



# 30 Rock and Philosophy: We Want to Go to There

*William Irwin (Editor)*

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**A fascinating exploration of the philosophy behind NBC's hit TV series, *30 Rock*** With edgy writing and a great cast, *30 Rock* is one of the funniest television shows on the air--and where hilarity ensues, philosophical questions abound: Are Liz Lemon and Jack Donaghy ethical heroes? Kenneth redefines "goody two shoes," but what does it really mean to be good? Dr. Leo Spaceman routinely demonstrates that medicine is not a science, so what *is* the role of the incompetent professional in America today?

In *30 Rock and Philosophy*, Tina Fey and her fellow cast members are thrust onto the philosophical stage with Plato, Aristotle, Kant and other great thinkers to examine these key questions and many others that involve the characters and plotlines of *30 Rock* and its fictional *TGS with Tracy Jordan* comedy show.

Takes an entertaining, up-close look at the philosophical issues behind *30 Rock's* characters and storylines, from post-feminist ideals to workaholism and the meaning of life Equips you with a new understanding of Liz Lemon, Jack Donaghy, Tracy Jordan, Jenna Maroney, Dr. Spaceman, and other characters Gives you deep and meaningful new reasons (who knew?) for watching Tina Fey and your other favorites on *30 Rock* Ideal for both casual and diehard fans, this book is the essential companion for every *30 Rock*--watcher.

## 30 Rock and Philosophy: We Want to Go to There Details

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## **From Reader Review 30 Rock and Philosophy: We Want to Go to There for online ebook**

### **Kerry says**

This is quite a mixed bag. Some of these essays do a reasonable job of explaining a philosophical concept and relating that to some plots/characters on 30 Rock. Then some of them are either a bit ridiculous or are a real stretch to make them relate to 30 Rock somehow. At times, some of them seem to lose sight that 30 Rock is a tv show and the characters are written to be funny (or just work in a tv show) rather than have much link to reality or philosophy.

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### **E.H. Nolan says**

I know it sounds silly, but I loved this book. How can a 22-minute sitcom thinly veiled as the backstage antics of SNL inspire a book of corresponding philosophy? Believe it or not, it can. And for fans of 30 Rock, you're going to want to read this book.

We all love Kenneth the Page, but what are the deeper meanings behind his moral code? How does it relate to Plato and the idea of the noble lie? And how does a hilarious, yet extremely silly, show shape how our modern generation views race, sexual orientation, and feminism? Believe it or not, these "philosophies" are discussed, while including innumerable episode references and favorite quotes.

The book is separated into themed sections, but really, it's sixteen essays compiled by obvious fans of the show who have a concern about modern society and philosophy. The only downside: it was published in 2010, so it only references the first three seasons. If you're looking for an all-inclusive book, keep shopping. But if you want a trip down memory lane of those first few adorable seasons, give this funny and thoughtful book a whirl.

<http://hottoastyrag.weebly.com/30-roc...>

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### **Andrew says**

A hit and miss collection. I enjoy the series "Philosophy and Pop Culture" in general, but find that many of the essays sell themselves short by being far too broad.

The essays dealing with Kenneth are top notch.

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### **Ofer says**

Bad. Really, really bad.

I'm a huge 30 Rock fan, and I was looking forward to reading a book that analyzes it from a different perspective. To be honest, I read it (or, the first third of it) more a year ago, and I don't really remember it well enough to explain what was so bad, but I remember feeling it was incredibly stupid and contrived, until at some point I couldn't keep reading.

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### **Becky says**

Each chapter tackles a different philosophical theory and is discussed using characters or scenes from 30 Rock to illustrate points. I have never been very interested in philosophy so I had difficulty staying focused or interested during those parts of the book. However it did have many funny quotes from the brilliance that is 30 Rock and it made me appreciate past and current episodes in a new light.

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### **Anna says**

I was incredibly disappointed by this book. I guess what I was hoping for was a book that took one of my favorite shows (30 Rock!) and used it to make heavy philosophical ideas more accessible to dumb-dumbs like me.

I suppose it \*sort-of\* did. The philosophical ideas were definitely more accessible than, say, a college philosophy text, but that's about where my praise of this book ends.

What really disappointed me was the fact that almost every contributor to this text either used quotes out of context (to make their arguments plausible) OR straight-up got the lines wrong. This book was designed for someone like me, who has seen every episode of 30 Rock multiple times, and the authors claim to have done the same. I don't really believe them.

Quotes used wrong tell me that either the authors do not know the show well enough to quote it, or that they simply didn't take the time to check their work. This would have been an incredibly easy problem to fix, and it would have added much more legitimacy to this project.

Sorry, "\_\_\_\_\_ and philosophy". I probably won't be trying another one of you.

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### **Brittany Wilmes says**

This book entertained me, but it really stretched the concept to fill pages. I was hoping to read simplified philosophy concepts as applied to 30 Rock, and there was some of that, but more often it felt like the authors were trying to stuff the sitcom into a philosophy box that it wasn't meant for. I also thought it odd that this was published halfway through the show's run—they could have capitalized on three more seasons of great material. All in all, the book was forgettable, but my love for 30 Rock runs deep.

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## **L.A. Jacob says**

started 4/4

Finished 4/11

Overall not to bad but not enough of a fan of the show to keep it.

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## **Jennie says**

A little dissapointing. Most of all, the book was published in the middle of the show so many of the references and essays could have ended differently (so much about Liz's 'having it all' didn't consider the final two seasons of the show).

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## **Ashley says**

Some of the essays were a bit dumbed down and some were a little too esoteric, but overall this was a fun collection.

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## **Amazingsomeone says**

A "too long" book about a "too long" tv series.

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## **April says**

While I really enjoyed this book I expected a much funnier book. There was far more Philosophy here than I expected. Still a great lesson in how you can apply different theories can be applied to the show. It gives a better understanding of the old school Philosophers.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Tom Dheere, who has a great read. His tone is terrific for the material. He has the matter of fact tone but keeps things interesting throughout. Sometimes Philosophy can be dry, but he keeps in from dragging. I enjoyed the energy he infuses into this non-fiction read.

I am a fan of the show and really enjoyed the breakdown of the characters and scenes. It is not imperative that you watch the show, but it will make more sense if you have a working knowledge of at least the first season.

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

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### **Kacie says**

Pretty boring, didn't finish.

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### **Sirena says**

The mix of a hysterical sitcom and philosophy was quite entertaining. Sometimes I could feel the authors stretching the material to make the philosophy fit, but mostly the essays offered insight and a look back at some great bits.

The only thing I can say that bugged me is that sometimes the quotes or context was incorrect and I could tell that they had never actually watched the episode they were dissecting. That seems a bit disingenuous.

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### **Miranda Vazquez says**

It only focused on a few philosophers (Hume, Plato, Aristotle, and Nietzsche, namely) but it was a fun, easy read.

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