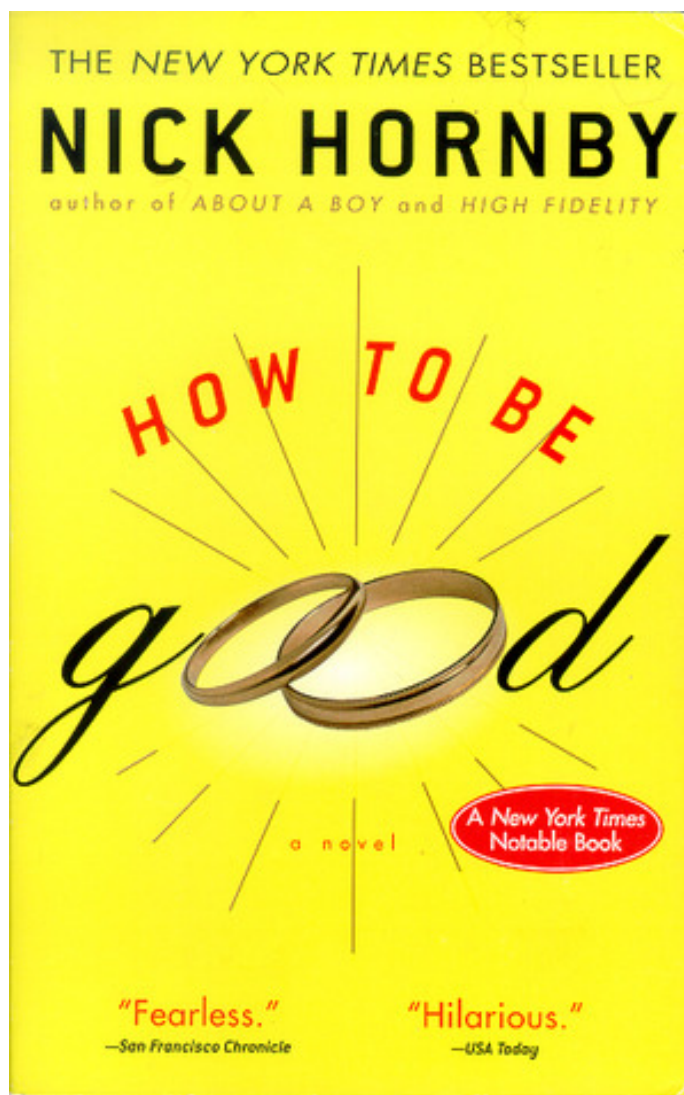

Nick Hornby

How to Be Good



Title: How to Be Good

Author: Nick Hornby

Format: Paperback

Language:

Pages: 305

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 3426615355

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7 MB

Download: allowed

Description

In Nick Hornby's *How to Be Good*, Katie Carr is certainly *trying* to be. That's why she became a GP. That's why she cares about Third World debt and homelessness, and struggles to raise her children with a conscience. It's also why she puts up with her husband David, the self-styled Angriest Man in Holloway. But one fateful day, she finds herself in a Leeds parking lot, having just slept with another man. What Katie doesn't yet realize is that her fall from grace is just the first step on a spiritual journey more torturous than the interstate at rush hour. Because, prompted by his wife's actions, David is about to stop being angry. He's about to become good--not politically correct, organic-food-eating good, but good in the fashion of the Gospels. And that's no easier in modern-day Holloway than it was in ancient Israel.

Hornby means us to take his title literally: How can we be good, and what does that mean? However, quite apart from demanding that his readers scrub their souls with the nearest available Brillo pad, he also mesmerizes us with that cocktail of wit and compassion that has become his trademark. The result is a multifaceted jewel of a book: a hilarious romp, a painstaking dissection of middle-class mores, and a powerfully sympathetic portrait of a marriage in its death throes. It's hard to know whether to laugh or cry as we watch David forcing his kids to give away their computers, drawing up schemes for the mass redistribution of wealth, and inviting his wife's most desolate patients round for a Sunday roast. But that's because *How to Be Good* manages to be both brutally truthful and full of hope. It won't outsell the Bible, but it's a lot funnier. --*Matthew Baylis*

