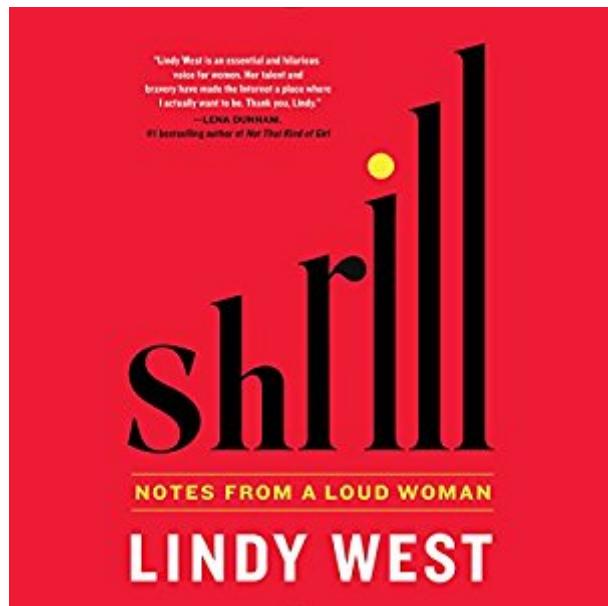


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Shrill: Notes From A Loud Woman



Synopsis

Hailed by Lena Dunham as an "essential (and hilarious) voice for women", Lindy West is ferociously witty and outspoken, tackling topics as varied as pop culture, social justice, and body image. Her empowering work has garnered a coast-to-coast audience that eagerly awaits *Shrill*, her highly anticipated literary debut. West has rocked the public in work published everywhere from *The Guardian* to *GQ* and heard on *This American Life*. She is a catalyst for a national conversation in a world where not all stories are created equal and not everybody is treated with equal respect. *Shrill* is comprised of a series of essays that bravely share her life, including her transition from quiet to feminist-out-loud, coming of age in a popular culture that is hostile to women (especially fat, funny women), and how keeping quiet is not an option for any of us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If *Shrill* isn't already on your summer reading list, you may need to shift your priorities. I mean, the book has been out for a week, so, seriously, get on it. When I attended Lindy West's first reading on her book tour for *Shrill* last week, she mentioned that she wanted "think pieces" about her work because with those, a person learns what works but also what they can fix. So, I thought about it and decided I'd try that approach with my little review that, admittedly, probably only two people will read (Hi Mom! Hi random person who thought this was something else!). So, here goes. In the first sections, the book is hilariously funny and I immediately worried because I wasn't sure how

West could sustain that level of funny. Well, she didn't get it. Darn her, she took it at exactly the right moment down a more serious path. It was a perfect shift so she can't fix that. But then she kept it a balance of serious and funny for several chapters and I thought, hmm, is she going to lose the tension here? And whamo, just like that, salty drops of liquid burst from my eye sockets and yet again, she'd achieved a perfect transition and I was left sniffling as I dried the pages of her book. Can't fix that either. I am pleased to tell you, however, that I did find one problem. On page 177, second half of paragraph three, she writes "Hari wrote for the show; Well, I'll have you know that by page 177, I'd forgotten who the hell Hari was. So there. Yeah, that's it. Truth is, this book is excellent. I would like every woman I care about to read it because I think it will be a salve for her soul. And I would like every other person to also read it because I am certain they will learn something meaningful. I would particularly like the men in my life to read it because I believe it will help you better understand the importance of language and how hurtful words can be, even when that is not the intent. West takes us on her journey in dealing with issues like body image, social responsibility in comedy, internet trolls, grief and love, in a manner that even if we haven't had these same experiences, we feel included. Her writing is so fluid and accessible that she brings the universals of the human condition to the surface throughout. I was particularly moved by sections that evoked emotions around shame that I've long tried to suppress and yet was grateful when she followed up with lighter passages using her well honed comedic timing to save you from giving up or crumbling from the visceral depictions she includes. Perhaps the most important element, however, was that she left me with the key message that what we do in life matters. What Lindy West has done in her life matters tremendously because she has helped to shift our collective thinking on so many issues fat shaming, rape culture and abortion, to name a few and the world (at least my world) is a better place for her actions. Through documenting this work in her memoir, West reminds us that we can all do our part, even if in the tiniest of ways, to make the world better for one another. If you don't already, you should also follow her work in GQ and The Guardian. You should also head over to tumblr and start reading the remarkable essays on the blog West started in 2014 called I Believe You | It's Not Your Fault. (You might even find one by yours truly there.) Also do yourself a favor and listen to her episode of This American Life. I truly believe she is one of the most important voices of our time. So, again, add *Shrill* to your reading list and put it at the top. It is a quick, entertaining read, but also one

that may either validate emotions you too may have tried to suppress or at least help you to see new perspectives on how things could be better for all of us. If nothing else, you'll laugh. A lot.

I knew almost nothing about Lindy West before reading her book. I'd heard her on an NPR podcast, but that was it. I bought this on a whim when it was on sale because it had excellent reviews, and once in a while it's good to find out what younger people are thinking. (My 20-something kids certainly see the world differently than I do.). I loved this book! The author is so funny, smart, vulnerable, thoughtful, and brave. I never would have had the courage to do or write as she has at her (relatively) young age. To tell the truth, I'm not that brave as I'm approaching retirement age. As I was reading I kept thinking "She's right!" I hope she keeps on being a "loud woman". The world needs more like her. I see that she now writes an occasional op-ed piece for the New York Times. Way to go, Lindy!

This is one of the most well-written books I've ever read, in any genre. I was not very familiar with West's prior work when I bought it. She writes beautifully about her personal and professional experiences, shedding light on our culture in a truly eye-opening, enlightening fashion. It is also probably the funniest book I've ever read. West has a gift for discussing serious/deep subject matter in a way that is hilarious, eloquent and compassionate. I learned so much from this book. I highly recommend it to everyone.

The problem with e-books is that you can't easily loan them out. I have always loved Lindy's essays on Jezebel, and I tore through her delightful book in two sittings. Of course, Lindy doesn't come across as remotely SHRILL (though I, as a confirmed vag-toter, am probably not considered an expert on the subject). She's incisive and thoughtful and relentless and always deeply hilarious. How delightful to have so much of her writing in one place! (Also, h/t to this week's podcast of This American Life—"Call Me Fat" for reminding me that SHRILL was out).

Entertaining and enlightening memoir by one of the funniest writers around. Her take on sexism in comedy is especially sharp. Highly recommended.

This is one of the best books I've read in awhile. It changed the way I think about a lot of important

and personal topics related to being a woman and my body and intersections of power and privilege, and somehow managed to make me laugh out loud more than I ever have while reading. And by somehow, I mean with the honesty and hilarity of her voice, and the way she manages to ramble but always have a point in mind that she comes back to. Lindy, you have a gift for being able to see the world the way it is and humbly describe your perspective in a way that is beautiful, poetic, and real. Thank you.

This book is the perfect mix of memoir, feminist critique, and humor. It had me laughing out loud, tearing up, and thinking critically about important ideas in brand new ways---often within the same paragraph. I also appreciated the hilariously accurate Seattle shout-outs. Extremely well done. I will be recommending this book to everyone I know. Thank you Lindy West.

Totally relatable if you're a woman, especially one of size, and (I would hope) eye-opening if you're anyone else. It's a fairly quick read and the writing is tight, so you never feel like you're reading anything pointless. I read this on the train and had to literally stifle laughter and hide my tears of sadness. Lindy is so funny, intelligent, and bold. I'm so glad her voice is out there today.

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