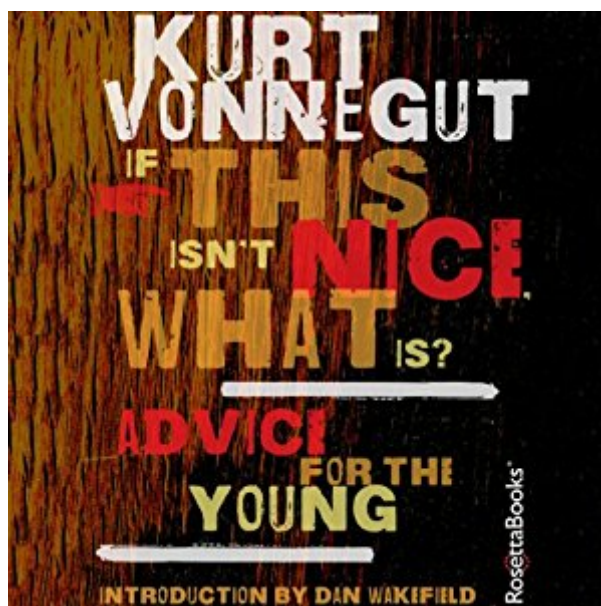


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If This Isn't Nice, What Is?: Advice For The Young



Synopsis

Master storyteller and satirist Kurt Vonnegut was one of the most in-demand commencement speakers of his time. For each occasion, Vonnegut's words were unfailingly unique, insightful, and witty, and they stayed with audience members long after graduation. As edited by Dan Wakefield, this book reads like a narrative in the unique voice that made Vonnegut a hero to readers and listeners of all ages. At times hilarious, razor-sharp, freewheeling, and deeply serious, these reflections are ideal for anyone undergoing what Vonnegut would call their "long-delayed puberty ceremony" - marking the passage from student to full-time adult. This book makes the perfect gift for high school or college graduates - or for parents and grandparents who remember Vonnegut fondly and want to connect with him in a new context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you love Vonnegut, of course you'll love this. A lot of it will seem familiar, but who cares. A lot of it is repeated. Again, who cares? He is smart, witty, cynical, genius. If you don't have everything by Vonnegut yet, this should not be at the top of your list, but once you've read everything by him and you want more, get it. It's not Vonnegut at his best, but even when he's mediocre, he's better than most.

I love Kurt Vonnegut, and I love many of the words of wisdom that appear in this book. It was a nice idea to compile these speeches into one volume. That said, the book is very short, and there is much overlap among the speeches. The same phrases and ideas are mentioned over and over. I

don't think Mr. Vonnegut set out to write a "fresh" speech every time his services were requested. Nevertheless, I bought a hardcover copy for both of my boys, who are 18 and 25. I think the book makes a nice gift for young people, despite its shortcomings. If you're looking to read this book yourself, though, and you have a Kindle, I would definitely borrow it instead of buying it, and save yourself a few bucks.

Kurt Vonnegut was a wise and hilarious man, as well as a creative genius, so I was glad to read his graduation speeches. Still, having several of his speeches in one book reminded me that even geniuses have formulas, and Vonnegut certainly had his own version of a speech. I found the formula a bit tiring after the first few speeches, but I did appreciate the chance to read some of Vonnegut's words of wisdom, and I have found myself saying, "If this isn't nice, what is?" all the time now!

If you've read Vonnegut's fiction you won't find a lot new here but his graduation speeches do a good job of distilling his overall worldview. The speeches do repeat themselves a bit. Not to the point where you would say read one, read them all but enough that they echo each other. If you haven't read any Vonnegut and want a concise view into his opinions this is a great place to look. If you love his message as I do and want a book you can read to remind yourself of why you love his message this is a good book to have. My only caveat is that if you are well versed in Vonnegut you won't find much new here.

I have admittedly read few of Vonnegut's complete works. For this I apologize and will try to do better. Having recently met a gentleman and a scholar not to mention a mentor, who worked with Vonnegut I took to finding a great work. Instead I found this piece of summation. What a great way to become an author, by recording a dictation or perhaps copying a written so each. Regardless this is a book to file on the shelf of 'repeat reads.' To be picked up whenever I think I am too smart, too sad, too alone or too small. For this will get you moving better than petroleum and is a hell of a drug.

I adore this author's wit and intellect. Sadly, I never had the opportunity to see him speak live but fortunately we will forever have his written words.,

Great collection. Wry, wise, and funny. Love his line that those who want to post the Ten Commandments in public places never suggest that we post the Beatitudes. He quotes Twain that

the object of life is for others to hold us in high regard. Lots of gems sprinkled throughout. Good introduction by Dan Wakefield. Oh the book's title? When he and his uncle would hang out on a nice day, the uncle would look around and say, "if this isn't nice, what is?" A good mindset to live by.

Excellent. Kurt's perspectives are refreshing and honest. A very easy read. One that I've already done several times. And the book's title is my favorite take-away. To stop and appreciate those moments of happiness. They're more frequent than you might think and they deserve to be noted. And reading Kurt's words are just such a moment.

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