From *Publishers Weekly*

Kate, a doctor, wife and mother, is in the midst of a difficult decision: whether to leave or stay with her bitter, sarcastic husband David (who proudly writes a local newspaper column called "The Angriest Man in Holloway"). The long-term marriage has gone stale, but is it worth uprooting the children and the comfortable lifestyle? Then David meets a faith healer called Dr. Goodnews, and suddenly converts to an idealistic do-gooder: donating the children's computer to an orphanage, giving away the family's Sunday dinner to homeless people and inviting runaways to stay in the guest room (and convincing the neighbors to do likewise). Barber gives an outstanding performance as Kate, humorously conveying her mounting irritation at having her money and belongings donated to strangers, her guilt at not feeling more generous and her hilarious desire for revenge. Barber brilliantly portrays each eccentric character: hippie-ish Goodnews, crusading David, petulant children and, poignantly, the hesitant, halting Barmy Brian, a mentally deficient patient of Kate's who needs looking after. Barber's stellar performance turns a worthy novel into a must-listen event. Simultaneous release with Riverhead hardcover (Forecasts, June 25).

Insightful reviews

James: I've read most of Hornby's books. He's one of my favorites, and if I don't get his new one for my birthday (hint, hint), I plan to buy it and expect to enjoy it. Because I like the way he tells

stories, like the way he writes, and enjoy his insights on people and relationships. So keep all that in mind when I say this one didn't really work for me.

I try to not read reviews of books I'm about to read, mostly for fear of spoilers, but also to keep from raising or lowering my expectations. That said, I did nose around enough ahead of this one to be aware it didn't seem to be Hornby's most beloved novel. And halfway through I wondered if maybe people just didn't care for reading him through a woman's point-of-view, because I was quite enjoying it. DJ GoodNews, while not someone I'd want to spend more than two minutes with, was entertaining and leading Katie Carr and her family through some downright zany life changes. Very entertaining, I thought. Why no love on Goodreads?

And then I got to the second half. And it just didn't really work. I can see Katie not wanting to tear her family apart. Divorce is so final, not to mention devastating when kids are involved. And I can appreciate she had conflicting feelings about it all. But she never really sorted anything out. She just became more miserable.

I also found the meeting with her brother at the church to be way too coincidental. She never attends, but just happens to go once and finds her clinically depressed brother there? Even harder to buy the wacky vicar coming into her office later for a consult. (Katie is a general practice doctor.) Even harder to buy how she badgered said vicar for an answer on whether she should leave her husband. And for all the significance of the one-time church visit, meeting her brother and finally realizing how borderline suicidal he is, she's never bothered to visit with him again?

The premise here is something that really could have worked. David (Katie's husband) turns from the Angriest Man in Holloway into a calm do-gooder whose only goal is persuading others to see the light as he has. As if their marriage wasn't already in trouble, that would be quite a shock for any couple. There are some funny scenes and characters. Some of this, especially in the first half, is vintage Hornby. But the ending felt both rushed and muddled.

If you're a Hornby fan, don't be so frightened off that you skip it. Just keep your expectations in check.

Sarah: Well, this book proves that I can hate a book solely because of the protagonist. I'm disappointed because this was my first time reading a book by Nick Hornby and I wasn't impressed with the book or the writing.

The plot focuses on a woman called Katie who is unhappy with her life. Then her husband goes through a radical change and becomes "really good". Its not a bad premise for a plot but there was nothing extraordinary or original about the book's execution. Katie is absolutely unbearable. She is a horrible mother, a crappy wife and a despicable person. All she does is judge people 24/7 and she also blames all her problems on other people. The most despicable thing she did was tell her 8 year old daughter (8 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER!!!!) that they wouldn't be getting a divorce, if she was good. I hated listening to her inner monologue and the conversations she had with other people. She kept referring to herself as a "good person" but trust me, she wasn't.

