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Emily Gould

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"These smart, poignant essays about being young and literary in New York City are like a twenty-first century version of *The Bell Jar* but with more pot, sex, technology, and (thank goodness) a different ending."

—Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *Prep* and *American Wife*



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Emily Gould : And the Heart Says Whatever before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And the Heart Says Whatever:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Candid and funny.By lafajitaI loved this book for her candid and offhandedly funny way of looking at her life. I've read it twice already, and plan to re-read it over and over.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read Gould's "Friendship" over her personal essaysBy laroodooAfter loving Gould's book Friendship, I found her memoir/short story collection to be "meh." I enjoy her writing, and I'd

read her next novel, but this one just didn't cut it for me. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Life Happens: A YA Coming-of-Age In The NYC Literary and Publishing Scene....By missmickee-bookreview "And The Heart Says Whatever" (2010) is written by journalist, author/editor Emily Gould. This is a memoir collection of eleven engaging personal essays, mainly about young adulthood, and forging ahead in life/love beginning in the service industry, working in writing/publishing, and landing a top notch job as an editor at Gawker.com which at the time covered the Manhattan gossip/social scene. "Like many people, I had come to NYC with the idea I was somehow extraordinary". Gould explained, after transferring her academic progression from Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio) to Eugene Lang College, NYC where she earned her BA degree. In "Memoir class" the instructor asked the students to write about victimhood, the subject matter evolved in a direction Gould never identified with. As the students critiqued each other's stories/dramatic writing, Gould, accepting, open minded, couldn't help but wonder what stories were fact or fiction. Each one of the essays were detailed and interesting, especially of her waitressing job at the "World of Blues"; Gould's recollection of the service work, co-workers, and elderly bluesman Sumpter Pickins, an "embalmed looking" heroin addict (common among some aged area musicians), were exceptionally done. Gould offered an insider view of a small indie publishing company, learning a great deal from Jim, her supervisor/managing editor. Celebrity Memoir bestsellers carried the better written lesser known titles in profitability sales. Authors were all "vain" according to Jim, and only wanted to hear how much their books were loved by readers. Gould would also read/review stacks of books, many earning 3* star ratings-- not at all bad for a first time author. It was around this time Gould sought therapy/counseling for a reoccurring wave of anxiety/panic attacks, that happened while on her way to work or using public transportation. In overcrowded urban settings, this might seem fairly common. Gould's writing is blended with a confessional lyrically styled prose, originating from her keen sense of self awareness and observation where she records the intimate emotional experience/terrain of herself and others. It's real. It's genuine. It invites controversy. This has become her original trademark. Many examples are related to: Gould's adolescent romance with a 14 year old boy (she was 17), the return of "Hokey" to the breeder after Gould failed to bond with the puppy, the significant change in her relationship with her partner Joseph. Finally, her need for additional therapy/counseling to deal with the fallout after leaving Gawker. A friend cautioned her not to mention her daily habit of smoking pot, as her therapist would focus on it as being a problem/issue, instead of the circumstances or situation at hand. "And the Heart Says Whatever.." seems like a sigh, or saying written into an inspirational quote. "Friendship" is Gould's debut novel, due for publication soon. Gould is also the founding editor/publisher of Emily Books, that she co-edits with Ruth Curry, she lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Essays by former editor of Gawker.com—and the new female voice of her generation. In *And the Heart Says Whatever*, Emily Gould tells the truth about becoming an adult in New York City in the first decade of the twenty-first century, alongside bartenders, bounty hunters, bloggers, bohemians, socialites, and bankers. These are essays about failing at pet parenthood, suspending lust during the long moment in which a dude selects the perfect soundtrack from his iTunes library, and leaving one life behind to begin a new one (but still taking the G train back to visit the old one sometimes). For everyone who has ever had a job she wishes she didn't, felt inchoate ambition sour into resentment, ended a relationship, regretted a decision, or told a secret to exactly the wrong person, these stories will be achingly familiar. At once a road map of what not to do and a document of what's possible, this book heralds the arrival of a writer who decodes the new challenges of our post-private lives, and the age-old intricacies of the human heart.

From Publishers Weekly On the strength of an exposé she wrote for the *New York Times Magazine* two years ago about her experience working at Gawker.com, Gould, hailing from Silver Spring, Md., and now in her late 20s, delivers a series of 11 insipid essays about her uninspired youth and general lack of motivation or talent for various jobs she took after moving to New York City. The writing seems intentionally bland, as if Gould is attempting to be blasé. At age 17, as she describes in *Flower*, she and her suburban friends listened to Liz Phair because the singer gave us permission to do stupid things and consider them adventures; in Gould's case, she deflowered a 14-year-old boy from the swim team, knowing her boyfriend would hear about it. She doesn't get into the artsiest Ivy as per plan (I was neither smart nor exceptional), but attends her safe (unvisited) choice, Kenyon, from which she drops out and moves to New York. Among other gigs, she works as a waitress for a sad-sack music bar and as a receptionist for a large, commercial publishing house (I felt silly for being shocked by the quality of what made it through). At Gawker, she became practiced at scanning a room or a page and isolating the appropriate things to hate. Desultory anecdotes of breakup and dating ensue, leaving the reader more confounded than moved. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Former Gawker editor Gould turns a sharp eye on her own life in 11 essays about her childhood, brief collegiate career in Ohio, and eventual move to New York. The perceptiveness and instinctive talent for spotting and exploiting weakness that elevated Gould at Gawker and made her so controversial carry the book. In the queasy traditions of eviscerating memoirs and plain old gossip, there is an element of callousness even in the tenderest moments she describes with former lovers and friends, making it impossible not to wonder what their reaction to this collection will be. Gould outs her affair at 17 with a 14-year-old,

