

(Download) My Heart Is an Idiot: Essays

My Heart Is an Idiot: Essays

Davy Rothbart

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Davy Rothbart : My Heart Is an Idiot: Essays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Heart Is an Idiot: Essays:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GPS In Your Hip PocketBy Robert DownsIf you want a handful of life lessons (sixteen in fact) on how to screw up more than a few relationships with a road map and GPS satellite in your hip pocket to comfort you on your dark days, then MY HEART IS AN IDIOT could provide you better comfort than a blanket, a glass of warm milk, and your favorite movie on the tube. Whether you're a cynic by nature or even if

you're holding out for the storybook fairytale or maybe a hero that goes by another name, you could find yourself mixing equal parts amusement and sadness and then flipping the switch to high. What comes out on the other side could leave you more than a little horrified, like the latest train wreck plastered across the news, but you can also comfort yourself in knowing that you weren't on this particular train when it exited the station. "Bigger and Deafer" – When it comes to making fun of people with disabilities, the appropriate response is no. Always no. But then I like to think I have more than two cents to rub together. "Human Snowball" – If you want to read about a bus ride and a botched encounter with Lauren Hill (not the Lauryn Hill), then you'll probably want to give this story a go. On a side note, Vernon adds a bit of comedic relief. "What Are You Wearing?" – If you want a checklist in how not to conduct phone sex, and when to probably pass on picking up the motel phone, you'll find your answers here. If you're still confused when you reach the end, you might want to start from the beginning all over again. "The 8th of November" – How Jim Thompson, arguably the best Ford mechanic in the Beltway, developed a friendship with the author with the idiot heart. "Ninety-Nine Bottles of Pee on the Wall" – Meeting an author can be a pleasurable experience (most of the time) unless you're Davy Rothbart and you carry around a few bottles of pee in your backpack. Which leads to a whole new set of problems and more than a few therapy sessions. "How I Got These Boots" – A pair of boots, the Grand Canyon, and more than a few memories. What more could you ask for? "Shade" – Sometimes you need to do a bit of searching to find a shady spot in New Mexico, and the author certainly had more than a bit of trouble with this as well. If it wasn't for bad luck, a missed opportunity with Maggie, and a fruitless search for the mysterious Shade—the person, not the spot allotted tree cover—this one might have had a positive outcome. Sadly, though, he's striking out more often than a power hitter with a swing flaw. "Nibble, Lick, Suck, and Feast" – If you want to discover a bit of hilarity on an author tour, this story's for you. If not, then we'll move right along. "Canada or Bust" – Missy, another female name that begins with M, and thus we have yet another missed opportunity in the love quest. If you need to improve the dating pool, there's always San Francisco. "Naked in New York" – How does one end up naked on a park bench? Apparently it's not all that hard to do, and certainly not in "The Big Apple." Read this tale for a few pointers. "Tarantula" – Don't have sex anywhere near a tarantula. Even if it's in a glass cage and it's far away from the bed. I don't care how good she looks (the woman, not the tarantula), or whether or not she kidnaps you and tosses you in the back of the trunk, and promises to rock your world for the next sixteen days. Just...don't. You'll thank me later. "Southwest" – Davy Rothbart may be blessed when it comes to sitting next to beautiful women on airplanes, but he probably needs a bit of help with his delivery and follow through. But that seems to repeat a bit too regularly over the course of these essays. "New York, New York" – Maggie Smith knows how to strike a pose; the Twin Towers ended up in a pile of rubble; a few interviews got off to a glitch filled start; the bus ride proved longer than planned; and never say no to a woman named Laquisha. "Tessa" – Drexel University and beer pong sound reasonably appealing, until Tessa proves a little free with her favors with another man, and you're left shedding a few tears in your beer. There's no crying in baseball, but I guess there is in beer pong. "The Strongest Man in the World" – Peter, Byron, Evelyn, and Davy sitting in a tree, recounting a few stories, or maybe it's three. Tell a few tales, but don't pass the buck. If you're not too careful, you might be out of luck. "Ain't That America?" – The moral of this story: You can strike out in love on more than one continent. Just keep that in mind the next time you're moaning and groaning in your cup of tea. So, in summary, there's much to enjoy here. If you're the kind of Joe who likes to watch a train derailment or two, or you're one of those rubbernecks on the interstate trying to see the extent of the damage, you've just discovered your new source of enjoyment for the day. Just be thankful it's not your life, and hope to heck you have a bit more luck in the relationship arena, otherwise you might want a Prozac or a Xanax. Robert Downs Author of Falling Immortality: Casey Holden, Private Investigator 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Glimpse of America By Joshua Davis I felt like I was seeing the raw underbelly of the country: highway travelers, greyhound riders, saintly inmates and the drunken elderly. What makes these encounters extraordinary is Rothbart's absolute commitment to go anywhere and try anything. Many of these stories are about moving from place to place - he's a man in motion - but straightforward journeys have a way of turning into epic adventure because Rothbart opens himself up to it all, like a giant satellite dish sucking in signals the rest only hear faintly. It's thrilling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Story after story you will be continually amazed at the brutal honesty in the writing By CustomerHeart-wrenching honesty. Wow! Story after story you will be continually amazed at the brutal honesty in the writing. My only complaint would be that somewhere around 2/3 of the way through the stories just feel the same. It's like an album by a band with a great sound. Each song is remarkable in its own right, but they can lose some of their impact when taken all at once.

