



Maeve in America: Essays by a Girl from Somewhere Else

Maeve Higgins

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A timely essay collection about life, love, and becoming an American from breakout comedy star and podcaster Maeve Higgins

Maeve Higgins was a bestselling memoirist and comedian in her native Ireland when, at the grand old age of thirty-one, she left the only home she'd ever known in search of something more. Like many women in their early thirties, she both was and was not the adult she wanted to be. At once smart, curious, and humane, *Maeve in America* is the story of how Maeve found herself, literally and figuratively, in New York City.

Here are stories of not being able to afford a dress for the ball, of the curse of over-politeness, of the true significance of realizing what sort of shelter dog you would be. Self-aware and laugh-out-loud funny, this collection is also a fearless exploration of the awkward questions in life, such as: Is clapping too loudly at a gig a good enough reason to break up with somebody? Is it ever really possible to leave home?

Together, these essays create a startlingly funny and revealing portrait of a woman who aims for the stars but hits the ceiling, and the inimitable city that has helped shape who she is. *Maeve in America* announces Maeve Higgins as a vital voice about women's lives today.

Maeve in America: Essays by a Girl from Somewhere Else Details

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Author : Maeve Higgins

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From Reader Review Maeve in America: Essays by a Girl from Somewhere Else for online ebook

Ammar says

3.5 stars

Thanks for Penguin Canada for an ARC of this book.

Interesting personal essays

From an Irish point of view

An alien in the USA

Maeve is a comedian

Those essays take about:

Her travels

Her fear of dolphins

Her Instagram addiction

Failed love

Obsession with Michael Fassbender

Dogs and pets

Children

USA and trump

Complimenting women

Renting fancy dresses

Summer in NYC

Good shit I tell you

Katie Palazzolo says

This was a really entertaining read. I am not familiar with any of Maeve's other works- which I appreciated and forced myself to wait until finishing the book to find the rest of her stuff. I really feel like I got to know Maeve through her book, which had really good insights on travelling, the purpose and value of comedy, immigration, sharing stories, and how dolphins almost tried to kill her.

lisa says

Maeve Higgins has a hilarious and wise podcast, and her Instagram is always creative and clever. However, I found this book to be a weak outline of who she is and what her ideals are. They are there, but they aren't great, and her little stories seem silly. This is definitely a personality I would recommend should be listened

to live (or at least podcast live) as her lively humor doesn't come across well on the page.

I did enjoy reading more about growing up in Cobh Ireland, where so many Irish immigrants set sail for other lives in the United States.

Tracey Thompson says

As an immigrant, sections of this book were very familiar and helpful. Higgins is incredibly funny, warm, and a great writer. I highly recommend the audiobook, to hear Higgins' lovely voice.

Paul says

A brilliant and creative writer, esp. good with metaphors and images: The first part of the book is very funny. The last couple of essays are reflective and interesting.

Mike says

Excellent. Funny and serious, deserves to be widely read. My favorite chapters:

Call Me Maeve

Aliens of Extraordinary Ability

Five Interactions, One Man

Summer Isn't the Same Without You - hey take on body image.

How Funny - upside and downside of being funny and from a funny family.

Wildflowers - the absolute standout essay. Stunning and heartbreaking about immigration.

Annie Camp says

Enjoyable—

Tibbi says

Maeve Higgins's collection of essays initially read like Bridget Jones comes to America, as she offers humorous self-deprecating anecdotes of her own immigration to New York City from Cobh, Ireland. Rent-a-dress, money woes, small talk and swimming and loathing with dolphins, get the Higgins treatment. But as we know, life is not all fun and comedy sketches, and Higgins' pieces on Dreamers, leaving home, mentoring and our place in the universe are thoughtful and poignant.

I was not familiar with Maeve Higgins prior to reading this book, although she is well known in Ireland. I

look forward to reading more of what she has to offer in the future. Thank you to the publisher for an advanced copy of this book.

Caroline says

Touching, warm, clever, funny... all the good words. Maeve is IMO the best comedian to come out of Ireland. This book of essays is fantastic. I laughed a lot, I welled up, I read it in 2 days. I wish I could write like Maeve.

Maddison says

I was fortunate enough to win this book through a Goodreads Giveaway. My thanks to the sponsor and to Goodreads for facilitating this giveaway.

The series of essays in "Maeve in America" - penned by Irish comedian Maeve Higgins - was a bit difficult for me to synthesize into one main idea/takeaway. While some of the stories I definitely enjoyed and found humorous, others seemed to build to a crescendo that never materialized. I often found myself asking questions like, "so what?" and "why is this essay present in a supposedly comedic collection of writings?" The design of the book cover, the nature of the back blurb, and the reputation of its author suggested that each essay would be, more than anything else, funny. However, some stories were very serious, as if they had accidentally dropped out of a political memoir and nestled themselves in between the pages of Higgins' work.

