



Not That Kind of Girl by Lena Dunham

About the author:

Lena Dunham is the creator of the critically acclaimed HBO series *Girls*, for which she also serves as executive producer, writer, and director. She has been nominated for eight Emmy awards and has won two Golden Globes, including Best Actress, for her work on *Girls*. She was the first woman to win the Directors Guild of America award for directorial achievement in comedy. Dunham has also written and directed two feature-length films (including *Tiny Furniture* in 2010) and is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Source: Penguin Random House Canada (<http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/>)

About this book:

"There is nothing gutsier to me than a person announcing that their story is one that deserves to be told," writes Lena Dunham, and it certainly takes guts to share the stories that make up her first book, *Not That Kind of Girl*. These are stories about getting your butt touched by your boss, about friendship and dieting (kind of) and having two existential crises before the age of 20. Stories about travel, both successful and less so, and about having the kind of sex where you feel like keeping your sneakers on in case you have to run away during the act. Stories about proving yourself to a room of 50-year-old men in Hollywood and showing up to "an outlandishly high-fashion event with the crustiest red nose you ever

April 2016



saw." Fearless, smart, and as heartbreakingly honest as ever, *Not That Kind of Girl* establishes Lena Dunham as more than a hugely talented director, actress and producer--it announces her as a fresh and vibrant new literary voice.

Source: Penguin Random House Canada (<http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. Dunham bares a lot in this book and has a reputation for being an over-sharer. What do you think of "over sharing" in this context? Is there such a thing as too much information, and how does that relate to your own experiences?
2. Lena Dunham's work often serves to push viewers and readers outside their comfort zones. Were there any parts of the book that made you uncomfortable? Why? Do you think it's important for books to push you out of your comfort zone in this way?
3. A lot of people dislike Lena Dunham. Likeability is an overvalued currency for women in Hollywood that Dunham doesn't always trade in. How do your feelings about Lena and the characters she's created play into the way you received the book?
4. For those who watch *Girls*, have you ever found yourself confusing the character traits of Hannah Horvath with the personal traits of Lena Dunham? What do you think of the idea that the characters women create are facets of their own personality, whereas characters created (or portrayed) by men are not typically seen this way?

Source: *A Practical Wedding* (<http://apracticalwedding.com>)



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April 2016