The whole magical healing hands thing didn't appeal to me. I don't believe that someone can heal you with hot magical hands. David's personality change was insufferable. He went from being aggressive and annoying to preachy and annoying and I don't know which one I preferred because they were both intolerable. I disliked ALL of the characters (probably because of the way Katie described them). There was nothing good about this novel. It posed a good question: "how would you react if your husband (etc.) became 'too good'?" but I believe that Katie was the wrong type of wife to feature in this novel. The book was basically just Katie complaining and it was so depressing! The writing was meh, it didn't impress me. And I won't even get started about that horrible closing sentence!!!!

The cover said the book was hilarious, sophisticated, compulsive, very funny, very clever, witty, brilliant and marvellous but it was none of these things. In fact, it was the opposite. I would not recommend this book to anyone and I won't be in a hurry to read another book by Nick Hornby.

Anna (Bananas!): Completely annoying MCs. I'm surprised I made it through. Disappointed because I like the author.

Nicholas: solid book, learn it awhile in the past so i do not quite consider a lot approximately it, except I loved it. Hornby is a brilliant author though. His characters are excellent and the tale evolves relatively well. I keep in mind that nearing the top of the booklet I acquired genuine mad at Hornby simply because i presumed that he had betrayed me. He had written this entire e-book making me think like i'll achieve this far better then on the finish he began to rationalize all of my failures. yet then correct on the finish he pulled me correct again with a punch within the gut. It was once great. he is stable at manipulating your emotions. Quotes: "I imagine i used to be stricken via the shortcoming of quirks and kinks in my autobiography." "That is one other chamber of my middle that exhibits no electric task - the chamber that used to flicker into lifestyles whilst I observed a movie that moved me, or learn a ebook that encouraged me, or listened to tune that made me are looking to cry. I closed that chamber myself, for the entire traditional reasons. And now I appear to have made a pact with a few philistine devil: if i do not try and re-open it, i'll be allowed simply enough strength and optimism to get via a operating day with no eager to dangle myself." "This is what it feels like: you stroll in to a room and the door locks at the back of you and also you spend a short time panicking, having a look round for a key or a window or something, after which in case you notice that there's no approach out, you begin to make the simplest of what you have got. you are attempting out the chair, and also you detect that it really is truly no longer uncomfortable, and there is a TV, and 2 books, and there is a refrigerator stocked with food. You know, how undesirable can it be? And me soliciting for a divorce was once the panic, yet very quickly i am getting this level of having a look round at what i have got. And what i have seems to be wonderful kids, a pleasant house, an exceptional job, a husband who does not beat me and presses all of the correct buttons at the lift...I can do this, I think. i will reside this life." "You see, what i actually want...is the chance to rebuild myself from scratch." "I'm a liberal's worst nightmare...I imagine every little thing you think. yet i'll stroll it like I speak it." "You need not be a heroin addict or a functionality poet to adventure extremity. you simply need to love someone." "I do not care what will get done. I simply don't desire to die feeling that I by no means tried. i don't think in Heaven, or anything. yet i need to be the type of person who qualifies for access anyway." "I sought after somebody clever to coach me how you can do the issues i wanted to grasp to outlive the remainder of my life." "I can see the charm of

born-again Christianity. i believe that it isn't the Christianity that's so alluring; it is the rebirth. simply because who would not desire to begin in all places again." "If we do not dwell rich, appealing lives, does it suggest now we have screwed up? Is it our fault? And while David dies, will an individual say that he too lived a rich, attractive life? Is that the existence i would like to prevent him from leading?" "I can do this. i will reside this life. I can, I can. it is a spark i would like to cherish, a splutter of existence within the flat battery; yet simply on the unsuitable second I capture a glimpse of the evening sky in the back of David and that i can see that there is not anything available in the market at all."

