a scholar at the Bread Loaf, Sewanee, and Wesleyan Writing Conferences. She lives in Brooklyn.