Named a Best Book of the Year by Vanity Fair, Chicago Tribune, The Huffington Post, and NPR In My Heart Is an Idiot, Davy Rothbart is looking for love in all the wrong places. Constantly. He falls helplessly in love with pretty much every girl he meets and rarely is the feeling reciprocated. Time after time, he hops in a car and tears halfway across America with his heart on his sleeve. He's continually coming up with outrageous schemes and adventures, which he always manages to pull off. Well, almost always. But even when things don't work out, Rothbart finds meaning and humor in every moment. Whether it's confronting a scammer who takes money from aspiring writers,

sifting through a murder case that's left a potentially innocent friend in prison, or waking up naked on a park bench in New York City, nothing and no one is off limits. And it's all recounted in Davy's singular, spirited literary voice, "an intriguing hybrid of timeless midwestern warmth and newfangled jive talk," in the words of Sarah Vowell.

.com Best Books of the Month, September 2012: Following your heart can get you in a lot of trouble. This is true for no one more than Davy Rothbart, whose hilarious new essay collection is loosely built on the premise that he falls in love much too easily. But Rothbart's desire to impress his crushes is often just a starting place for a much wilder story. One involves rallying a group of strangers for the best Valentine's Day ever; in another, he finds a dead body in a swimming pool. (My favorite piece involves Rothbart's attempt to seek revenge on a scam artist by dumping urine on his head.) But none of these hilarious reflections would work if Rothbart didn't show such a clear sense of self-awareness. As a character, he's likable, shortsighted, and earnest; as a writer, he is a shrewd storyteller with a deep empathy for all the eccentric people he meets. Given his credentials--as a creator of Found Magazine and a contributor to This American Life--it's no surprise that Rothbart is so attuned to the world around him. Now if only his heart were as perceptive. --Kevin Nguyen "I believe in Davy. He is a force to be reckoned with." ?Ira Glass "This book is f--cking great!" ?Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love "Rothbart...is a born raconteur, with a soldier's can-do spirit and a poet's mercurial soul." ?The New Yorker "[Rothbart's] irreverent brand of humor translates seamlessly to the page....He has an unforced curiosity and a natural empathy that make him an ideal traveling....Killingly funny." ?The Washington Post "Davy Rothbart has the humor and purity of heart you want and need in an observer of contemporary American life." ?Dave Eggers "Substitute Dr. Dre for Charlie Parker, and Davy Rothbart's new collection of sixteen essays reads like early Jack Kerouac....A brutally honest, heartfelt, and clever collection." ?Time Out (New York) "[Davy's] capacity for serendipity and overshare is infectious." ?The New York Times About the Author Davy Rothbart is a frequent contributor to This American Life and a variety of magazines, the founder of Found Magazine and the editor of its various bestselling anthologies, and the author of The Lone Surfer of Montana, Kansas. He splits his time between Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Los Angeles, California.