That being said, I have had no previous experience with Maeve Higgins' writing, podcast, or stand-up comedy, so I dove into this read with few expectations. After finishing the collection, I do think Higgins is funny, but I would have liked to see that humor appear more consistently throughout the essays instead of just in small bits and pieces. If that would have been the case, I doubt I'd be left wondering how to categorize this book.

While others may or may not share my thoughts, I think most everyone who reads this collection will connect with at least something Higgins shares. For me, her essay mentioning the difficulties of disliking summer hit home, and the way she further tied these slight annoyances into how women and men often ridicule their own bodies during the season was particularly memorable. I only wish that more of her essays would have followed a similar pattern.

Jen Boucher says

I'll admit that the first couple of essays had me feeling, 'well, these are FINE, but why am I reading this instead of something else'. I'm so glad I carried on to be unexpectedly awoken to Maeve's perspectives on topics such as immigration, being childless, being lonely and social media. I really enjoyed this book, it's blend of humour and blunt reality, right down to the acknowledgements at the end. I will be listening to the podcast full of voices of immigrants as a follow up and am grateful for that opportunity.

Molly says

I will confess that I had never heard of Maeve Higgins prior to writing this book. I am glad that I gave it a chance, though, because Higgins is hilarious and I'm looking forward to seeking out more of her work in whatever form it might take. She's self-deprecating in a charming way, very Irish, and extremely thoughtful - the essay about her attempts to make her podcast about immigrants into something comedic is frustrating (because you want to throttle her producers) and beautiful all at once. She's not quite David Sedaris, but she's pretty great.

I received access to this title via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

E.B. says

I laughed! I cried! I loved it so much!

Shannon A says

I wish this book was going to be out to share around St. Patrick's Day, but maybe August would be a better time, as one wouldn't want to be caught laughing out loud in Church on St. Patrick's Day. Is it fitting that while reading the opening essay about swimming with the dolphins, the pages got slightly ruined by my tears from laughing so hard that I couldn't put the book down? Yes. The reflections shared within these pages are beautiful and will make you think as Maeve's observations are both heart-felt & hands-down hilarious.

Amanda Joy says

It took the first few essays for me to find what I was looking for in this novel, but when I did, I covered the pages in highlighter.

Shane Clifford says

Imagine being American and going around spelling words like 'Sox' and 'Nite'. How could you take yourself seriously?

Rachael Gilkey says

In *Maeve in America*, Maeve Higgins has collected a number of smart, funny, thoughtful essays that touch

on everything from the trials of dressing fancy for a gala, the importance of the “aunts” of the world in guiding young women, the healing properties of social media, and in some of her most heartfelt and thoughtful writing, on immigration in America.

This collection will be published in August 2018. I received an advance copy.

Shari Wampler says

www.thenextgoodbook.com
Maeve in America by Maeve Higgins
240 pages

What's it about?

This is a collection of essays written by Irish comedienne and memoirist Maeve Higgins. Ms. Higgins came to America in her early thirties. She writes about her experiences as a woman and an Irish immigrant living in New York City.

What did it make me think about?

These essays are often funny, always insightful, and occasionally preachy. They did make me look at the immigrant experience in a different way.

Should I read it?

This is an engaging and humorous book. My only complaint- the essays were uneven. Some much more interesting and entertaining than others. On occasion I felt like Ms. Higgins was lecturing and those essays were not my favorite. I particularly enjoyed Maeve swimming with the dolphins, renting a ball gown, and her essay on summer and body image. Definitely worth reading- but inconsistent.

Quote-

“I felt totally fine about renting a dress, although I promised myself I wouldn’t tell anyone I had done so. I resolved to just say thank you if anybody complimented me, as opposed to explain in too much detail just why they were wrong to do so. In the past I’ve ruined many a generous utterance by breaking it down and explaining where the lie is.”

If you like this try-

...not sure?

Donna Hines says

Self care, self love, self appreciation and awareness. Throw in some humor. Throw in some soul searching while on a journey to who knows and well you got this one wrapped.

I loved everything about this. The writing was simplistic yet packed full of fun, love, excitement.

A collection of essays much like Coming to America in which this Irish gal is trying to make her way in NYC as a newly planted immigrant.

It's not all comedy show style though as the discussions center upon some serious aspects including Dreamers, Immigration Issues, reaching adulthood, leaving home, and of course finding your place in life.

Even the internet can be found to have some healing properties and advice much like that which is received from family and friends.

This was like a warm cup of tea on a cold winter's night.

Maeve Higgins is a newcomer to me, but I'll be sure to keep and eye out for her next work.

Thank you to Maeve , her publisher, and Goodreads for this ARC giveaway in exchange for this honest review. This books is one of many I will be donating to Hoyt Library in memory of my niece Cassie Ann Gatcha.

Meagan says

Maeve Higgins has a wonderful narrative voice which is absolutely hilarious. Her essays/possible long winded memories comment on simple stuff from fashion to imposter syndrome to the different kinds of Irish. I laughed a lot reading this book, maybe even shed a few tears. Great for those who need a laugh and like seeing into a comedians life.

I did receive this book through a Goodreads giveaway.