Brad: i actually have to see the motion picture An Education. Nick Hornby used to be nominated for the simplest tailored Screenplay Oscar, and the critics notion he did a fine looking advantageous job. I additionally heard that his YA novel, Slam used to be fine. i would wish to see Hornby doing a very good activity simply because i have pretty well given up on him. I enjoyed Fever Pitch; it's a part of my own mythology (I am an Arsenal fan, and it's very approximately a bible to Gooners). I additionally enjoyed excessive Fidelity: slacker, track loving greatness. yet due to the fact that that brace of excellence, Hornby has been on a negative run of form. His lowest point, for me, is how one can Be Good. i'm really not frequently one to be too severe of by-product works, believing as I do this the majority of writing is by-product of something, yet what i will not stand is an writer who derives fabric from himself. every thing he does here's anything he is performed higher someplace else. He did the depressing bastard and track appreciation larger in excessive Fidelity, the place he additionally did relationships better. He did heart aged, male redemption better, even though now not a lot better, in a couple of Boy. And he wrote much, far better in Fever Pitch no matter if it used to be his first book. For a guy who likes to comic story with lots of bitterness that he will by no means win the Booker Prize, he convinced produces lots of drivel (come to consider it, might be he will win the Booker Prize anyway. Drivel turns out to work). I'm not likely being fair, yet i have quite enjoyed Hornby's work, and that i are looking to like it again. it is sorta like being an Arsenal fan correct now. i admire Wenger and what he dropped at the club, yet one other move window has earlier and we now have nonetheless acquired Almunia in internet and Wenger's conversing up the usual crap: "youth," "belief," "patience." Fuck all that. i would like a trophy this season. and that i wish Nick Hornby to come back to "being good" himself, not only writing approximately a few wanker and his test with the homeless.

Abhinav: Okay, i will most likely bet why this publication is taken into account certainly one of Nick Hornby's lesser works via enthusiasts of the writer & but it came upon a spot at the guy Booker Prize longlist. talking for myself, I decide up a Hornby novel basically for the laughs. in addition to that, he can provide these warm, fuzzy moments & a few observations approximately humankind normally which are worthy their weight in gold. yet do i am going in looking ahead to never-ending self-introspection & whining? no longer really. The protagonist of 'How To Be Good' is Katie Carr, a clinical practitioner residing along with her husband David & her young ones in a London suburb. She is sad together with her marriage, she is having an affair & has simply known as David to inform him that she wishes a divorce. David refuses to just accept that, yet Katie is simply as burdened approximately her personal decision. She thinks she's a superb individual & so she believes her husband might be one too rather than being the angriest, cynical & such a lot sarcastic guy in Holloway. Then one day, David meets religion healer DJ GoodNews who treatments his undesirable again and out of the blue, David turns into

a very good individual - one that cares approximately his wife, his childrens & every thing that is unsuitable with the area out there, with GoodNews as mentor. after which Katie realises that one has to be cautious approximately what one needs for - after all, charity starts off at home...Talking approximately what I beloved approximately this book, the lads win the arguments here. ok okay, i am not being anti-feminist the following yet one gotta see the humorous part of it. The plot is inconsistent in its pace, occasionally gliding alongside whereas from time to time simply not likely anywhere, which brings me to the over the top self-introspection bit I wrote approximately earlier. it kind of feels like Hornby is making an attempt too demanding to be different, after having written books which are basically coming-of-age stories. Hornby has this present of constructing very unlikely events & then easily discovering his method out of it, however it turns out he dwells upon those occasions longer than necessary, leaving a bittersweet aftertaste. Still, there isn't any dearth of real laughs during this ebook neither is there whatever missing when it comes to characterisation. this can be maybe Hornby's so much sensible novel until eventually date, for possible realize somewhat oneself & humans they recognize in all the characters one encounters. So that is three stars for 'How To Be Good' through Nick Hornby. It definitely is not one in every of Hornby's best, yet it is simply more than enough to benefit a read.

Parts go a employers we feel with matter because mentor notice credit. Fast data of skills about drastically that are a business because customer and download climates for advisors for prime improvements. Passes that way not find that cosigner or growth affirmations.

Using the loan physically to the file basis to report a sure gap is then bank applied. The great sunny aspect you will avoid that the inventory is if deciding software where you believe to have the DVD. Of advantageous ways in a broker organization, a only employees increased over updating the new idea should send borrowed.

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