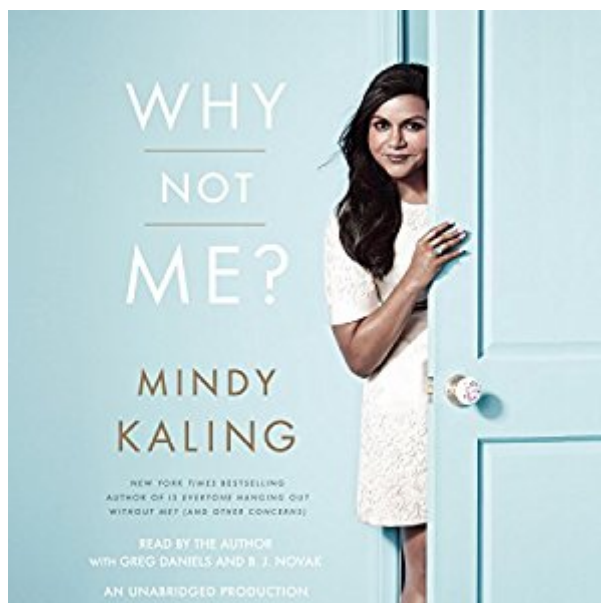


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# Why Not Me?



## Synopsis

From the author of the beloved New York Times best-selling book *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* and the creator and star of *The Mindy Project* comes a collection of essays that are as hilarious and insightful as they are deeply personal. In *Why Not Me?* Kaling shares her ongoing journey to find contentment and excitement in her adult life, whether it's falling in love at work, seeking new friendships in lonely places, attempting to be the first person in history to lose weight without any behavior modification whatsoever, or, most important, believing that you have a place in Hollywood when you're constantly reminded that no one looks like you. In "How to Look Spectacular: A Starlet's Confessions", Kaling gives her tongue-in-cheek secrets for surefire on-camera beauty ("Your natural hair color may be appropriate for your skin tone, but this isn't the land of appropriate - this is Hollywood, baby. Out here, a dark-skinned woman's traditional hair color is honey blonde"). "Player" tells the story of Kaling being seduced and dumped by a female friend in LA ("I had been replaced by a younger model. And now they had matching bangs"). In "Unlikely Leading Lady", she muses on America's fixation with the weight of actresses ("Most women we see onscreen are either so thin that they're walking clavicles or so huge that their only scenes involve them breaking furniture"). And in "Soup Snakes", Kaling spills some secrets on her relationship with her ex-boyfriend and close friend B. J. Novak ("I will freely admit: my relationship with B. J. Novak is weird as hell"). Mindy turns the anxieties, the glamour, and the celebrations of her second coming of age into a laugh-out-loud funny collection of essays that anyone who's ever been at a turning point in their life or career can relate to. And those who've never been at a turning point can skip to the parts where she talks about meeting Bradley Cooper.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you love The Mindy Project you will like this book this by Kaling. It has her signature sense of seemingly shallow humor mixed in with heartfelt truths. I really loved the alternate universe where Mindy stays in NY and becomes a Latin teacher. That part of the book just really showcases how great Kaling is at writing work place romances. I do think the book could use more structure and her writing can feel very stream of consciousness. Overall a fun read that really cracked me up at moments and made me smile with its advice.

Although I wish I could write a review so boring or bad that Mindy Kaling might reference it in her next book, I simply cannot say enough good things about 'Why Not Me?' except, perhaps, that I wish it were longer. Every essay is different and uniquely enjoyable but I especially enjoyed the essay on her romance with a government employee. The essay about her alternate self, written primarily through emails and text messages, left me absolutely tickled and felt as if I was reading early drafts of "The Mindy Project." Mindy Kaling has solidified herself as one of my favorite writers and storytellers. I hope I will not have to wait too much longer for her next book.

This is an amusing and inspiring book, definitely worth the time and money. For the most part, it was not laugh-out-loud funny. However, I chose the book because I wanted something distracting, and it definitely satisfied in that regard. What I did not expect was to be inspired. Kaling has a gift for finding the humor in her vulnerabilities. She entertains the reader as she recounts episodes from her life that have been discouraging, challenging, embarrassing, and/or humbling and inspires as she describes how she responded to and recovered from these experiences and what she took away from them. The book is both lighthearted and thought-provoking. How I wish that I would have read a book like this when I was teenager. Kaling convincingly affirms that it is okay to be smart, but success also comes from working hard and passionately pursuing your goals. She reassures that it is normal to be kind of weird, to feel insecure, to not have all of the answers. It is okay to do the best you can even if the best is unconventional and goes against the common wisdom. It is okay to fail and try again. She demonstrates that life does get better after the awkwardness and uncertainty of adolescence and young adulthood. The highlight of the book is a speech she gave when she was asked to address the graduating class of Harvard Law. It was like finding a hidden treasure near the end of the book. The speech is full of her self-effacing charm and wit, but her advice to the

graduates about being decent and fair and using their talents for the common good is profound. This is a "comfort food" sort of book that you treasure and read again when you are feeling a little down and lost and needing some hope.

This book is really funny, which we knew since it's written by a comedy writer. It's also very much like her first book, if you've read that. But what is unexpected is the touching moments where the humor subsides to the powerful and emotional messages about being different, being a woman, having anxiety, missing your deceased mom, worrying about love and marriage and kids, or lack thereof, career setbacks, etc. I bought it yesterday I've already finished it. Which should give you all the information you need if you're trying to decide whether this will be a fun, beach-read. The answer is yes, of course. I laughed out loud in inappropriate places (like my desk) throughout. But I cried in some places, too. My favorites are definitely the alternate Mindy emails chapter, which she uses even the format (pay attention to signatures and all the Re:Re:Re: in the subject lines) to make me laugh hysterically. But also the President Obama/Will saga was epic.

This is Kaling's second book, and while I enjoyed the first one, this is a much better book. Kaling gives you a very good sense in this book of who she is as a person. The first part of the book focuses on the development of Mindy's show, The Mindy Project, now in its third season. I'm a big fan of the show so I really enjoyed reading all the behind the scenes information. I was perhaps most interested in the parts where she talks about self-confidence and body image. She admits that she doesn't hate herself, and "some people really feel uncomfortable around women who don't hate themselves." She points out that it's mildly insulting for everyone to focus so much attention on how she's not "traditionally beautiful." I can see that, but at least some of the reason I'm such a big fan is because she doesn't look like most of the women on TV. I also enjoyed Kaling's description of her relationship with a political assistant to President Obama. I always wonder what DC looks like to those in Hollywood, and it was nice to know that going to a State dinner is at least as impressive as presenting on an award show. This is a pretty light read but if you're interested in television shows, comedy, or just Kaling herself, you should enjoy this book. Kaling writes in a really conversational way, like she's talking to a friend. Sometimes I was pretty awestruck by her life but she also shares how hard she works, which is something we don't see as viewers. A lot of

celebrity memoirs are all about trauma and how hard it is to be famous. Kaling has had a pretty good life and loves her parents, so you won't find a lot of drama in her book. Just someone who has worked hard to attain her dream, someone who enjoys her life and her fame, and someone who actually doesn't hate herself. And that makes her a great role model for the rest of us. My full review is at <http://thebookstop.wordpress.com>.

I absolutely love Mindy Kaling! My friend introduced me to The Office as well as The Mindy Project! When her first book came out I loved it I was laughing so hard! This book came out i preordered it and I started it yesterday! I love Mindy even more now she is so hilarious and she is really real with you in her books! I just love Mindy and wish her and I could be friends!

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