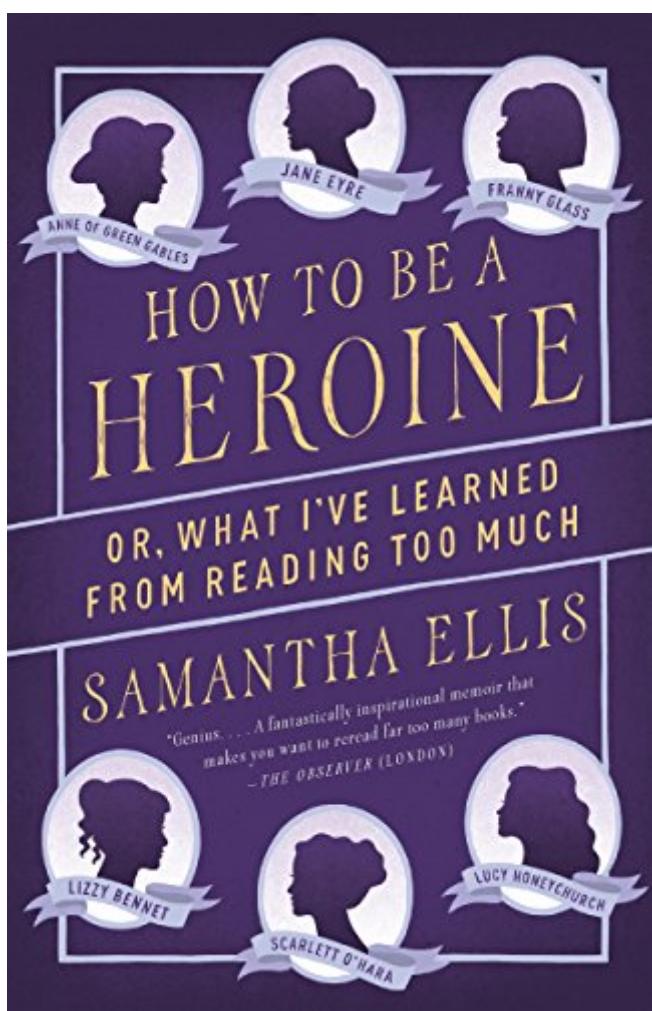


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How To Be A Heroine: Or, What I've Learned From Reading Too Much



Synopsis

While debating literature's greatest heroines with her best friend, thirtysomething playwright Samantha Ellis has a revelation: her whole life, she's been trying to be Cathy Earnshaw of *Wuthering Heights* when she should have been trying to be Jane Eyre. With this discovery, she embarks on a retrospective look at the literary ladies—the characters and the writers—whom she has loved since childhood. From early obsessions with the March sisters to her later idolization of Sylvia Plath, Ellis evaluates how her heroines stack up today. And, just as she excavates the stories of her favorite characters, Ellis also shares a frank, often humorous account of her own life growing up in a tight-knit Iraqi Jewish community in London. Here a life-long reader explores how heroines shape all our lives. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very relatable memoir. I believe if I were to go out for a drink with Samantha Ellis there would be a lot of laughter and "I know, right!" moments. I skimmed some parts about books I haven't read yet to avoid some spoilers because Ellis rightly doesn't hold anything back, how could she? A Room with

a View, and Cold Comfort Farm have moved a little farther up my virtual tbr list.

This memoir is the fantastic journey of a daughter of Iraqi-Jewish refugees, growing up in London and making her way in the world - book in hand. (Well, a lot of books, actually.) This thoughtful story is packed full of delightful character studies (of both those in the books and those behind the books). The testing of youthful impressions with a more-experienced perspective is engaging and fun. Even the parts related to books I haven't yet read were interesting. If you are a book-lover, you'll enjoy this one.

For those who love the classic heroines-- the Jane Eyres, the Anne of Green Gables, and the Lizzy Bennets-- this book is a fun and nostalgic return to some of your favorite characters. Samantha Ellis traces her life and her experiences to each heroine that influenced her at a certain age and time. Of course, as the reader, I did the same thing. It's lovely to go back and see how these characters shaped my character and if they do indeed stand the test of time. As an English major and literary critic, it was a little difficult to get past the blatant disregard to literary theory and criticism of novels. But once I took to heart that this book wasn't meant to be filled with scholarly literary theory, then I was able to push past it and enjoy the book. Take it for what it is-- a warm-hearted memoir laid against the backdrop of famous heroines.

This book is great! She analyzes heroines that I have met and some that I haven't. The author is funny, yet brings up some great questions. Also, this book just makes me realize how much more there is for me to read. It makes me want to reread books to look at heroines through adult eyes, as well as read those books that are mentioned that I haven't read before.

I wrote a blog post about this book and how much I loved it! The book is a story of one bookworm sharing her love and appreciation for the books she read growing up, drawing attention to how each book shared her as a reader and as a woman. This is not a book one would breeze through, but drink like a fine wine- slowly, enjoying every moment. It will open up other avenues of reading to try and check out! If you are in a book slum then you need to pick up this book!

An easy to read book. The author analyzes the female characters and roles in various books in a simple but realistic way from her point of view as a woman. I liked it and enjoyed it. I don't agree entirely with the author's interpretation of the German tales. Overall, a good read.

All fine

I would like to have learned more about her family. It was creative in the discussion of authors. Got a bit tiring for the writer to find a heroine she could relate to or follow.

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