a few awkward years at Kenyon College, various affairs in New York, and a stint as a shot girl at a seedy bar. Gould also discusses her time at Gawker, describing how she covered parties, scanning the room for someone or something to mock. Readers will expect the book, given Gould's record and reputation, to be salacious but instead it comes off as rather pedestrian. --Katherine Boyle "This is not a 'nice' book, but it comes by its anger and melancholy honestly, and it makes sense of much that is puzzling about our cultural moment." -- Jonathan Franzen "In this limpid, poetic elegy to the New York of her twenties, Emily Gould proves a sharp and feeling observer of her generation. Honest, gorgeously rendered, and occasionally brutal, *And the Heart Says Whatever* is a testament to the pleasures and pains of heightened self-awareness." --Amy Sohn, author of *Prospect Park West* "And the Heart Says Whatever confirms what fans of Emily Gould's previous writing already knew--that she's massively talented, just as good at devastating us with an emotional truth as she is at amusing us with a clever joke. These smart, poignant essays about being young and literary in New York City are like a twenty-first century version of *The Bell Jar* but with more pot, sex, technology, and (thank goodness) a different ending." --Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *Prep and American Wife* "...Gould turns a sharp eye on her own life...The perceptiveness...that...made her so controversial [carries] the book." —Booklist "Gould's brand of confessional literature isn't new, but [her] unsentimental, unapologetically female tone is powerfully of-the-moment-[she speaks], in our often phoney and cheesy culture, to the truths of women's lives...[Gould makes] good writing look easy." -- Curtis Sittenfeld, *New York Magazine* "We think [Amy Sohn's warm praise of the book] is perfect...Gould, the host of compulsively watchable web TV series *Cooking the Books* and a blogger of deserved renown, finds her way through the wilds of New York as [an] astute absorber of all that passes before her." —*ThirtyDaysNY.com* "[A] collection of essays about what it's like to live the literary life in New York (even better, Brooklyn)...This girl is going to hold on to the bits she cares about, no matter how much glamour and trauma is thrown her way. The great path [to success in publishing] looms like the yellow brick road: surreal, nostalgic." —*The Los Angeles Times* "[Flouts] traditions of many women's memoirs...the antithesis of personal growth narratives like *Eat, Pray, Love*...Gould's account of her early twenties will ring true to many young people who have longed to prove their worth without being totally sure what that worth is...for teenagers and early twentysomethings seeking what Gould calls "permission" to pursue their dreams, a narrative arc may matter less than the simple testimony of someone who's been there, offered without guilt and without apology." —*Jezebel* "gut-wrenching and smart and naked and beautifully written. You can read it as a document of a particular techno-era in New York (and of confessional online culture in general), and as a chronicle of the fallout from a very specific moment in Gawker's reign. But the stories Gould tells here are also very personal, and very sad...she captures better than almost anyone the feeling of what it's like to be young(ish), both ambitious and aimless, more watchful and introspective than is good for her, at this particular moment in our culture...she builds on Joan Didion's sense of [New York] rather than just imitating, or playing tribute to her....She's obsessed with the way time passes, and especially with what it means to be young—to feel your youth draining from you in a way that feels like both a punishment and a reward...it feels utterly true. Gould is attuned to the way things around and inside her are shifting and changing, and she can't stop herself from testing certain boundaries, pushing against her surroundings to see if there's any give." —*The Rumpus* "Controversial media maven Gould...traces her sentimental education through eleven vignettes of sex, relationships, and unfocused ambition." —*Greenpoint Gazette* "I recently devoured...*And the Heart Says Whatever*, appreciating her willingness to let her youthful unhappiness lie still, to look unblinkingly at the unpleasantness of her days and often of herself and perhaps recognize that unpleasantness as a stew from which her specific ambitions evolved, but more often to simply describe it as it was: life." —*Rebecca Traister, Salon.com* "Weighty...What makes Gould's essays so readable is their utmost honesty." —*Washington Post Express* "A valuable social document of a transformative time in journalism and also, thanks to Gould's evocative writing, deliciously readable...the most realistic Manhattan bildungsroman in years. The only shopping stories involve sale racks at HM." —*The Globe Mail* "Gould [is] more than a blogger. *And the Heart Says Whatever* proves she's a very talented memoirist...What Gould taps into is the universal freshness of the particular pain that many people only feel as a young adult, when life starts feeling for the first time like it's spinning out of control, and you don't have the experience yet to know if you'll be able to rein it back in. There's a courage and lack of sentimentality in Gould's voice that's engaging and likeable. She's not neurotic. This is the person you'd want as a roommate in your 20s....And she has great stories...it takes a lot of balls to write about this, and only a writer of Gould's talent could pull it off." —*Montreal Mirror* "[Gould] may yet prove capable of becoming her generation's Fran Lebowitz." —*The Boston Globe* "In her first collection of essays, Gould tackles the tough questions that come with a life lived online." —*More Magazine* "Brutally honest." —*Just Books* "Honest and witty...*And the Heart Says Whatever* will engage you with its entertaining essays." —*Hollywood the Write Way* "Pithily written." —*The Observer* "Gould...is fearless." —*Iowa City Press-Citizen*